

# Encounter



Contributing to policy debates  
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inspiring achievement

# Flinders University

## Achieving in Adelaide and beyond



Since the establishment of our main campus at Bedford Park in 1966, Flinders University has branched out both locally and nationally to service the needs of metropolitan and regional areas.

Alongside our picturesque main campus located just a short drive south of the city, Flinders University also boasts a presence within the Adelaide CBD, including the centrally located Victoria Square premises and our Art Museum and City Gallery located in the State Library of South Australia.

Flinders University's geographical footprint stretches across South Australia, Western Victoria and the Northern Territory.

The University's activities in these areas support students through innovative educational programs, particularly in the areas of medicine, nursing and other health professions, tourism, environmental management, archaeology, teacher education, marine science and aquaculture.

With our strong presence in metropolitan and rural areas both locally and nationally, Flinders University is inspiring achievement in Adelaide and beyond.

**[www.flinders.edu.au](http://www.flinders.edu.au)**

# Encounter

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

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A great white shark launches out of the water in pursuit of a decoy seal during research by Dr Charlie Huvaneers off Cape Town, South Africa, in 2010.  
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# A message from the deep

Lifesavers on suburban Adelaide beaches could one day receive warnings of sharks in the area via SMS messages to their mobile phones. And the text messages would have, unwittingly, come from the sharks themselves.

A research project being led by shark ecologist Dr Charlie Huveneers and colleague Paul Rogers involves the placement of electronic receivers on the seabed off Adelaide's beaches which record signals from sharks that have been tagged with acoustic transmitters. At present, the information recorded is stored on the receiver before being recovered by the researchers and physically downloaded to a laptop while at sea. In doing so, the data is already providing valuable information about the movement of eight sharks that were tagged in the Gulf of St Vincent last year.

However, Dr Huveneers – whose position is jointly funded by Flinders University and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) – is particularly excited by the potential of the latest receiver technology.

"The new receivers take data from the transmitters on the sharks and generate a text message which can be sent to mobile phones," Dr Huveneers told *Encounter*.

"Conceivably, we could see lifesavers on station on the beach receiving information about the presence of a shark in real time. Such a scenario, while limited by the number of tagged sharks, could significantly boost beach safety," he said.

Standing on the back of a boat attaching acoustic tags to very large sharks as they are lured nearby is a long way from the stereotypical image of an academic researcher. For Charlie Huveneers, a wetsuit has replaced a laboratory coat and he gets up close and personal with sharks, both above and below the waterline.

Originally from Belgium, Dr Huveneers was introduced to Australia's marine life when he visited Maryborough, Queensland, as a teenage Rotary exchange student in 1998–99. The country made a lasting impression. He subsequently returned to complete a PhD at Macquarie University in NSW after studying oceanography and marine biology at Southampton University in the United Kingdom. It was during his undergraduate and honours studies that Dr Huveneers developed his interest in sharks, and field work in the Bahamas, South Africa and England followed.

Joining Flinders and SARDI Aquatic Sciences in March 2009, Dr Huveneers has been involved in a range of research programs that extend from Adelaide's suburban beaches to Port Lincoln and South Africa.

Over the 2010 summer, Dr Huveneers and his team will attempt to tag a further 13 bronze whaler and dusky whaler sharks in Adelaide's metropolitan waters. The sharks are caught on longlines using short soak times and circle hooks to reduce gut hooking and increase survival rates. The researchers then take advantage of 'tonic immobility' which occurs with whaler sharks when turned on their backs – they become placid, almost going into a sleep-like state – to surgically implant an acoustic transmitting tag inside the shark's peritoneal cavity. Released back into the ocean, the sharks will reveal their movements to researchers for up to 10 years. The researchers also intend installing a further 10 data receivers near Semaphore, St Kilda and Long Spit.

"We need to understand more about the biology and movements of bronze and dusky whaler sharks in South Australian waters if we are to plan effectively for the conservation of this species while, at the same time, enhancing the safety of beachgoers," Dr Huveneers said.

In another research project, Dr Huveneers' team is collaborating with SA cage-diving operators in a world-first project to ensure the State's ecotourism activities take good care of Australia's protected white sharks.

By mid-November, the team had tagged eight white sharks which inhabit the area around Australia's main cage-diving operations off the remote Neptune Islands, 75 kilometres from Port Lincoln, in a project which aims to understand how sharks react to berleying activities over time.

"Berleying has been increasing as cage-diving becomes more popular but the impact of this activity is still poorly understood, and there is a need to investigate how berleying might affect white shark behaviour and movements," Dr Huveneers said.

"The white shark cage-diving industry at the Neptune Islands attracts a large amount of tourism to South Australia and Port Lincoln. It is important to ensure that this industry is sustainable and that it does not negatively impact on the white shark population," he said.

Dr Huveneers' contribution to enhancing knowledge about sharks – a species that seems to inspire fear and fascination in people in equal measure – was recognised with a *Tall Poppy of Science Award* in 2010.



Dr Huveneers tags a wobbegong shark



# Jazz just one string to Jessica's bow

She may have grown up on a farm in what she calls “the beautiful redgum country” of Mingbool, just outside Mt Gambier in South Australia’s southeast, but Flinders drama graduate Jessica Beck wanted to be a performer from an early age.

“My grandfather bought me a microphone when I was a little girl and I just *loved* hearing my voice amplified,” Jessica told *Encounter*.

“We had this old hay-carting trailer, as well, a big wooden old trailer, and I used to get up on that and pretend that it was a stage and sing out into the paddock,” she said.

An older sister fuelled the precocious youngster’s enthusiasm for music.

“She’d watch *Rage* and *Video Hits*,” Jessica said.

“From about the age of five I was putting my tape recorder up to the television, recording it and taking it to school, showing off to the kids all the latest music.”

With the encouragement of her music and drama teachers and a visit to Flinders in Year 12 with the *Experience Uni* program for Indigenous students from rural areas, Jessica enrolled in a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Acting) course.

Now, with an Honours degree under her belt, Jessica is putting her many, varied talents to work from her base in Sydney.

“When I graduated, I spent about a year going from play to play,” she said.

“I did shows at the Adelaide Fringe, with Bakehouse Theatre and with [theatre group] The Rabble which took me to Melbourne and Sydney.”

But it is Jessica’s distinctive voice, showcased with her own jazz quartet, which is drawing attention from many quarters. It is a little curious, given she hadn’t sung a note of jazz until she came to Flinders.

“Music seems to be taking off for me,” Jessica said.

“At Flinders, I had a fantastic teacher, Professor Michael Morley, who taught us a music theatre topic. It involved taking part in two cabaret shows.

“One of them featured the music of Rogers and Hart. It introduced me to jazz songs I’d never heard of and may never have heard of if wasn’t for Michael Morley.

“That was my first taste of jazz music.”

Jessica’s partner, double bass player Curtis Argent asked her to audition for a new band.

“I sang those few songs that I knew and the band said, ‘Yep, that’s exactly the stuff we want to do, so if you could just learn another 40 songs, you’re in!’”

The band became the Jess Beck Quartet and, a year later, the group is heard regularly in venues around Sydney.

Jessica’s rising profile led to her nomination in the Most Promising New Talent in Music category in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music, Sport, Entertainment and Community Awards, otherwise known as the Deadlys.

“It was really exciting to be nominated for a Deadly and to attend the ceremony in September. I didn’t win but it was a great honour to be there,” she said.

Jessica, a descendent of the Indigenous Arrernte people, said she was driven to get to know more about her culture.

“My grandmother was a member of the Stolen Generation, and my mother was removed from her mother, too. I didn’t get to grow up with my culture but I’m searching for that now,” she said.

“I’m getting to know a lot of people in the arts who have Indigenous heritage. And I have a documentary in the works. It’ll be about my grandmother’s story and also reconnecting her with my mother.

“They have met a few times but only for a couple of hours at a time. I think the last time was eight years ago; I guess I’m also trying to help that process through the documentary.

“It’ll be a bit of a ‘Where did I come from?’ story.”

In the meantime, Jessica is writing original songs with members of her band, working as project coordinator for the Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival, doing voice-overs and preparing for coming performances.

“I’ve been invited to perform a 40-minute set of original material on the big stage at the Spirit Festival in Rymill Park in Adelaide in February,” she said.

“I get so much enjoyment from all the different things I do that it doesn’t bother me that they’re not necessarily all related to my degree. Your degree helps you in lots of situations. It gave me confidence as a person – and it gives you all these skills you don’t realise at the time.”

Vincent Ciccarello

# Lizards provide a lesson in life

Being a grumpy lizard may be an advantage when it comes to the survival of the species, according to Professor Mike Bull.



Professor Mike Bull and a sleepy friend

Professor Bull has studied a range of lizards, their behaviour and habitat over the past 34 years but he particularly enjoys getting to know their personalities. And this is not a case of whimsy – the individual personalities and the nature of lizard relationships can provide invaluable insights into the nature of ecosystems and future actions that may protect wildlife species more broadly, not just in the lizard world.

Professor Bull says one of the biggest threats to wildlife populations is the potential for exotic diseases and pathogens to come into Australia through various transport systems and wreak havoc, as has been the case with the facial tumours affecting the Tasmanian Devil.

Professor Bull says knowledge of the way in which natural parasites move through wildlife populations will be integral to developing plans to protect them against introduced diseases. And that's where it all started for Professor Bull, with the study of tick movements on sleepy lizards leading to a lifelong affinity with, and affection for, the reptiles.

"In our research we are finding what we have called social networks within the lizard populations – who meets up with whom. And to a certain extent, the personality of the lizard influences how well it is connected in a population," Professor Bull told *Encounter*.

"Grumpy lizards tend to make fewer friends and, as a consequence, are less likely to become infected by a disease or pathogen," he said.

While Professor Bull maintains that the study of lizard populations is a model for understanding the broader wildlife community, he does reveal an affection for his charges.

"Lizards are such graceful animals and it's given me great pleasure to study them over many years," Professor Bull said.

"I like the fact that I have been able to expose the really complex social organisations that these lizards have, and raise their status in the eyes of as many people as I can persuade," he said.

Those efforts, and the fact that Professor Bull is now an international authority on the social behaviour of lizards, were recognised last year when the Royal Society of South Australia bestowed on him its highest honour, the Verco Medal.

With an eye to the future, Professor Bull said he would like "to leave a legacy of a sustainable management process" for a reserve near Burra that has been recently purchased by the Nature Foundation of South Australia, specifically for lizard conservation.

Home to a population of the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard, thought to have been extinct from 1960 until rediscovered in 1992, the reserve is intended to provide a safe haven in the face of threats, including climate change. Professor Bull is encouraging the local community to take 'ownership' of the conservation process by developing a protective culture for the endangered species. He has certainly given them a strong foundation on which to work.

Peter Gill

## Flinders doubles ARC success rate

Australian Research Council (ARC) grants are the lifeblood of research in universities. The grants are keenly sought and there is strong competition across the country. Mike Bull has an unsurpassed track record having secured ARC Discovery Grant funding for every year from 1977- 2013 – except for 1984 when he was on sabbatical leave. In total, Professor Bull has been the first named chief investigator on 19 separate grants which, given the grants have a three-year duration, represents 57 years of research support.

Professor Bull was again successful in 2010 – an ARC round in which Flinders University doubled its number of ARC Discovery grants over the previous year and secured ARC Linkage grants at a rate well above the national average. Twelve Discovery projects received a total of \$2.95 million, and three Linkage Grants totalling \$385,000 were made to collaborative projects with industry.

Flinders Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Day, welcomed the high incidence of first-time recipients among the grants saying it "augurs very well for the future". Professor Bull is playing his part in contributing to future ARC successes by mentoring young researchers and providing insights into the drafting of effective applications.

A member of the ARC College of Experts, Professor Bull reviews up to 150 applications in a funding round.

So which applications succeed? "We are looking for the stunning science, the outcomes that will set the world alight. What sets the great applications apart is that the researcher has seen something beyond the point we have reached – they are taking another step forward."

Over the past 34 years, Mike Bull has certainly taken some big strides of his own.

# Unlocking the secrets of cells

After a tough day in the laboratory, Emily Anglin goes boxing. On one level it's hard to reconcile the brute force of punching a bag with the exquisite precision of constructing miniaturised devices capable of identifying genetic damage in individual human cells.

But perhaps that's the point; recreational activities may be most beneficial when they contrast sharply with your day job.

Dr Anglin's day job is developing innovative new techniques to study cell behaviour which could, in time, transform the diagnosis and treatment of a range of diseases. In doing so, Dr Anglin brings a physical scientist's perspective to medical science problems having graduated with a Bachelor of Science in her home state of Ohio in the United States before completing a Masters of Science and then a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry at the University of California, San Diego. She took up a research fellowship at Flinders University in 2007 in Professor Nico Voelcker's laboratory in the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences.

Starting with a blank silicon chip and a clean glass slide, Dr Anglin has, with collaborators from Flinders, the CSIRO and SA Pathology, delivered a research breakthrough that offers the potential for more effective and economical diagnoses of diseases and the targeting of therapies.

In a world first, her team has created 'smart' surfaces on which human cells will separate into microarrays of cells that allow the study of individual cell types and their role in the development of disease.

This new insight into cell biology and behaviour will help unlock the secrets of medical science at a speed and cost-effectiveness not seen before, giving researchers a valuable new weapon with which to tackle intractable conditions like cancer.

Having recently published the research results in an international journal, Dr Anglin and her colleagues are considering new directions in which their research might take them. One exciting possibility is for the cell analysis technique – tagged a 'Biolab-on-a-Chip' – to be used to study the impact of chemotherapy and radiation therapy on cancer cells and healthy cells.

"Essentially, we could take blood from a cancer patient, study specific cells from that sample and see how those cells react to different amounts of chemotherapy and radioation therapy," Dr Anglin told *Encounter*.

"We might be able to see what a patient's personal dose should be. It would be personalised medicine and could allow you to test the treatment before actually administering it to the patient. Conceivably, we could be tailoring cancer treatments for individual patients," she said.

While Dr Anglin cautions that the idea has not yet progressed beyond very preliminary discussions with colleagues, such possibilities underscore the potential benefits of this leading edge research.

But even as one explores the frontiers of science, Dr Anglin acknowledges that you often end up down some research cul-de-sacs.

"It's a bit of a joke with research scientists that you leave the lab every day and don't feel you have done anything productive because all your experiments that day produced negative answers," she said.

"If you get a negative result, and you don't have an idea of what to do after that, you have to go back and try and redirect your efforts. Scientists learn to take rejection well and find ways to deal with it."

So how does Dr Anglin deal with it? "I go boxing a lot. I have some great purple gloves and I beat up on a bag – and that helps. As a scientist you can have one or two awesome days a year when you really hit something good. So you hold on to that feeling – sometimes for a year! The big days don't happen often but when they do they are really big."

To date, those big days have produced a breakthrough that could have a major impact both here and overseas. The enhanced effectiveness of the Biolab-on-a-Chip – both in terms of research results and cost effectiveness – will be particularly valuable in developing countries which do not have the sophisticated (and expensive) equipment and infrastructure required for current cell analysis.

However, in order to gain that benefit, the Biolab-on-a-Chip needs to become a commercial product. And for that to occur, the technology needs financial backing and commercialisation in the private sector. When an astute investor steps forward, Emily Anglin's punching bag might finally get a rest.



# Justice without lawyers

Dr Clark in Rwanda

The Rwandan genocide in 1994 has a place in history as one of mankind's worst atrocities.

In just 100 days, 800,000 men, women and children – three-quarters of the minority Tutsi population – were slaughtered.

The mass violence affected the entire population. Every person in Rwanda is either a genocide perpetrator, a victim or survivor, or a close friend or relative.

Despite this immense social upheaval, Rwanda today has an apparently high level of social stability. It is considered an international development success story with sustained levels of economic growth that are almost unparalleled across Africa.

A major contributor to the nation's healing process has been a justice and reconciliation program – a series of Gacaca community courts in which lawyers are banned.

Dr Phil Clark, a Flinders University graduate and a specialist in African conflict, has spent nearly seven years studying the outcomes.

The result is a new book – *The Gacaca Courts, Post-Genocide Justice and Reconciliation in Rwanda: Justice without Lawyers* (Cambridge University Press) – which provides a fascinating insight into the recovery of a deeply traumatised nation.

According to Dr Clark, no country in the world has embarked on a justice program as ambitious as Gacaca, which by its completion in October 2010 had prosecuted 400,000 suspects.

Dr Clark is highly credentialed to investigate and review the process.

An Australian national, he has written extensively on African conflict, principally transitional justice in the Great Lakes region and the work of the International Criminal Court.

His interest in Africa stems from an early age.

"I was born in Sudan in 1979, and evacuated from there with my parents when the civil war flared in 1981," he told *Encounter*.

"My family moved to West Africa in the 1990s and I grew up in northern Ghana and went to school in Cote d'Ivoire."

After moving to Adelaide with his parents he studied at Flinders University, graduating in 2000 with a Bachelor of International Studies (First Class Honours).

He then won a place at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and until recently was a Research Fellow at the University's Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, and convenor of Oxford Transitional Justice Research (OTJR), a network of more than 100 Oxford staff and graduate students working on countries recovering from mass conflict. In October he became lecturer in

Comparative and International Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and continues to convene OTJR in Oxford.

In researching *The Gacaca Courts*, Dr Clark conducted nearly 500 interviews with trial participants.

Controversy surrounding the banning of lawyers from any official involvement is an issue that generated sustained criticism from human rights organisations and scepticism about Gacaca's efficacy.

But, as Dr Clark points out, the simple fact is there are not enough lawyers to deal with the hundreds of thousands of genocide suspects and legal representation is too costly for most people.

"Gacaca relies heavily on a spirit of public participation, and the government believed that lawyers would complicate the process, dominating hearings and using overly technical language that would stifle the civic spirit of Gacaca," said Dr Clark in an interview with Oxford University.

Traditionally, Gacaca was a form of dispute resolution used mainly in rural Rwandan communities. The modern-day system still draws on this traditional practice with hearings held outdoors, in full public view.

The fact that in the vast majority of cases the courts have used community service as a form punishment has angered many survivors.

But Dr Clark said Gacaca had still been remarkably successful in expediting the post-genocide justice process, delivering accountability for hundreds of thousands of genocidaires.

"This has been critical for individualising the guilt of those responsible for the genocide, pursuing justice for each perpetrator regardless of their political or socio-economic status.

"Provincial governors, military officials and peasant farmers have been treated equally – a crucial recognition of the different levels of Rwandan society that participated in the genocide."

Dr Clark believes that in such a complex society with a highly centralised state and powerful executive, Gacaca has provided "high levels of public participation, ownership and ingenuity".

The Rwandan Government has completed the massive caseload in just nine years at a cost of only \$40 million.

"Gacaca has therefore proven substantially cheaper to run than more conventional justice institutions," Dr Clark said.

"In the long term, Gacaca may prove vital in terms of empowering the population and generating a grassroots democratic movement."

# Flinders graduate flies to the top

It is unlikely – not impossible, but unlikely – that in her new senior military roles, one-star Air Commodore Dr Tracy Smart will see another tour of duty.

She has been deployed as a senior medical officer to her fair share of challenging, sometimes gut-wrenching missions: Rwanda, as part of the UN Assistance Mission in 1995; Malaysia, to investigate a fatal RAAF F-111 accident in 1999; Timor Leste, as part of the Peacekeeping Force, from January to August 2002; the Middle East, supporting coalition operations in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2003; Beirut, to assist in evacuation operations during the 2006 war in Lebanon.

“Every one of those deployments has been very difficult but they’ve all been interesting,” Air Commodore Smart said, in what sounds like an understatement.

Born in Kangarilla, South Australia and educated at Willunga High School, Tracy Smart studied medicine as an undergraduate at Flinders University.

A career in the military had beckoned since high school years, the Navy in particular, but there were limited opportunities for women at the time.

“I thought, ‘Why would you join the Navy and not go to sea?’” she said.

“Some of my fellow medical students went through the Air Force recruitment process...and I do have a bit of family history of Air Force. My uncle was a Wellington pilot in World War II and was shot down and killed after a bombing mission in Italy.

“I decided to join during my final two years of medicine. I took the sponsorship which meant I could avoid working part-time when I needed to focus on my studies.”

After completing her internship at the Repatriation Hospital, Dr Smart entered the Air Force to complete three years return-of-service.

It was 1989, a period of peace.

“Back then, some people would join and serve in the military and never do any operational deployments,” she said.

Dr Smart undertook specialist training in aviation medicine in the UK and was promoted to Squadron Leader.

Her own first tour of duty as a senior RAAF officer and aeromedical evacuation coordinator was to post-genocide Rwanda.

She carried with her the wings cut from her Air Force uncle’s bomber jacket.

“I took them as a kind of continuity of the family history.”

While her team’s mission was primarily a medical one – “to provide health support to the UN troops and civilian personnel” – their efforts were soon directed to filling the void in health infrastructure.

Dr Smart’s team would see a range of illnesses and injuries: a young mother who had lost both her legs as well as a pregnancy after stepping on a mine; a young boy with a massive tumour of the head and neck which the doctors could neither diagnose or treat.

“Rwanda was probably the most life-changing and greatest experience of all. All of the deployments have had different elements and it is very satisfying because you’re out there helping people,” she said.

“I’m not glorifying it but I tend to look at it as one of those ‘what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger’, positive life experiences. Knowing it’s about as bad as you’re going to get and coming through is a self-affirming thing.”

She was promoted to Air Commodore in February 2009 and now oversees the delivery of healthcare across 104 Australian Defence Force (ADF) health facilities as Director General of Garrison Health Operations in the ADF’s Joint Health Command (JHC).

“While Air Force, Army and Navy all have our own separate health services and our own niches, we all have complementary roles and often deploy together.

“The Joint Health Command is a system that sits outside but interacts with state and federal health systems. It does all of the health preparation for deployment of troops; the single services do the deployment; and JHC picks them up when the troops come home.”

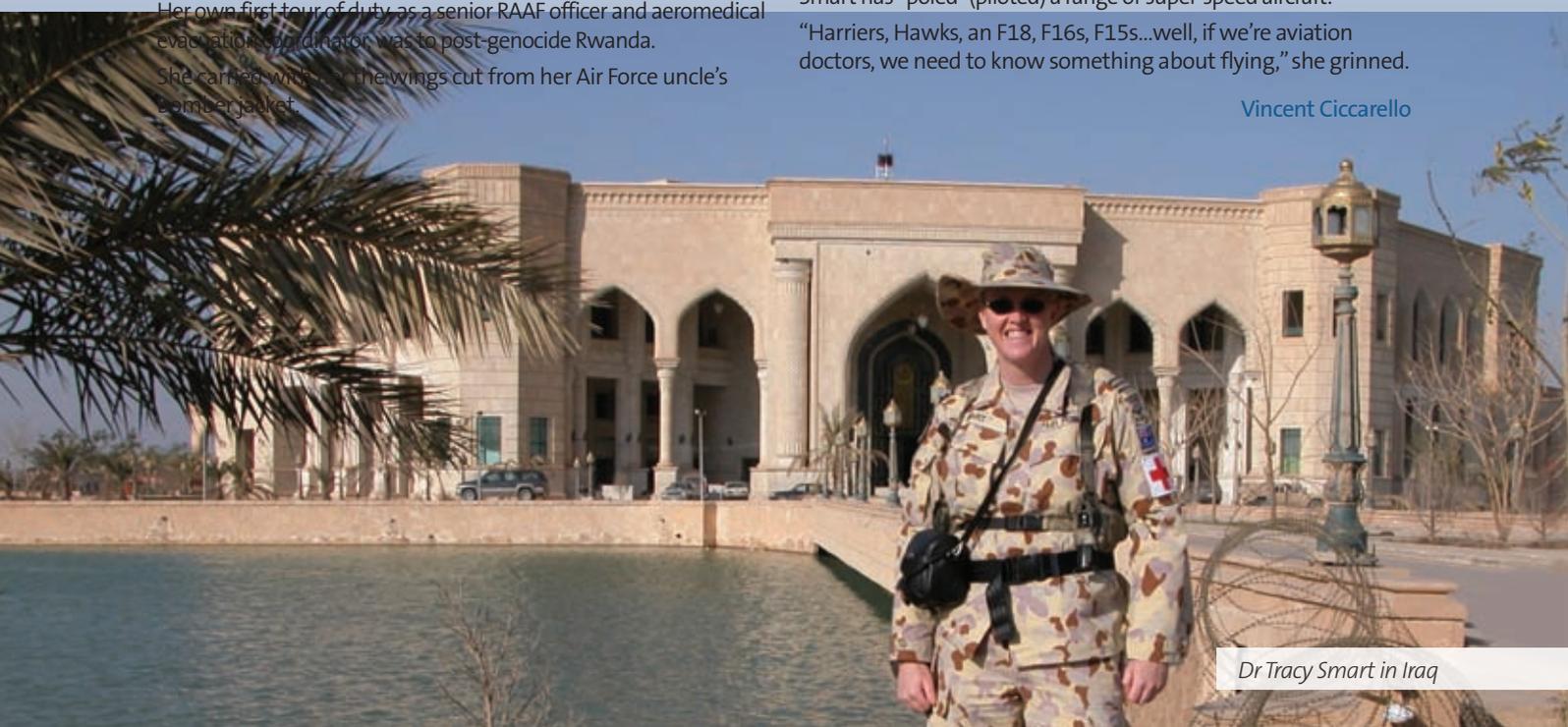
Air Commodore Smart wears the JHC hat while also Director General of Air Force Health Services.

She describes the role of defence force medical officer as a jack-of-all-trades, combining general practitioner, sports medicine physician, preventive health expert and occupational health consultant.

And as for flying? While she didn’t train as a pilot, Air Commodore Smart has “poled” (piloted) a range of super-speed aircraft.

“Harriers, Hawks, an F18, F16s, F15s...well, if we’re aviation doctors, we need to know something about flying,” she grinned.

Vincent Ciccarello



Dr Tracy Smart in Iraq

# Divining a new course for water

After nearly a decade of drought, changing the country's attitude to, and appetite for, water was always going to be contentious. With major cuts mooted to irrigators' allocations, the debate over water reform became bitter and polarised following the publication of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's reform 'guide' in October.

Small business owners in river towns joined a chorus of opposition from farmers, irrigators, community leaders and local politicians. Anger spilled out of town hall meetings and people started burning the Authority's report in the streets, and the police became precautionary fixtures at so-called community 'consultations'. At that point, the prospects for the calm, rational debate that was vital to the reform of water policy appeared to be slipping away.

However, Flinders' social scientist, Professor Chris Miller, was undeterred. A co-author of a major report on water reform published by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists earlier in the year, Professor Miller went into the river towns and onto the airwaves with a different message. Put simply, most river communities could survive, and even prosper, if the Federal Government made the investment required in human capital, new ideas and infrastructure.

Professor Miller argued that Federal funds and local knowledge should be combined to give river communities a sustainable future in the face of reduced water allocations and employment losses in traditional industries.

"Research in which I have been involved with the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists indicates the \$5 billion that the Federal Government has allocated to upgrading irrigation infrastructure could be more usefully invested in supporting new business opportunities and social development in towns throughout the Murray-Darling Basin," Professor Miller told *Encounter*.

"In the discussions I have had and in public meetings, irrigators in South Australia and interstate are making the strong and valid point that they have already invested in new, efficient irrigation systems which have made significant water savings," he said.

"As it stands all those irrigators who have already invested their own funds in efficiency measures will not be able to access the Federal funds. We need to see this money as the vehicle by which to bring about economic restructuring for the whole community.

"What is required now is a commitment to supporting a diversification of these regional economies to produce new products and services that will create jobs to offset the adjustments occurring elsewhere."

Professor Miller draws on experiences elsewhere to support his view that change, and a sustainable future, is possible with the appropriate planning and investment.

"Since 1995, in British Columbia in Canada, 34 regional programs had created 45,000 jobs with an investment of \$C330 million which was used to generate a further \$C600 million," Professor Miller said.

"The Canadians invested less than \$C1 billion and generated 45,000 jobs. Imagine the potential job creation that could be possible with the \$5 billion that the Federal Government already has on the table," he said.

"However, it is essential that a reform plan supported by the \$5 billion in the irrigation infrastructure fund taps the knowledge, creativity and expertise in individual communities. My sense is a lot of people in the Murray-Darling Basin feel that their knowledge has been undervalued and not recognised or respected."

Professor Miller, who attended a number of community meetings, called for the discussion on water to incorporate analysis and consideration of the ways in which river communities might grow in new directions. He said Flinders University's *Thriving Communities* model would provide a useful approach for this work.

"The model is based on an inclusive social and economic development approach. Communities know better than anyone the history, issues and previous interventions in their particular areas: what has been tried before, what has worked, and what has not," Professor Miller said.

The heat in the public debate over water will subside over 2011 as the Authority's consultations and several Parliamentary enquiries offer opportunities for all stakeholders to put their views on the record. Professor Chris Miller will join them in making a significant contribution to an important national policy over one of the nation's most vital assets.

Peter Gill





# Going underground to resolve Australia's water woes

Climate change and long periods of drought have Australians thinking about water like never before.

For James McCallum, it's been a subject of deep interest ever since he studied environmental sciences at Flinders University, graduating with honours in 2005.

The water he finds most fascinating, however, is out of sight and, to a large extent, little understood.

Mr McCallum has built a career out of researching groundwater, a vital water resource that accounts for more than 30 per cent of Australia's total water consumption.

As drought and increasing demand places greater pressure on current water supplies, expanding our knowledge of groundwater has taken on a new level of urgency.

Mr McCallum is keen to take up the challenge and recently returned to Flinders University, which is home to the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT).

With funding of nearly \$60 million, NCGRT has become an important focal point for international collaboration involving nearly 200 scientists and subject experts. It is a hotbed of multidisciplinary research aimed at unlocking the secrets of Australia's subsurface water systems.

Research teams are examining new hydrogeological methods to investigate pressing questions relating to aquifers and aquitards, water flows in complex subterranean systems, and the largely unexplored link between surface water and groundwater.

It's a research environment Mr McCallum was eager to enter.

He has won a place as a PhD researcher examining the effectiveness of current hydrogeological tools used to measure the movement of groundwater, the volumes and the rates at which it is replenished.

This is vital information that Australia needs to help develop an integrated and comprehensive water management plan for future generations.

Mr McCallum's research is focusing on two measurement tools – age tracers which establish how long the water has been underground and hydraulics, which examines features of the aquifer such as gradients.

He is working under the supervision of three of Australia's most distinguished groundwater researchers – NCGRT Director

Professor Craig Simmons, Deputy Director Professor Peter Cook and senior lecturer Associate Professor Adrian Werner.

Before the NCGRT opened last year, Mr McCallum found opportunities for serious groundwater research hard to come by.

"There were pockets of expertise with some highly respected senior researchers, but not too many people at the lower end of the research spectrum," he said. "This centre at Flinders has made it far more attractive for hydrologists to come back and do research rather than go out into the private sector.

"Water will be an important issue for Australia for many years to come, but until now groundwater has been the missing link in our knowledge base."

After graduating from Flinders University in 2005, Mr McCallum walked straight into a job as an environmental scientist with a major consultancy.

But he hankered after a career in academia.

His enthusiasm for research was triggered while doing his honours when he studied how contaminants move through structures in rocks. He provided rigorous testing of two models using data from field work, and discovered that the simpler of the models was not as accurate.

"This gave me a real interest in research and I soon came to the conclusion that being a consultant in the private sector was not my ideal career choice," he said. "Fortunately I was lucky enough to secure a research position with the CSIRO, despite not having a PhD."

Based at the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide, Mr McCallum worked on a project examining the interaction between surface water and groundwater.

He spent many hours in the field measuring groundwater inflows into 10 rivers in New South Wales and Queensland.

"The challenge was to provide measurements that would be useful on a practical scale – in 20-40 kilometre lengths – that could be used in managing the rivers.

"This is very important in times of drought when people start extracting groundwater from the catchments."

Mr McCallum hopes to have some answers to his current research project within three years.

Ian Williams

# Drama moves to a new stage

Above: Prize-winning playwright Caleb Lewis, Middle: Rosalba Clemente working with Drama Centre students, Bottom: STC-bound: Catherine Fitzgerald

Flinders Drama Centre is enjoying plenty of limelight, with the announcement of a new Head of Acting, a major national award for a Flinders-trained playwright, and a current postgraduate taking on a major role in the State Theatre Company.

With the appointment of Rosalba Clemente as Head of Acting from 2011, Drama Centre students will be learning at first-hand from one of the country's most accomplished actors and directors.

Rosalba has worked as an actor and director with many of Australia's premier theatre companies, including Belvoir Street Theatre, the Sydney Theatre Company and experimental company Entr'acte. The Artistic Director of the South Australia's State Theatre Company from 2000 to 2004, she has performed one-woman shows and is also a successful playwright, with writing credits in both adult and children's theatre.

Drama Centre Director Dr Anne Thompson said Rosalba's appointment would ensure that the world-class program developed by Professor Julie Holledge will continue and evolve.

"Rosalba will provide new stimulus and inspiration to Drama Centre staff and students. She brings to the position a wealth of experience as an actor, director and playwright, as well as programming experience from her time with the STC," Dr Thompson said.

"She also has current and in-depth knowledge of the performing arts industry in Australia from her recent stint as Chair of the Theatre Board of the Australia Council.

"It is an exciting time for the Drama Department, as Rosalba's appointment follows closely the arrival of esteemed drama scholar and theorist, Maggie Ivanova."

Playwright Caleb Lewis, whose play *Clinchfield* has enjoyed wide critical acclaim, received yet another accolade when the play beat a national field to win the inaugural Richard Burton Award for New Plays in October. The \$20,000 prize is offered by Black Swan, Western Australia's State Theatre Company.

*Clinchfield – A Tale of Good Citizens* employs the bizarre true story of the 1916 hanging in Tennessee of 'Murderous Mary', a circus elephant that killed its trainer, to explore issues of justice, retribution and racism in society. The play was commissioned by the Drama Centre as a showcase production for final-year students, premiering in the Matthew Flinders Theatre in 2009.

Caleb, who is currently working on a comedy called *Ghost Sharks* for next year's Adelaide Fringe, has also been commissioned by the SA State Theatre Company to write a new play.

And there is every chance that Catherine Fitzgerald will have a hand in producing that work: she has been appointed

Associate Director of the State Theatre Company for the next three years.

Already an honours graduate of the Drama Centre, Catherine is currently completing a PhD in the University's Drama Department under Dr Jonathan Bollen.





# Reflecting on Flinders

The University Library presented the *Gold and Bold: Inspirational Moments at Flinders University* exhibition in July.

Launching the exhibition, historian and founding staff member Dr David Hilliard reflected on 44 years of life at Flinders.

“In the early years there was a great deal of social mixing among the academic and library staff. Because almost everyone came from outside Adelaide we were all making new friends and there were lots of dinner parties on Saturday evenings to meet other people in the school. Most of us worked in our offices all day with perhaps one day a week at home for research or writing lectures. Most of the male lecturers wore jackets and ties to give lectures (I think I stopped wearing a tie during the radical year of 1968.). Students were addressed as Miss and Mr, not by first names. Almost everyone went to the school common room at 10.30am for a long morning tea and conversed about politics, new books and other weighty matters. And on most days we had lunch together in the Staff Club.

“The administrative style was consultative and participatory and every major decision was debated in boards and committees. There was not the same sense of rank and hierarchy that was obvious in older universities, where professors were very conscious of their status, wore suits and even had reserved car parks. At Flinders the oldest professor was in his late 40s. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Karmel, would often take an empty seat at a table in the Staff Club and join in the conversation. He was a friendly man without any kind of condescension and he knew everyone on the staff – rather like a benign headmaster. But I was a bit nervous in my second year when I found I had his daughter in one of my history tutorials and inevitably he took an interest in how she was going in her essays. She was in fact quite brilliant. Peter Karmel died at the end of 2008; he was a great man.



Very soon some people emerged as larger-than-life personalities who were not backward in expressing their opinions and talked a lot at school board meetings. There were incidents that became part of university folklore. One of them concerned the

man who drove up to the Registry for a job interview one winter evening in 1966 and arrived late and distraught at the awful condition of the road. It turned out that in the dark he had missed the main road – a narrow one, poorly lit – and had driven his VW along the pedestrian path over the hill (where University Hall now stands) and then across the narrow bridge with a muddy and pitted bank at the southern end.

And in 1967 Professor Ken Garrad parked his station wagon on the grass and mud hillside (there were no proper car parks) without the brake fully on so that it soon ran majestically down the slope and into the lake (pictured above) – just as his colleagues were having morning tea in the school common room

and watched from the windows. Sometimes the university received unwelcome publicity as in the early 1970s when a professor appeared on the front page of Melbourne *Truth*.

Flinders, with its youthful staff, gained a reputation for political radicalism. In the schools of Social Sciences and Language and Literature (later Humanities) a significant proportion of the teaching staff were members of the Campaign for Peace in Vietnam and took part in anti-war demonstrations. In 1969 a group of students opposed to the Vietnam War announced they would protest against the use of napalm against humans by burning a dog to death with napalm. Newspapers and hundreds of animal lovers were outraged but it was a hoax. The students had made their point very effectively. Then in 1974 there was the student occupation of the Registry, ostensibly triggered by an impasse over compulsory examinations in History I, which ran for a month.

So the new university gradually gained a character and style of its own, with many innovations and achievements and inevitably some failures, wrong turnings and setbacks. The Library is definitely one of its successes. I am proud to have been associated with Flinders over 44 years and I congratulate Aliese Millington and her team for putting together this excellent historical exhibition: *Gold and Bold*.”



*The new label design, incorporating a detail from the painting, Tom Gleghorn's 'My Motorbike Days'.*

## Fine art for a Flinders label

The use of works of fine art on wine labels has a long and illustrious tradition, and thanks to the generosity of Lena Karmel and artist Tom Gleghorn, Flinders University is now a part of it.

A painting by prominent Adelaide artist Tom Gleghorn was donated by the widow of the University's first Vice-Chancellor to Flinders last year to mark symbolically the establishment of the Karmel Endowment Fund as the University's major fundraising vehicle. Originally purchased from the artist by Professor Peter Karmel in the 1960s, the painting, *My Motorbike Days*, is now held in the Flinders Art Museum collection, where it joins a number of other Gleghorn works.

Peter Karmel, the University's founding Vice-Chancellor from 1966 to 1971 and one of Australia's most influential educationalists, died in December 2008.

The Karmel Endowment Fund seeks to continue his bold vision for teaching and research at Flinders by enlisting contributions and support from Flinders alumni and from business and the broader community.

When the University chose a red wine to offer to alumni and staff as part of its official line of merchandise and graduation memorabilia, a detail of the donated Gleghorn painting seemed a natural choice to adorn the label, and the artist happily gave his consent. Lidia Gnacinska, graphic designer in the Marketing and Communications Office, designed the front label, while the back label carries brief tasting notes by University journalist Charles Gent.

The Gleghorn label joins a noble tradition: works by some of the world's best known artists have featured on wine bottles, thanks to Baron Phillipe de Rothschild, who in the 1940s dreamed up the idea of commissioning notable artists, including Picasso, Dali and Miro, to paint pictures for reproduction on the labels of Mouton Rothschild. In Australia, Leeuwin Estate took up the concept for its Art Series in the 1970s.

The label will have its debut on bottles of a 2010 McLaren Vale blend of shiraz and grenache.

# Engaging the community



*The Brighton Jetty Classic gets underway with Flinders' support*

## As Australian universities broaden their scope, Flinders is finding unique ways to engage with the community.

It's not every day that a group of Flinders University staff and students strip down to their bathers, slap sunscreen on each other and then plunge into the surf for a leisurely one and a half kilometre swim in St Vincent's Gulf.

But on a beautiful, clear Sunday morning last February that is precisely what the six members of the Flinders Sunrays swim team did as participants in the Brighton Jetty Classic.

Hosted by the Brighton Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) this long-running annual event was this year sponsored for the first time by Flinders University.

Flinders Director of Marketing and Communications, Diané Ranck said the presence of the Sunrays team was more than a symbolic gesture.

"The beach and jetty were covered in Flinders banners and signage but the Flinders Sunrays wanted to take an active part in the Brighton Jetty Classic," Ms Ranck said.

"They really demonstrated the Flinders approach to community engagement: let's not only support institutions with our expertise and resources but by being an active participant in the events and initiatives that make our community vibrant," she said.

"That covers a broad spectrum of organisations – from industry to charities and other not-for-profits such as cultural bodies and sports clubs – and a wide range of people connected with them."

Flinders' partnership with the Brighton SLSC comprises sponsorship of the Jetty Classic, a surfboat and the 2011 Adelaide Airport Brighton Sculptures exhibitions.

"Flinders screen studies students, under the supervision of Head of Department Cole Larsen, produced a promotional DVD of the Classic and the Sculptures display for the Club," Ms Ranck said.

"The students are out meeting, filming and interviewing people in the community, capturing the spirit and colour of these events and honing their skills along the way," she said.

Flinders students are also getting valuable real-world work experience through the University's partnership with the

South Adelaide Football Club (*Panthers*) and inspiring others in the process.

Ms Darlene Voss, Manager of Education Partnerships in Flinders Southern Knowledge Transfer Partnership (SKTP) said the benefits of the relationship with the Panthers also flow through to schools in Adelaide's south.

"Five Flinders students in the areas of education, health sciences and humanities have been working with the Panthers since the beginning of this year," Ms Voss said.

"Some have been involved delivering in primary schools the *Panthers, Be Your Best* program, working alongside football players. The program encourages and inspires young people to embrace healthy eating and positive lifestyles which, in turn, build future aspirations and self confidence," she said.

"Others have taken the opportunity to further develop their skills through Flinders Work Integrated Learning opportunity by working alongside the team's Marketing Manager, assisting in a range of communication projects.

"The two-way partnership is in its first year, and is really kicking goals."

Highly visible and enduring institutions such as sporting clubs are vital hubs of community involvement. But Flinders is extending its reach to other members of the community, both locals and visitors, through a new partnership with the Fleurieu Art Prize.

Billed as the world's richest landscape art prize, the Fleurieu Art Prize exists to promote and encourage the visual arts in the McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Peninsula and to align them with the wine, food and tourism industries of the region.

"Our sponsorship of the competition's Landscape Symposium and Fleurieu Water Prize expands on those connections, reflecting the University's strategic objectives to stimulate and contribute to the public debate on water and the environment," Head of the SKTP, Ms Penny Crocker said.

Again, there is a practical dimension to the partnership, with opportunities for Flinders students in cultural tourism, creative arts, screen studies and environmental courses to get valuable work experience.

Vincent Ciccarello

# A Flinders frenzy in the film industry

It must be a unique career trajectory – after being decapitated in the film that made him famous, Xavier Samuel has gone on to be tortured and mutilated in his first lead role in an Australian feature.



Xavier Samuel in 'The Loved Ones'

The Flinders Drama graduate, who was catapulted to international celebrity when he was chosen for a major role in *Eclipse*, the third film of the hugely successful *Twilight* series, plays the lead in the recently released Australian film *The Loved Ones*, a gruesome, if tongue-in-cheek, horror film.

Xavier, who graduated from Flinders in 2005, acted in several low-budget Australian films before traveling to LA to successfully audition for his part as the ill-fated vampire, Riley, in *Eclipse*.

He certainly hasn't forgotten his roots – during the shooting of *Eclipse* in Vancouver, he enlisted the inadvertent help of the constantly snapping paparazzi to send a 'cheerio' to his former lecturers at Flinders by donning a T-shirt emblazoned with their names.

Emeritus Professor Michael Morley, who was listed on the T-shirt with Professor Julie Holledge, Murray Bramwell and Joh Hartog, is not surprised by Xavier's success.

"The thing that struck not just me, but all of his teachers, was his combination of intelligence, intellectual curiosity and irreverence," Professor Morley said.

"He was always going to make best use of his talents as an actor: but he was also constantly asking for recommendations for reading, and questioning just about everything I had to say.

"His performance as Hamlet in his final year was a quite astonishing reading of the role from someone of his age; Peter Goldsworthy, who saw it with me, said it was not just remarkable, but the best performance of the part he had seen, or hoped to see."

Thanks partly to his *Twilight* profile, Xavier was cast in another overseas film, *Anonymous*, a thriller set in Elizabethan England that hinges on the authorship of Shakespeare's plays. Shot earlier this year in Berlin with a cast that includes Derek Jacobi and Vanessa Redgrave, the film is due for release in 2011.

There are sinister goings-on of a completely different kind in local production *Double Happiness Uranium*, a new science fiction film about a fictitious corporation of the same name.

It is the first feature film for Flinders University's Head of Screen Production, Cole Larsen and fellow Adelaide filmmakers Matt Hawkins and Tom Young.

Combining "larger than life corporate architecture and Chinese revolutionary social realism", *Double Happiness Uranium* is described as a "near future dystopian science fiction" that is both "a dark morality tale and forecast of what could happen".

Directed by Cole Larsen, the project brings together emerging filmmakers, students and artists in a collaborative pilot mentorship scheme.

The cast includes *Bad Boy Bobby* star Nicholas Hope and Stephen Sheehan who was named *Best Established Comedian* at the 2010 Adelaide Fringe.

Shooting is still under way, but film buffs can get a taste of the project by visiting the website at [www.doublehappinessuranium.com](http://www.doublehappinessuranium.com) and financial support for this innovative venture would be welcomed by the filmmakers. Please contact [thomas.young@flinders.edu.au](mailto:thomas.young@flinders.edu.au) Flinders Screen Studies graduate Dario Russo will also be out and about with a film crew over summer.

Dario, whose surly, sexist superhero Italian Spiderman became a worldwide comic hit via YouTube, has taken a step into the mainstream, but his new cast of characters is unlikely to be any less ridiculous.

SBS Television has commissioned a six-episode action-comedy series from Dario, creative partner David Ashby and their new production company Dinosaur, with additional funding from the SA Film Corporation and the Bigpond Adelaide Film Festival. *Danger 5* will be shot around Adelaide in coming months, employing a local cast and crew and the services of special effects company Explosive Effects.

Taking its inspiration from 1960s pulp magazines, the series is set in the Second World War and follows the exploits of a multinational team of five secret agents assigned to kill Hitler.

Dario will direct the series and is co-producer with Kate Croser of Cyan Films. *Danger 5* will have a premiere screening next February as part of the BigPond Adelaide Film Festival.

Charles Gent

# A life of drama for an early starter

Clearing out your office has the occasional side-benefit. The last item I tossed into my bag as I finally closed the door on the first Tuesday in April was an audio tape, buried, feared lost, for over a decade. It was the recording of a double bill of Kurt Weill and Aaron Copland from the 1998 Adelaide Festival, featuring the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and a substantial Flinders involvement, including the English actor James (Jimmy) Aubrey as a typically clear and deftly characterised narrator.

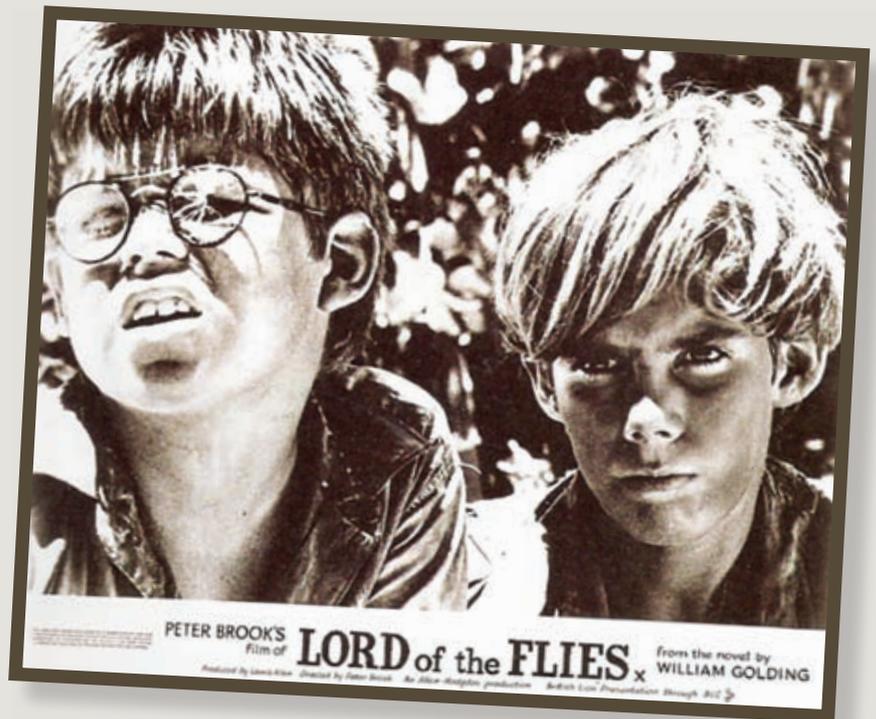
Wednesday morning I placed it on the table at home, intending to listen to it. The phone rang. It was a former student ringing to say that Jimmy had died in the UK.

It might not be a name that immediately rings bells: but no-one who has seen Peter Brook's startling film of William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies* will ever forget Ralph, played by a then youthful and wonderfully perceptive Jimmy.

Yet there was much more to Jimmy than Ralph, even though, over the years, he had come to ruefully accept the fact that the association between himself and the role would always be there.

He made the awkward transition from child star to working actor – and for him it was always about work – in TV, cinema and theatre. He has been a recognisable face in many TV series and one-offs, and was always looking for new challenges and adventures. One of these brought him to Flinders for an extended period as a graduate student. He completed an MA in creative arts, re-training himself as a director, and during his time here he directed a range of productions, endearing himself to all the students across every year because of his manner, versatility and ability to make the rehearsal room a real space for learning.

But his involvement with Flinders – as occasional guest tutor and workshop director in the Drama Centre – began many years earlier, through his professional and personal connections with Julie Holledge. And I can't deny it: when I met him for the first time back in the mid 80s, and only learned at the end of a conversation (covering the Royal Shakespeare Company, Tennessee Williams – 'Tom', to Jimmy – and the great Beckett actor



*James Aubrey as Ralph (right) in a 1963 publicity poster for 'Lord of the Flies' © Janus Films*

Patrick Magee) that I'd been talking to Ralph, words like star-struck hung in the air, though not over Jimmy.

His approach to acting and the vicissitudes of that often unfair career was too based in reality for that. He knew the difficulties of keeping your face before agents, directors and audiences, and that was one of the reasons for his undertaking the course of study at Flinders.

In certain situations, he could be described as a "luvvie" - with attitude. That often unfairly pejorative term is apt in Jimmy's case, because he could assume the manner and slot into the tradition (when the occasion called) with a combination of ease and parody. His tales of the theatre and backstage (and even onstage) goings-on are, alas, almost all unrepeatable in print. But they were always anecdotal tours-de-force. And his comments on plays, directors and fellow performers were invariably astute, and, even if occasionally hilariously caustic, always spot on.

His death leaves a generation of Flinders Drama Centre students and the staff who knew and worked with him mourning the loss of a friend, not just a performer, who could light up a class or dinner party with his presence. I still don't quite know what to make of the incident with the audio tape. But at the risk of courting cliché, the lines from a play from which Jimmy could recite whole passages at will don't seem all that inappropriate:

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,  
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy."  
*Ave, Jimmy, atque vale.*

Michael Morley

# Alumni news



Left to right: Investigator Lecture, International Alumni Activities, (top) Chancellor Mr Stephen Gerlach AM, (bottom) Ms Chris Jenner

## Investigator Lecture a big success as it returns to Flinders

Flinders' first Investigator Lecture held on campus for a decade was a 'sell out' – an alumni highlight for 2010. In August, Professor Tim Flannery presented the 2010 Investigator Lecture *Digging Up the Future on Climate Change* where he spoke about his work with dinosaur and mammal fossils, how it helped him make sense of climate science, and its implications for the future of our environment.

Prior to the Lecture, senior secondary school students were hosted by Flinders University palaeontologist, Dr Gavin Prideaux, and Professor Flannery on tours of the palaeontology laboratory and discussed science in Q&A sessions with student advisors and current Flinders students.

## Business and community engagement

Flinders University is increasing its presence across business, industry and community and with our alumni through interactive partnerships and sponsorships with business, industry and community organisations. Reflecting our commitment to the southern area and to making a difference to our community, this year we have proudly sponsored the South Adelaide Football Club, the Fleurieu Bienale, McLaren Vale's Sea and Vines, Brighton Surf Life Saving Club, AmCham, Macclesfield Business Tourism Association and many others.

## International alumni activities

In Beijing, Flinders hosted its first alumni dinner for alumni from the Master of Education program run in conjunction with Capital Normal University. This year marked the graduation of the fifth cohort to graduate from this program. Seventy-five alumni from all over China attended the dinner together with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Barber, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education, Humanities, Law and Theology Professor Trent, Professor Mike Lawson and other staff from the School of Education and senior staff from Capital Normal University.

Professor Trent – who also visited London – said "alumni are a very important part of spreading our footprint across the world".

"Flinders now has a global footprint with 7000 international alumni within the ranks of our total of 66,000 over the past forty-four years of Flinders operation," Professor Trent said.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Barber, Alumni Association President, Mr Stephen Hains and Head of Marketing, Ms Eliza Saito were present in Tokyo on 13 July for the launch of the Flinders Japan Alumni Network by Australian Ambassador, HE Murray McLean OAM. Special guests at the launch were the first five Flinders alumni from Japan Dr Yoshimi Shimoyama (PhD '73), Dr Mamoru Mohri AM (PhD '76 DUniv '91), Professor Kohei Uosaki (PhD '78), Dr Akimi Fujimoto (PhD '80) and Miss Yuko Nakamura (BA '89).

At the launch Professor Barber spoke about the University and its future directions and welcomed the network's establishment. The new network will strengthen the links between Flinders and its alumni in Japan who now number over 150.

Director of Marketing and Communications, Diané Ranck visited Germany and England in June where she presented a Distinguished Alumni Award to Professor Yaping Shao (PhD EarthSc '91) at the University of Cologne. In London, Ms Ranck met with UK based alumni to gauge their reaction to a new model of engagement and sought opinions of alumni relationships with Flinders. Themes, activities and events for strengthening alumni/University engagement were suggested, and planning has begun for an event in late 2011.

## New Head appointed

Ms Chris Jenner was appointed Head, Development and Alumni Relations in May 2010. Her immediate past role was Executive Director, Foundation Daw Park, the fundraising arm of Repatriation General Hospital at Daw Park. Prior to that, Ms Jenner was Director of Business Development with the Adelaide office of global accounting firm Deloitte. In her new role, Ms Jenner liaises with Faculties, Schools and Units, including regional centres, to develop and establish programs to build and strengthen relationships with our alumni as well as with industry, business and community. She is also responsible for developing and growing the Karmel Endowment Fund.

## Seniors-On-Line gift to the Karmel Endowment Fund

After 16 years of service to the community, and especially to the more than 5000 students over the age of 55 who benefited from Seniors-On-Line programs, S-O-L ceased operations earlier this year. At a reception in August, S-O-L President Barry Thorne handed a cheque for \$38,000 to Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Barber. These residual funds from S-O-L operations have been placed in the Karmel Endowment Fund.

S-O-L's principal objective was to assist older people acquire skills in the use of computers and related technology, while also increasing their access to community resources and information. The program was the outcome of a research project into how technology could benefit older people, conducted in the early 1990s at Flinders University, by Dr Carol Irizarry and Professor Andrew Downing.

## Welcome to new Chancellor

In June, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Barber hosted a cocktail reception for donors and alumni to meet the University's new Chancellor Mr Stephen Gerlach AM. This event was held at Flinders University Victoria Square and the more than 70 guests heard Chancellor Gerlach speak about how he saw the role of Chancellor and the importance of alumni to the University.

## Canberra alumni reception

An alumni reception was held in the Drill Hall Gallery at ANU in Canberra in August to coincide with the opening of the Flinders Art Museum's Travelling Exhibition *Gooch's Utopia: collected works from the Central Desert*. Over 50 alumni and friends attended and heard about the exhibition from Curator Fiona Salmon and about the latest developments at and future directions of Flinders from Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Barber. During the reception, Dr Michael Raupach (PhD '78) was presented with his Distinguished Alumni Award for his significant contributions to earth system science locally and globally.

## Social Work alumni

Planning is well advanced for the launch of a Social Work alumni network on 16 February 2011 at a practice conference for social work alumni to be held in Adelaide. Further details about this initiative are available from Dr Muburak Rahamathulla (08) 8201 2677 (muburak@flinders.edu.au)

Geoff Sauer



Flinders  
UNIVERSITY

## Karmel Endowment Fund

**Experiment, and experiment bravely** was the challenge posed for Flinders University by our founding Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Peter Karmel AC, CBE.

For 44 years, Flinders has done just that, inspiring several generations of scholars and graduates who have enjoyed the finest levels of teaching and research. You can help Flinders to continue to meet Peter Karmel's bold vision with an investment in the future, a contribution towards the intellectual capital and skills development required to successfully tackle the challenges of the 21st Century.

To ensure Flinders continues to be **bold and inspiring** in teaching and research, we have established the Karmel Endowment Fund and invite support from our alumni, business and the broader community.

Yes, I wish to contribute to inspiring achievement at Flinders University

### My details:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research               | <input type="checkbox"/> Library                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships           | <input type="checkbox"/> Building                              |
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 Please contact me regarding making a bequest to Flinders University in my Will  
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 My cheque is enclosed made payable to Flinders University

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**Thank you for your generous support. A receipt will be forwarded shortly.**

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# Masters courses top the class in China

*Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Barber, Professor Rosalind Murray-Harvey, Ms Li Shu, Professor Bob Conway, Professor Faith Trent*

The Chinese Ministry of Education's choice of two Flinders postgraduate courses as quality benchmarks endorses the University's commitment to its international educational ventures, according to the Chancellor, Mr Stephen Gerlach.

The Ministry's selection effectively places the courses, taught collaboratively with Nankai University, in the top 10 of about 600 programs offered in China by overseas institutions.

With Nankai, Flinders offers a Masters of Arts (International Relations in Economy and Trade) and a Masters of Hospital Administration. The two courses have produced more than 1500 graduates since teaching began a decade ago.

Speaking at the November graduation ceremony in Nankai for the latest group of Chinese students to complete the MA in International Relations, Mr Gerlach told the graduates that Flinders takes its role in China very seriously.

"And our commitment to educational quality has been recognised, not only by the Ministry of Education's choice of our courses as a benchmark, but also by the Ministry and Nankai University's decision to approve a second intake of students into the Master of Arts in International Relations, bringing commencing student numbers up to 230 annually," he said.

Mr Gerlach said that while the burgeoning trade in resources was at the forefront of Australia's relations with China, the possibilities for expanding the range of interactions between the countries are vast. Educational services is one sector that has begun to reveal its potential, he said.

"Education is the great enabler, not only for individual intellects but for entire societies and economies," Mr Gerlach said.

While based in Tianjin, Nankai University has a national role in China and the Flinders Masters classes are now also taught in several of China's major cities and key regional centres.

The success of the Flinders-Nankai collaboration looks set to extend, with several Nankai delegations from the sciences and health sciences areas visiting Flinders to identify other opportunities for co-operation in both teaching and research.

Another tangible demonstration of the Flinders-Nankai link

followed immediately the graduation, in the form of the second Flinders-Nankai conference on political economy.

While the inaugural conference in 2009 focused on issues generated by the Global Financial Crisis, the speakers this year turned to more positive aspects of economic co-operation.

Academics from International Relations at Flinders and the Flinders Business School joined other Australian experts in a dialogue with Nankai University presenters to address future methods and strategies aimed at improving the prospects for trade and investment between the two countries.

Another successful Flinders postgraduate program in China saw its fifth cohort graduate this year. To mark the occasion, Flinders hosted its first alumni dinner in Beijing for graduates of the Master of Education program, which is run in conjunction with Capital Normal University. Senior staff from both universities attended the dinner with 75 alumni from all over China.

Flinders has also stepped up its existing links with two other top tier Chinese institutions by establishing collaborative research and education centres with Hunan University and Central South University.

Flinders Deputy Vice-Chancellors Professor David Day and Professor Dean Forbes led a 16-strong delegation of senior academics and administrators to attend extended workshops with the two universities, both located in Changsha, the capital of Hunan province.

The two workshops, held in early June, have established a Joint Research and Education Collaboration Centre (JRECC) with each university to act as an umbrella for ongoing collaboration for an initial five year-period.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Barber described the Centres' creation as a bold initiative.

"Flinders University has had a Memorandum of Understanding and ongoing involvement with both universities since 2009: the JRECC will now act as a platform for intensive collaboration across several research areas and educational programs," Professor Barber said.

# Special education becomes a broad church

Flinders is leading changes to teacher education that is responsive to increasingly diverse and inclusive classrooms.

For decades children with disabilities in Australia were removed from mainstream settings to provide them with their own, individual education.

As Dr Jane Jarvis, lecturer and special education specialist in Flinders School of Education told *Encounter*, the practice reflected a particular mindset.

“General education and special education operated quite separately,” Dr Jarvis said.

“We have a better understanding now that the challenge [of teaching children with disabilities] is not necessarily in the child but in the interaction between the child and the environment,” she said.

“It is better and more effective if we can change the environment and make it more flexible than trying to change what’s in the child and then put them back in the same inflexible environment.”

The philosophical shift has led to a much more inclusive approach to special education; one that not only sees the majority of children with disabilities learning in mainstream settings but that also embraces children with all manner of learning difficulties, including autism spectrum disorders and behavioural disorders.

The shift has led, as well, to the creation of three new undergraduate degrees in special education and disability studies at Flinders University.

To be offered from 2011, the courses are the first of their kind in South Australia and rare among Australian universities.

They have been developed by Dr Julie McMillan, lecturer and expert in students with complex needs from the School of Education, Dr Jarvis, and Dr Brian Matthews, Head of the Department of Disability and Community Inclusion.

“There’s a shortage – and there has been for a long time – of qualified special education teachers out in the field,” Dr McMillan said.

“Traditionally, special education has been taught at postgraduate level as people tended to pursue qualifications in special education after working in other areas of education,” she said.

“The new courses will give graduates a lot of flexibility and allow them to work in special education, general education and in the field of disability.”

Dr Jarvis said the courses majoring in early childhood, primary, and middle and secondary education will equip teachers with the skills and knowledge to work with students with learning and behavioural difficulties, including those with more complex needs such as autism.

“Teachers going out into any classroom are going to find that they’ve got students with different levels of background knowledge,” Dr Jarvis said.

“They might learn at a different pace, have different attention spans, different levels of motivation or past experiences of academic success,” she said.

“Graduates will have a variety of strategies at their fingertips to support a full range of students.”

Dr Brian Matthews said about one third of the courses will be taken up with disability-specific topics.

“It’s really important that the special education side be supplemented by whole-of-life perspectives around disability,” Dr Matthews said.

“Education happens at a particular time of day and time of year, whereas disability is happening continuously – it’s a lived experience,” he said.

“Student teachers need to have an understanding of issues such as the relationship between families and the professionals

who work with them, and they need to have information on a range of disabilities.”

Dr Matthews said the move to inclusive classrooms reflects a societal shift in which communities have become “more accepting and more embracing of people with disabilities”.

“It’s essential that within mainstream settings there are more teachers who have a well-established method of working with children with special needs,” he said.

That includes, he said,

developing competency in using assistive and augmentative alternative technologies, such as speech generating devices and adaptive keyboards.

Dr Jarvis said the overall aim of the new courses was to develop in teachers a “really inclusive philosophy of teaching”.

“Some of the modifications and adjustments a teacher might make for a student with special needs are going to benefit other students in the classroom,” she said.

“There are many effective teaching practices that are now considered mainstream that started out from the field of special education.

“We’re educating graduates who’ll be able to work in a wide array of settings.”



Dr Julie McMillan (left) and Dr Jane Jarvis

# Harmonising with Indigenous views on health and the environment

Flinders is a focus of engagement and exchange on matters vital to Indigenous Australians.

The Ngarrindjeri, the Indigenous people of the Lower River Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong, call the region *Yarluwar-Ruwe*, or Sea Country.

For them, the lands and waters of the region are inextricably linked, as they are with country.

This interconnectedness between people and environment has much to offer non-Indigenous Australians as they debate the future of the Murray-Darling Basin, according to Steve Hemming, senior lecturer in Australian Studies at Flinders.

Mr Hemming has been working closely with the Ngarrindjeri people for 30 years on many heritage, history and natural resource management projects, both in his capacity at Flinders and, prior to that, as a curator in the South Australian Museum's Anthropology Division.

"Indigenous relationships to the river and understandings of the land and water and all the living things and their connections together, that philosophy is something that's really beneficial for all Australians," Mr Hemming said.

"The basic philosophy, that you have to look after the land and waters and they'll look after you because your life depends on it, is at the core of Ngarrindjeri philosophy," he said.

While Indigenous water interests have never been adequately recognised, Mr Hemming said, a healthy river system has an important role to play in the future of the Ngarrindjeri Nation, the name which covers Indigenous people who live on Sea Country.

At the time of writing, Flinders University – through Mr Hemming and Associate Professor Daryle Rigney from Yunggoendi First Nations Centre for Higher Education and Research – is forming partnerships with the Ngarrindjeri Nation and the South Australian Government around natural resource management and water.

"The aim of the partnerships is to develop the core capacity of the Ngarrindjeri Nation and to engage with government around issues such as training and employment," Mr Hemming said.

This and earlier work is attracting the attention of overseas universities such as Harvard and Cambridge in the areas of governance and economic development for First Nation peoples around the world.

Mr Hemming said the institution of the university is vital to this work.

"Universities are institutions that are here to stay," he said.

"They've got longevity about them, as well as skills and interests, a lot of infrastructure and capacity. I think all of those things mean universities have the capacity to really provide long-term support to groups like Indigenous communities," he said.

Flinders' commitment to Indigenous issues is being recognised in other quarters, too.

In March, leading Australian philanthropist Mr Greg Poche gifted a \$10 million endowment to Flinders University to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health initiatives.



Announcing the Poche Centres (right to left): Associate Professor Dennis McDermott, Professor David Prideaux, Mr Greg Poche, Ms Kay van Norton

A senior academic of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background will lead each of the Poche Centres for Indigenous Health in Alice Springs and at the University's Bedford Park campus in Adelaide.

Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Michael Kidd said the Centres will build on Flinders' existing strengths in Indigenous health research and education and will support an increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying medicine, nursing and other health profession courses at Flinders in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

"It's really important for Australian healthcare that we have a significant increase in the number of health professionals who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and not just to work in remote communities or to work exclusively with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but to be members of all specialities of each health profession working in all areas across Australia, to be pioneers in every area of health care," Professor Kidd said.

"It's an important part of *Closing The Gap*. I think we're going to see an increasing number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people coming through and graduating in medicine and other health professions who are going to lead change throughout our health system," he said.

"Our graduates will change attitudes, approaches to healthcare, and inspire new thinking about appropriate healthcare.

"Many of our graduates, I'm sure, are going to move into leadership positions in universities, in professional organisations, in the hospital sector and in primary healthcare."

Professor Kidd said that the Poche donation was provided to Flinders on the condition that it exists in perpetuity.

"We need to grow that endowment over time, so that the absolute value doesn't decline," he said.

"I hope we'll see further donations towards the important work of the Poche Centres coming from our alumni who have been fortunate in their own careers as a result of the education they received at this University."

Vincent Ciccarello



Steve Hemming (left) and Uncle Tom Trevorrow (Chair, Ngarrindjeri Heritage Committee) at Parnka Point on the Coorong SA



# Two wheels and a databank

Professor Bourne with student Linda Ngo

Philip Bourne is a computational biologist with a great passion for sharing knowledge – and riding motorbikes.

They are two enduring interests that ensure his scientific contributions reach like-minded people around the world – and that he sees large parts of it on two wheels.

Earlier this year Professor Bourne's dedication to scientific exploration and data-intensive computing earned him one of Microsoft's top honours – the Jim Gray eScience Award.

It joins a list of 12 major awards that he has accumulated since graduating with a Bachelor of Science honours degree from Flinders University in the mid 1970s followed by a doctorate in 1980.

Professor Bourne has been particularly busy ever since.

A specialist in pharmacy informatics and structural bioinformatics, he is currently with the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of California San Diego (UCSD). He is also a distinguished scientist with the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) and an academic at the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2), both part of UCSD.

Originally from the UK, Professor Bourne emigrated to Australia with his family in 1964 when he was 12.

While at Flinders he conducted a detailed study of the structure of nucleic acids, the building blocks of DNA, to better understand how drugs bind. He also investigated the atomic details of a specific class of caged hydrocarbon molecules as a precursor to designing small molecule organic compounds.

Since earning his PhD, Professor Bourne has published more than 230 papers and five books, including one which sold over 150,000 copies. He has also co-founded four companies – ViSoft Inc, Protein Vision Inc, a company that distributes independent films for free, and most recently, SciVee Inc.

SciVee is a Web 2.0 resource dedicated to the dissemination of scientific research and supports science-specific research networking.

Launched in 2007 as a collaboration between SDSC and the National Science Foundation, SciVee has been used by hundreds of thousands of students and professional scientists.

The success of SciVee was cited by Microsoft when presenting Professor Bourne with his latest award.

In a corporate blog, Tony Hey, corporate vice president of the External Research Division of Microsoft Research, described Professor Bourne's work in data-intensive science as groundbreaking.

"Phil's contributions to open access in bioinformatics and computational biology are legion," he said.

"In particular, Phil's role as the founding editor-in-chief of the open-access journal *PLoS Computational Biology* has significantly advanced open access in mathematical and computational biology."

In 2004 Professor Bourne's achievements were recognised by Flinders University which awarded him the Convocation Medal for Outstanding Achievement.

The annual award is given to graduates who demonstrate outstanding leadership in their field and contribute to the advancement of knowledge and professional practice.

Improving the way science is disseminated and comprehended continues to be a major driver.

"Free unrestricted access to scientific data is, in my opinion, of paramount importance to accelerate scientific discovery at a time of increasing need for scientific solutions," he told *Encounter*.

In addition to his roles at UC, Professor Bourne is also Associate Director of the RCSB Protein Data Bank, a worldwide, open-access repository for three-dimensional structures of large molecules and nucleic acids. It has more than 170,000 unique users per month and more than 68,000 molecule structures have been archived.

Findings from Professor Bourne's research into the ancestral history of protein structure, and its impact on evolution, are stored on the data bank. This research is also groundbreaking. It has established that life was influenced by shifts in trace metal geochemistry in the ocean and most recently suggested the existence of two new types of proteosome.

Another major research focus is what happens when we take drugs – a study which involves the systematic analysis of major pharmaceuticals and their side effects.

When he's not involved in biological breakthroughs, Professor Bourne can be found playing squash, hiking, skiing, flying and, of course, riding his motorbike.

"I am a motorcycle enthusiast with a beyond mid-life idea of undertaking a series of 'Great Motorcycle Journeys of the World,'" he says.

Last year he explored the Western Australian outback and this year he hit the roads between Germany and Turkey.

Ian Williams

# Family First slams Labor's dirty tricks

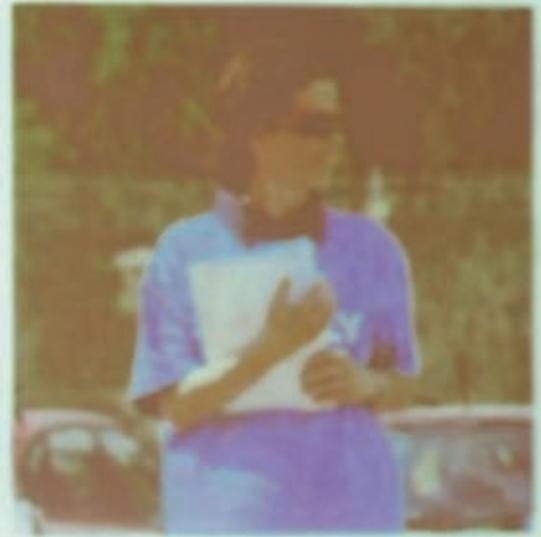
TACTICS

GAVIN LOWER  
MICHAEL OWEN

THE Family First party  
advice over Labor's  
evolving how-to-vote  
seats in Saturday's election.

The cards, hand-  
pump workers want  
put your FAMILI  
photographs of Fam  
and recommendations  
second on the ballot.

Two Labor candidates  
and Tom Kenyon  
declined to use the  
led as a list.



## Tapping the public mood on politics

Associate Professor Haydon Manning

The political dialogue with the Australian electorate has deepened with more intensified use of the world wide web in a move that could herald more informed and effective constituents, according to political scientist Haydon Manning. Associate Professor Manning said the most noticeable, and surprising, feature of the 2010 Federal election campaign was the return by the political leaders to the “town hall-style meetings” of previous generations of politics. Juxtaposed on this grassroots electioneering was the vastly increased degree of political commentary and analysis in cyberspace, complementing the mainstream media.

“One of the very good aspects of the latest election campaign was, notwithstanding the efforts of politicians and campaign managers to control every moment of the campaign, a much greater conversation is going on with people using the internet as a source of information,” Associate Professor Manning, the Head of Politics and Public Policy, told *Encounter*.

“People, particularly younger voters, are able to source information that they trust, much more so than in the past. And despite the way we decry campaign stage management and the frequency with which people described the campaign as boring, this is a dimension that is developing further with each campaign,” he said.

“People are able to source information sitting down in front of their computer, their laptop or iPad that they have control over – they choose where they are getting their information from. And ultimately, when they find information about a policy it has to have real substance because that information is going to be critiqued widely by interested parties ranging from non-government organisations with specialist knowledge to individual news bloggers.”

Associate Professor Manning does not accept the anecdotal view that most Australians are particularly apathetic about politics, maintaining comprehensive survey data from the Australian Election Study – published after each election campaign by the Australian National University – suggests voters are interested in election campaigns and, more generally, politics. But he was pleased to see the return of so-called ‘town hall meetings’.

“The town hall meetings were totally unexpected and unpredictable. I think the effort by Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott to front the public meetings in Rooty Hill and Brisbane were really positive signs. It points, perhaps, to the end of the era of the contrived election debate run by the television networks and the opening of a new era where the leaders will actually debate a number of times in front of a live audience that will also be able to ask questions,” Associate Professor Manning said.

“We may have passed the time when the 10 second sound bite and the reportage on the evening news is no longer of interest to people – it just does not engage them anymore because they have the option to go to this massive source of information on the web,” he said.

Associate Professor Manning said this new and fascinating phenomenon may ultimately produce better political outcomes in a country which he maintains, despite some perceptions to the contrary, is already extremely well governed relative to the rest of the world.

However, while there are more communications avenues opening up, Associate Professor Manning said Prime Minister Gillard has to craft her messages on policy reform in a more effective manner than she has done to date.

“The fear and anxiety in working class communities over tariff reform in the 1980s was far greater than the perceived threat to river towns from changes to water allocations in the Murray-Darling Basin,” Associate Professor Manning said.

“It boils down to an ability to accept a policy brief, understand it and then explain it. And that is where Paul Keating as Treasurer was exceptionally able and he was backed by a Prime Minister who was a great communicator in Bob Hawke – a man who was known and trusted by the Australian people,” he said.

“The Australian people do not know who Julia Gillard is and the next 12 months will reveal whether the Gillard Government is more effective than the Rudd Government in communicating its message.”

Peter Gill



# Australia's political system needs overhaul

Australia's political system needs a major overhaul if it is to re-engage the public and produce effective government in the 21st Century, according to Dean Jaensch.

The scrapping of State Governments, changes to the voting system, the recruitment of more talented politicians, and a more liberal attitude to the disclosure of information are amongst a suite of reforms that the doyen of political commentators says should be considered.

Presenting the inaugural *Dean Jaensch Lecture* in late November, Professor Jaensch (above) said he had, since his first study of Australian politics in 1963, considered that while Australia's system was envied by many around the world "it is by no means the best democracy that it could be."

Before a discussion panel of former Federal Minister and Flinders University academic, Dr Neal Blewett, Senator Nick Xenophon and political lobbyist, Ms Mia Handshin, and an invited audience – and moderated by the ABC's Tony Jones – Professor Jaensch said "there needs to be a continuing debate about how we, the people, can achieve improvements to our political system".

"There is a sense of urgency about this, as my opinion is that Australia seems to be sliding away from, rather than towards, more democratic structures, institutions and processes," Professor Jaensch said.

He said an early target for reform should be the Australian Constitution because "its content in 2010 is an anachronism, it needs to be brought into the 21st century".

"A federal structure was also essential in the formation of a nation. In 2010, it has also become an anachronism, a hindrance to efficient and effective government. Duplication, even triplication is rife and inefficiencies abound".

"We need a new federalism. But this will be difficult. Whenever I raise a proposal for abolishing the States and establishing a national-regional system, the opposition is best described by one reaction I received: 'but what about the Sheffield Shield?'"

Professor Jaensch said the so-called "reform" of Federal Parliament initiated by the Independent MPs since the 2010 election has only touched the surface, and the Parliament and

the political processes that support it remains flawed.

"The process of real reform should start with the appointment of an independent Speaker, drawn from outside the Parliament.

"In representation, in elections, Australians should have the widest possible choice. But why should I have to provide preferences for candidates I would not feed?

"Optional preferences, then the abolition of above-the-line voting, a proportional representation system (preferably the Tasmanian Hare Clark system), more transparent laws on funding of political parties in the election process, and truth in political advertising would be major improvements.

"Responsible government, a keystone of a Westminster system, has been significantly eroded. The concept, simply defined as a chain of accountability: public service accountable to a Minister, who is accountable to Cabinet, which is accountable to Parliament, which is accountable to the people, has too many broken links in the chain. It can be argued that the only time responsible government works to any real degree is when there is a hung parliament.

"If an outside Speaker is accepted, then why not go one step further? One problem of Cabinet government, especially in the smaller State parliaments, is the difficulty in finding enough people of quality to become ministers of State. Low numbers in State parliaments provide a limited gene pool.

"For this reason alone, Australia needs to consider the appointment of ministers from outside the Parliament. This, like the Speaker proposal, would be a radical transformation of the so-called Westminster system, and would lead to further debate about Australia becoming a republic, with full separation of powers."

Professor Jaensch suggests he has been a "spectacular failure" in "lecturing, hectoring and pleading" for a more informed political discussion over the past 40 years. However, that's a view with which many political observers would not agree. And in the inaugural *Dean Jaensch Lecture*, which will now be an annual event at Flinders University, he has given the political classes and the public even more food for thought.

# Diverse experiences the essence of life

Football, writing, broadcasting, teaching, photography and music may appear to have little in common, but for Flinders graduate Peter Endersbee (BA Hons '71 DipEd '73) these things are the essence of his life.

At Flinders in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Peter's studies included Fine Art, Drama and Literature and Honours in French Surrealist and Absurd Drama, German Expressionism and pre-Shakespearean dramatic traditions such as the Italian Comedia-del-arte. At the same time he was playing football for SANFL club Sturt and in the 1968 grand final against arch rival Port Adelaide, Peter kicked two goals using the then radical checkside (banana) kick and his tally of 4 goals 3 behinds was the exact winning margin for Sturt.

In the days of short back and sides haircuts, he was banned by Sturt from training because of his long blond hair and beard. For Peter his hair had no effect on his football ability, and therefore should not have affected the club. Reason prevailed, and in a late night chat, the coach Jack Oatey said: "You can keep the hair. Train on Thursday, get the beard off and you'll be in the team".

He has written an as yet unpublished novel about Flinders, the Sturt Football Club, and his family covering the period 1968 – 1970. This he did whilst living in a caravan in New Zealand and supporting himself as a musician without any government grants.

In 1972, straight out of university he went "hippie" and went off in a Kombi/Beetle convoy with his then wife, young child, another couple and a budding cinematographer to a subsistence farm near Kempsey

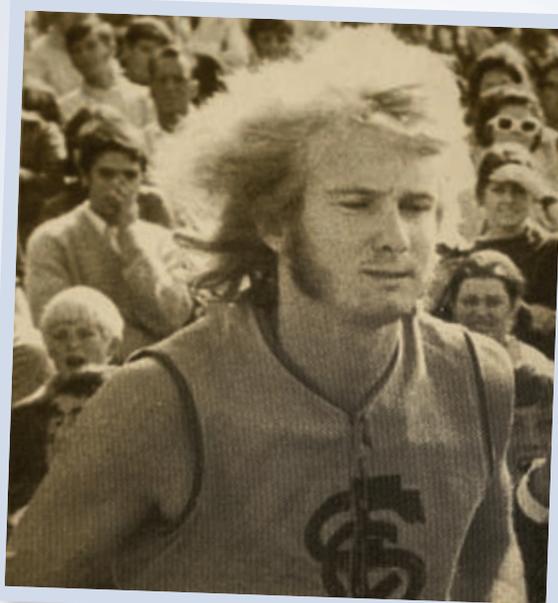
on the mid north coast of New South Wales. This venture lasted six months. Returning to Adelaide he taught at Henley Beach High, lived in a Clarendon apple orchard, trained with Sturt and did a Diploma of Education. He also studied music and played in rock bands. He did attend the 1973 Aquarius Arts Festival at Nimbin, now the centre of Australian counterculture. Three years later, Peter studied jazz at the Sydney Conservatorium and then travelled north on a busking trip which ended with him in a restaurant business in Byron Bay. He also managed to train with Sturt again during a brief visit to Adelaide. A year later in Melbourne he became a semi-professional musician and says "Melbourne saved my soul!" In the first half of the 1980s he taught humanities at Footscray Technical School and then gained admission to Swinburne Film and Television School.

Returning to Adelaide, he tried his hand at script writing and broadcasting for the ABC including a number of years working as "Professor Jack Revere" with Keith Conlon. For three years on weekends he was a broadcaster on Encounter FM based in Victor Harbor where he hosted a sports show, a cocktail/jazz show and a writer's show. At the same time he played piano in the Hotel Victor and at the Royal Family Hotel in Port Elliot and was approached to

be assistant coach of the Port Elliot Football Club. He was also teaching English as a Second Language in colleges in Adelaide. Peter speaks with great passion about his life and work saying "I did a lot of things to a certain degree, but football came naturally.

Writing for me is a way of transforming life; especially the writing of fiction, or in my case – as Helen Garner once termed the process – faction". Since 1997 Peter has worked as a professional photographer in Sydney, operating his own studio

and specialising in portraiture, corporate work, model portfolios, and photographic documenting of art works. His work can be seen in a range of publications, including *Exclusive Properties* magazine, *Australian Photography* (locations), *The Masters of Bridal Couture*, *Studio* magazine, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Black & White*, a variety of art publications, and in European biographies.



Geoff Sauer

# Paperback writer (with a little help from his friends)

Given that about a third of Adelaide's population turned out to see the Beatles in 1964, it's not surprising that there are still a few stories to be told about the day.

The crowd of some 300,000 that filled and blocked Adelaide's major streets was the biggest crowd ever to greet the Fab Four, even though they were, in fact, a man down – drummer Jimmy Nicol filled in for an ailing Ringo Starr.

But in Dr Michael Savvas's new book about the Beatles' South Australian connections, the "visitation", as he calls that day, is just the start.

In *One Dream Ago*, compiled with the help of his daughter Olivia, Michael has brought together dozens of anecdotes that trace Adelaide's links with the Beatles throughout the succeeding decades.

"Some of the links were obvious, some of them are less obvious," Michael said.

Michael, who is a lecturer in the Student Learning Centre and a Flinders PhD, has a long-standing

affection for and fascination with the Beatles, and still remembers his own sense of shock and grief at the age of 10 at the news of John Lennon's death.

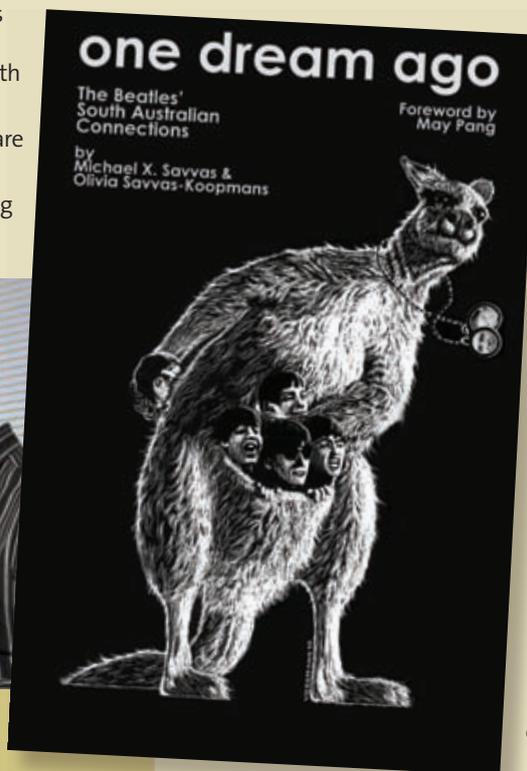
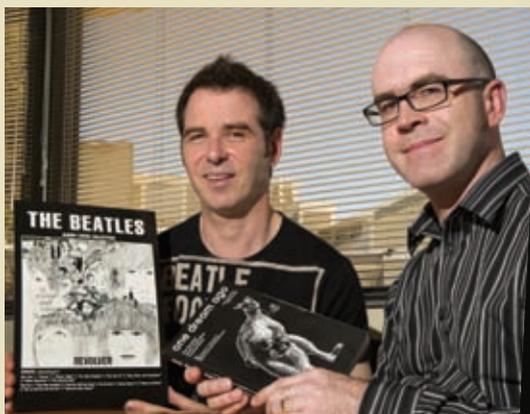
Once he had hatched his idea for the book, Michael began his quest by going on air with Peter Goers to discuss the project. Phone calls soon followed.

"At first response was slow, but eventually, one story started to lead to another and the process developed a life of its own," Michael said.

"And once it was at the printers, they started coming out of the woodwork."

The well-known story of Bob Francis's petition, which persuaded the Beatles to add Adelaide to their tour schedule, is coloured by accounts of elaborate ruses that some Adelaide school children took to escape from school to see them.

There is also a contribution from local cameraman John Howard: after filming a Beatles interview in Adelaide, he later went on to make their video clips for *Revolution* and *Hey Jude*, and also shot much of the footage of the famous last Beatles concert atop the Apple building in London.



## Two degrees of separation

Cristian Stromblad (above right, with Michael Savvas) who works in the Marketing and Communications Office at Flinders, has an entry in *One Dream Ago*, courtesy of his "cousin once removed", Carl Groszmann.

In 2004, Cristian interviewed his cousin for a writing assignment, roaming through a checkered musical career that included a period of several years in the 1970s when Carl lived in and out of Ringo Starr's home, and contributed the song *A Dose of Rock and Roll* to Ringo's solo album *Rotogravure*. Carl, who had started out in music with 1960s Australian band Steve & the Board (their top 10 hit was *The Giggle-Eyed Goo*), also wrote songs for Status Quo. Carl's memories of living with Ringo included food fights with members of Monty Python, and meeting John and George as well as Harry Nilsson.

And although it's not Beatle related, Cristian couldn't resist quoting Carl's most memorable song title: *I Call My Woman Hinges 'Cause She's Something to Adore*.

There are tributes from devoted fans, including disc jockey John "Pembo" Pemberton, who believes his love of the Beatles may well have saved his life, diverting him from a descent into drink, drugs and possible suicide as an adolescent in a Victorian country town.

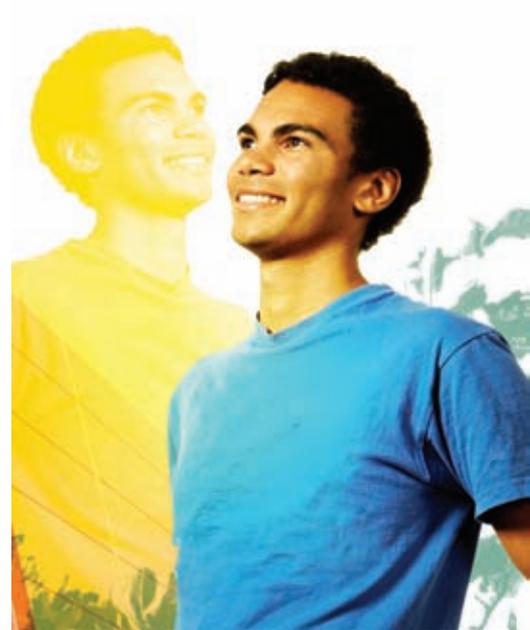
The book also relates the intriguing phenomenon of writer Bowwayne, Adelaide-born but now based in London, who claims to be George Harrison's son.

Dotted with Beatles-related facts and trivia – Michael even tracked down a man who owns a microphone used at the Adelaide concerts – the book also contains numerous original photos, few of which have been previously published.

Perhaps Michael's greatest coup, though, was securing the book's cover illustration.

"The cover is a dream come true in itself: getting Klaus Voormann – designer of *Revolver*, friend of the Beatles and member of the Plastic Ono band – to design the cover," Michael said.

"It took some wheeling and dealing, but I think he's done a fantastic job."



## Sending the Flinders message via

Flinders' long-standing involvement with the BigPond Adelaide Film Festival (BAFF) will take on a new dimension with the University's sponsorship of the event's Shorts and Forums categories from 2011.

Students from the Department of Screen and Media and the cultural tourism stream of the Bachelor of International Tourism will undertake a placement at the State's premier film event, working on logistics, marketing and event management activities.

The sponsorship also underscores the links with the business of film making – a natural fit with Flinders' Creative Arts majors in screen studies, drama (see Charles Gent's story on page 10), digital media and creative writing.

Screen and Media senior lecturer, Dr Mike Walsh will continue in his role as talent spotter for the BAFF, programming films screened at Asian and North American film festivals and also providing the Festival's program notes.

Dr Walsh said Flinders' sponsorship of BAFF reflects the University's commitment to supporting not just screen culture but also the film production industry.

"The screen and media program has been very successful at turning out graduates who then go on to have careers in the film industry," Dr Walsh said.

"But it's not simply enough to teach people how to make films. The important thing that we want to concentrate on at Flinders is engagement with the film and screen culture industries," he said.

"We want to get our graduates working with people in the film industry as a matter of priority.

"BAFF has had a spectacular rise to prominence. It's a nationally and internationally recognised event, which has become very important in the cultural, commercial and tourist life of Adelaide.



Students Kiefer Cheung (left) and Tom Glaister with Dr Mike Walsh at the Adelaide Film Festival office

"Since it started in 2003, it has been a funder and the launching place for some of the most prominent Australian films.

"*Look Both Ways, Ten Canoes* and *Samson and Delilah* have all won AFI Best Film awards. They've all been funded in part by BAFF and had their world premieres there."

"A number of Flinders graduates will have films screened at the 2011 festival.

Among them is Dario Russo, who turned his Flinders graduation project, *Italian*

*Spiderman*, into an Internet viral phenomenon with more than 4.1 million hits.

"Dario will preview his new TV series *Danger 5* which will be shown on SBS TV next year," Dr Walsh said.

"Matt Bate's film *Shut Up Little Man* and a documentary he is making in conjunction with the ABC, *Railroad Man*, will also be shown at BAFF, as will work by Honours graduate Bryan Mason and Sophie Hyde."

Head of Marketing at Flinders, Ms Eliza Saito said sponsorship of the BigPond Adelaide Film Festival was an emphatic statement about the University's place in the State's cultural and creative life.

"Many Flinders graduates are actively engaged in the film industry, here and internationally," Ms Saito said.

"But they're not just people behind the camera, such as Dario Russo or Scott Hicks, or people in front of the camera like Xavier Samuel – they include writers, producers, administrators and all manner of people involved in technical, behind-the-scenes roles," she said.

"And they're not just working in film; they are also involved in theatre, radio, television, animation and digital media. As a major sponsor of the BigPond Adelaide Film Festival, Flinders is



## the silver screen and beyond

supporting the event and providing opportunities for work and networking. We're also demonstrating that the University is an active participant in these exciting fields."

Ms Saito said the sponsorship is one element of an innovative approach to marketing Flinders University to its stakeholders.

With applications for undergraduate courses up by 13.6 per cent overall and healthy attendances at Open Days and the Flinders Tertiary and Careers Expo stand, Ms Saito has good reason to feel pleased with progress.

"The communications that we produce have to be consistent and distinctly Flinders," Ms Saito said.

"We've been able to do that more and more with the refreshed brand, particularly with the increased use of the gold corporate colour and the recent introduction of the sun as a key design element," she said.

The University's innovative marketing is being recognised by industry insiders, as well as the public-at-large.

The mid-year *Let your talents shine* and *It's your time to shine* marketing campaigns directed at prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students respectively, won *The Advertiser's Paper Cut Award* in May for the University's advertising agency, Showpony Advertising for a distinctive "see-through" newspaper advertisement.

"Our collaboration with Showpony has been focused on the refreshed Flinders brand, to promote it and to highlight the brand essence – that Flinders is bold and inspiring," Ms Saito said.

"That message needs to be communicated to the marketplace, as well as to our staff, students and alumni who are great reviewers of the things we produce. It is important that they understand what Flinders is trying to do, and feel a part of it as they are fantastic ambassadors for the University."

School leavers are, of course, a primary target audience. What better way to get to know them than at Schoolies Festival, the annual pilgrimage of leaving Year 12s to Victor Harbor?

"Flinders is a major sponsor of the Schoolies Festival which aims to provide a safe partying environment.

Communicating  
the Flinders  
"bold and gold"  
message takes  
many shapes  
and forms.

"As a corporate sponsor, we hosted the Flinders Uni Beach Hut and gave away some freebies. But more importantly, our sponsorship enables us to show our support to not only the 'schoolies' but also to the local Victor Harbor community."

The ubiquitous virtual world of social media is another important component of Flinders' marketing strategy.

The Flinders YouTube continues to enjoy very high visitation rates and the Flinders Facebook site caters to almost 5000 fans.

Head of Online Communications, Antonia Malavazos said a number of initiatives in 2010 have seen good results in other social media.

"The Flinders Twitter account has been particularly successful and we've seen a 40 per cent increase in the number of people 'following' Flinders tweets over past three months," Ms Malavazos said.

"We've set out to be more engaging with our audience – whether it's a student focus or publishing events and information about the University," she said.

"A recent example has been the involvement of a team from the School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics in the final MAGIC 2010, the global war games challenge using robots. It's attracted a lot of interest among our Twitter followers."

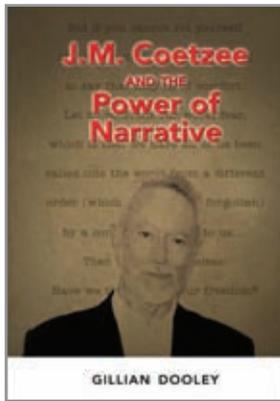
The online communications team is currently developing a presence for Flinders on Foursquare, a kind of social-city guide, to cover every building on the Bedford Park campus. Visitors will be able to "check in" to any building and learn about its history, functions and facilities.

The team has also created a new University-wide online events system, which allows for online registration to events.

"The events system is another platform through which we can publish our event information more widely. It will also soon have an online payment facility," Ms Malavazos said.

Alumni are being catered for, too – Flinders has created a specific alumni group on the online professional networking tool, LinkedIn. Members will soon be able to connect with other Flinders alumni through the site and use it as a source of the latest news from the University.

# In Print



## JM COETZEE AND THE POWER OF NARRATIVE

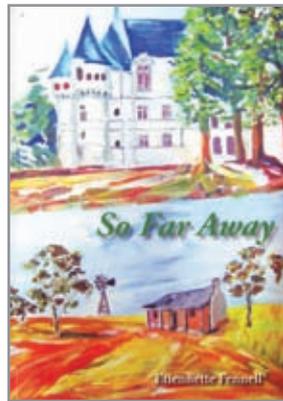
The prose of Nobel laureate JM Coetzee may appear readable and straightforward, but for most readers his writing carries a distinctive “charge”, a sense of power and disquiet: Flinders academic Dr Gillian Dooley wants to know how it’s done. Dr Dooley says that nearly all of the criticism on the works of Coetzee has focused on his novels’ political and postcolonial context or on tracking down the author’s literary references.

But none of it explains Coetzee’s capacity to shake up the reader.

“You can read as much criticism as you like that looks into the politics or the intertextual origins of the novels, but it still doesn’t say why his books have this remarkable resonance,” Dr Dooley said.

In *JM Coetzee and the power of narrative*, Dr Dooley looks to Coetzee’s storytelling technique and his themes for answers.

Coetzee himself has said he does not want to examine his own creative process too closely and Dr Dooley admits that there will always be something mysterious about great literature.



## SO FAR AWAY

*So Far Away* is the personal story of Flinders graduate and teacher Etienne Fennell, who, with her family, left her home country of France at the formative age of eleven to settle in Australia.

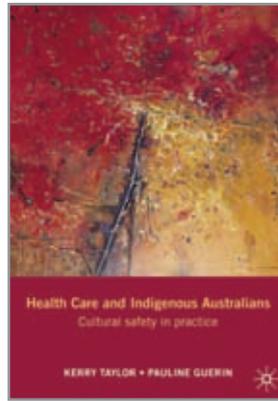
The author tells of the reasons that led the Dupuy family to leave their country, and the inevitable culture shock they faced on arrival in Australia.

“From these it emerged that Australia is indeed a land of opportunity for those who have the courage and perseverance to make the most of the possibilities,” Mrs Fennell says.

The book is rich in little cameos of the author’s childhood in Paris and provincial France, and describes the problems faced by a non-English-speaking child in 1950s Australia.

Their new life presented many problems for her parents, and the book discusses the problem of migration in general, including the lasting sense of disconnection and the conflicting sense of “home”.

Forced to leave school in order to help the family finances, Mrs Fennell’s desire to study and perform music was at first unfulfilled, but later came to occupy a central role in her life.



## CULTURAL SAFETY IN PRACTICE

Remembering that each individual is different is a central aspect of the cultural safety approach advocated by Ms Kerry Taylor of the Centre for Remote Health and Dr Pauline Guerin of the School of Nursing and Midwifery in *Health Care and Indigenous Australians: Cultural safety in practice*.

The book, intended for health students and professionals who want to improve their practice in relation to Indigenous Australian clients, won a national award in the Australian Educational Publishing Awards in August.

The authors aim to shift the focus from the usual expectations that the clients are the ones who need to change in order to achieve improved health outcomes to focus on changing healthcare professionals.

“The book says health practitioners have to think about how what they are doing is being received.

Health professionals automatically come with the power, authority and privilege inherent in that role, and health professionals need to be sensitive that this power is not used to diminish how someone lives their life.

The book provides numerous case studies and scenarios to illustrate cultural safety in action.



## THE BOND WE SHARE

Carers of people with mental and physical health conditions are often overlooked – not only statistically, but also in terms of their potential contribution to the well-being of those they look after.

*The Bond We Share*, which comprises a book and DVD produced by the Human Behaviour and Health Research Unit at Flinders, aims to make health professionals more aware of the issues faced by carers and the value of the role they can play in making treatment more effective.

Senior Lecturer Dr Sharon Lawn, who is herself a carer, said that the demands carers face are frequently underestimated and unappreciated by health service providers, even though it is calculated that some two million Australians act as carers.

To give mental and primary health professionals a clearer understanding of the issues, the researchers conducted a survey, interviews and focus groups with carers. The DVD contains frank interviews with 10 carers about their day-to-day experiences, their frustrations with the health system and their suggestions to improve support for both their charges and themselves.

Charles Gent



# Delivering on the vision

*Professor Michael Barber (centre) participates in a traditional smoking ceremony to cleanse the new W & E Rubuntja building of spirits with Mr Geoff Veness, Dr Anne Cawley (partly obscured) and Mrs Tracey Briscoe-Mitchell. Ms Kathy Abbott (background) performed the ceremony.*

The lifeblood of successful universities is a combination of great teaching and research staff and students who are hungry for knowledge. However, we exist not in isolation from the communities in which we operate. The first key strategy – and deliberately the first – in our five year Strategic Plan, *Inspiring Flinders Future*, is entitled *Building Supportive Communities*. We need our communities to support us but perhaps even more importantly what we do in teaching and research supports and develops those communities which we serve.

Flinders is one of the most geographically diverse universities in the country with facilities and operations that extend from the southern regions of Adelaide to regional South Australia, the Northern Territory, China and across the globe.

These communities, each with their own character, have one thing in common – they provide a bridge for ideas and initiatives to be jointly developed with Flinders' expertise and facilities to mutual benefit.

The Southern Knowledge Transfer Partnership (STKP) is a great example of a two-way relationship that has taken the University into the heart of the community. While there are a number of STKP projects underway, our partnership with the South Adelaide Football Club (the Panthers) gives some insights into how such practical, hands-on collaborations can be extremely effective.

Over the course of the year, five Flinders students studying in the areas of education, health sciences and humanities have been working with the Panthers players and administrators. Some have been going into primary schools with players to promote the *Panthers, Be Your Best* program which encourages young people to take a positive approach to life, to adopt healthy diets and exercise. The goal of that particular program is to generate self-confidence, a belief in themselves that will see young people aim high and, perhaps, become the first person in their family to enrol at university. Other Flinders students have participated in Work Integrated Learning in marketing and communications roles with the Club.

Further afield, Flinders has added an exciting new dimension to its activities in the Northern Territory with the NT Medical Program allowing students to be able, for the first time, to complete their full medical training in the Territory.

Flinders has further strengthened its collaboration with Charles Darwin University through the NT Medical Program with training to be delivered in a new, \$27.8 million building on CDU's campus funded by the Federal Government. CDU is also offering a new pathway for potential students into the graduate-entry medical program with a Bachelor of Clinical Sciences feeder course.

Twenty-four students will enter the NT Medical Program in 2011. While the entry processes were not completely finalised at the time of writing, it appears that we could see the highest intake of Indigenous students into medical training anywhere in Australia, with up to half the places taken up by Indigenous students. This would be a remarkable achievement and, supported by a new Indigenous Entry Scheme, augurs well for a future in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are represented in far greater numbers in the nation's medical profession.

In Alice Springs, Flinders' medical training partnered with valuable research into Indigenous health with the opening of the W & E Rubuntja Research and Medical Education Building. Flinders will teach its NT Medical Program, which includes the placement of trainee doctors in remote Indigenous communities, from the building, while leading medical research group, Baker IDI, will house its cardiovascular and diabetes research in the new complex.

China is a long way from Central Australia but Flinders has further expanded its teaching and research in a country which places such a high value on education.

In Hunan province, we signed a five year agreement to collaborate on teaching and research and Flinders has much to offer in the health sciences and science and engineering. This year we celebrated a decade of teaching at Nankai University in Tianjin making it one of the most fruitful and durable relationships between tertiary institutions in China and Australia. More than 1500 students have graduated from the postgraduate courses we offer in international relations and hospital administration. Recently, the quality of our two postgraduate courses has been endorsed by China's Ministry of Education when they were chosen by the Ministry as quality benchmarks in reviewing overseas-based courses offered in China. In effect, this places both of our Masters courses taught with Nankai University in the top 10 of some 600 programs offered in China by overseas institutions.

From the southern regions of Adelaide to Alice Springs and beyond, Flinders is an integral part of local communities that value higher education. As we become even more closely knitted into the fabric of these communities, we are taking significant steps towards meeting that first key strategy – *Building Supportive Communities*.

**Professor Michael Barber**  
Vice-Chancellor



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inspiring achievement

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