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The University of Sydney

Magazine

Spring 2006

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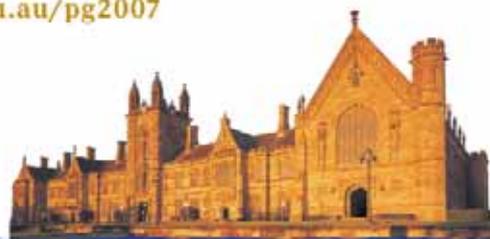
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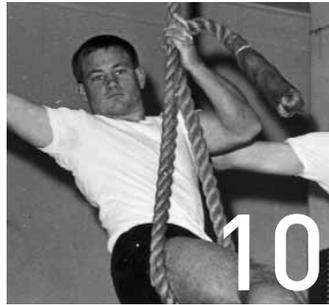


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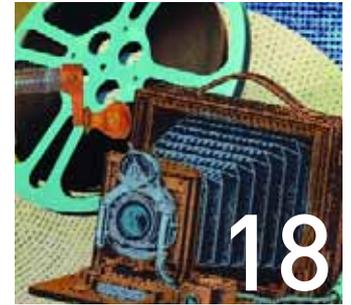
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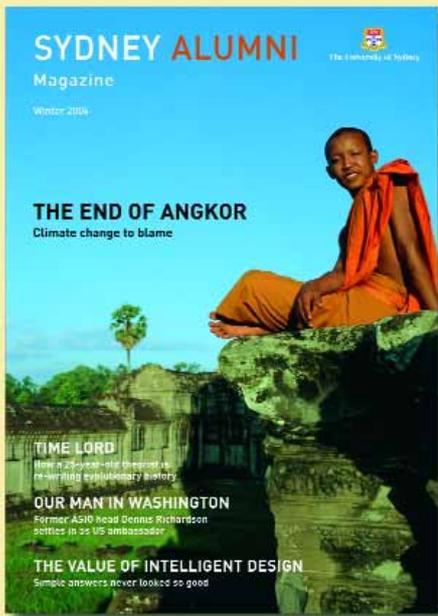
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God knows why

I read with great interest the article titled *Time Lord* and the essay on intelligent design by Dr Ankeny (*Sydney Alumni Magazine*, Winter 2006), noting and agreeing with much of what was said.

I do not agree that the intelligent design argument is junk science. Like the theory of evolution, intelligent design is a theory that can be tested against the fossil record and the observable natural world, and it makes sense of much that evolution cannot explain.

I would also remind readers that many devout bible-believing Christians, while accepting that we live in a created world, do not accept the interpretation of Genesis that claims creation was a six 24-hour day effort in 4004BC.

As a trained biologist, horticultural scientist, ancient historian, numismatist and theologian, I would remind readers that the bible is not a scientific text book, yet Genesis 1-3 is remarkably scientifically accurate considering it was written over 3000 years ago.

In relation to creation, the bible seeks to teach us who, what, and why. The when, is left undefined, as is the how, except that God created by the power of his word.

I am quite content to allow the bible to tell me who, what and why, and joyfully pursue science as our attempts to discover when and understand how.

Rev Peter R Dunstan
(BSc '81, Dip Hort Sc '82, BD '87)
Hunter Baillie Presbyterian Church,
Annandale, NSW

Intelligent timing

Thanks for your thoughtful and timely article by Dr Rachel Ankeny on intelligent design (*Sydney Alumni Magazine*, Winter 2006).

My daughter, who is in Year 12, came home recently having attended a school assembly which attempted to justify intelligent design by applying the blowtorch to evolution as a fact rather than a theory. No critical analysis was offered to counter the intelligent design proposal.

This was counter-productive in the end: school staff were queried on their reactions, and most had to admit that the presentation did not cover the issues adequately.

I shall take pleasure in showing Dr Ankeny's essay to my daughter, as

we had an animated discussion on the topic after this recent event.

Given our evolutionary history, and the fact that we have been plagued by a vast array of infectious agents, the "intelligent designer" has gone through a few prototypes. It is tough getting one fashioned in one's own image.

A/Professor David Emery
(BScVet '73, BVetSc '74)
Faculty of Veterinary Science,
The University of Sydney

Valuable cartoon

I am uncertain about Charles Littrell's nomination (*Sydney Alumni Magazine*, Winter 2006) of the six Australian values, but am exceedingly impressed by the cartoon which accompanied his letter.

The observation by the cartoonist of the Australian character, and his/her shadow, is penetrating to say the least. The illustration said much more than Charles Littrell tried to say. Care to reveal his/her identity represented by "M"?
Ernest To (BE '66, MBldgSc '73)
Medowie, NSW

Editor's response: The illustrator in question is Maggie Renvoize.

You must be joking!

But for the Master of Economics, I should have thought that Charles Littrell parodied stereotypical Australian values (*Sydney Alumni Magazine*, Winter 2006).

Irreverence? Yes, towards easy targets such as royalty. But how do you explain taxpayer-funded acts of reverence towards a tax dodger?

Letters to the editor should include contact details, degree and year of graduation if applicable.

Please address letters to: The Editor, *Sydney Alumni Magazine* C/- Publications A14, The University of Sydney NSW 2006. Letters may also be sent by email to: dogrady@publications.usyd.edu.au

Opinions expressed on these pages are those of the signed contributors or the editor and do not necessarily represent the official position of the University of Sydney.

Space permits only a selection of edited letters to be published here. Visit us online at www.usyd.edu.au/alumni for more.

Compassion? Think of the children we hold behind razor wire for years on end.

Fairness? Millionaire executive salaries.

Flexibility? Charles Littrell asked how many other countries had so comprehensively remodelled their societies and economies in the past 50 years. Try Japan, if not China, Korea, Malaysia ...

Teamwork? A politicised public service? Pragmatism? Or would that be tactless disregard for other ways, exemplified in the world's most monolingual airline?

Claire Wagner

(BA '63, DipTCPlan '66)

Albion, Qld

SILLIAC not the first

It was good to read of the 50th anniversary of the SILLIAC computer (*Sydney Alumni Magazine*, Winter 2006). I remember it well, and indeed I used it in my own research in 1958–60 while I was in CSIRO.

However, the article was in error in claiming that SILLIAC was “Australia’s first electronic computer”. That honour belongs to the CSIRAC computer designed and built by Trevor Pearcey in the CSIRO Radiophysics Laboratory in what is now the Madsen Building of the University of Sydney.

After an initial model built in the late 1940s, the CSIRAC computer was commissioned in 1951, five years before SILLIAC. It was an innovative design with a memory of 1000 words and 16 registers, and information was stored in mercury delay lines. The physical size was about the same as that of SILLIAC.

Unfortunately the CSIRO executive decided that the future of CSIRO did not lie with computers but with more practical things such as agriculture, and CSIRAC was given to the University of Melbourne where it was in active use between 1956 and 1964. It is now an exhibit in the Victoria Museum in Melbourne and is “the only working first-generation computer in the world”.

Professor Neville H. Fletcher

(BSc '52, DSc '73)

Australian National University,
Canberra



Greer profile: a startling reminder of '60s male myopia

It was startling to revisit 1960s male myopia in the article on Germaine Greer (*Sydney Alumni Magazine*, Autumn 2006), particularly Mungo MacCallum's comment that “women were still generally hangers on to the male stars”. The male navel may be an interesting focal point, a fine and private place, but no, m'lads, you were just too short-sighted to see us.

We were very busy fighting a turf war. Some of us had to sit in lectures with male engineering students who jeered, whistled, cat-called and harassed us at every lecture. Those of us in the University Women's cricket team were cat-called and abused (“dykes” and “get a man”) every week we had match practice. And the sub-text of “women's inferiority” was endemic.

We fought a guerrilla war, not with male methods of stoushes and punch-ups, but with sheer dogged, intransigent, physical persistence. It was a perpetual hassle and we talked privately, and at length, to each other. Germaine Greer formulated and articulated what we were all, piecemeal, experiencing.

And all honour to her. I loved her intellect, her vehemence and her wit. She was, and is, beautifully flamboyant and upfront, but to me neither infuriating nor intimidating. A wonderful woman of great character, courage and ability.

The writer of the article, Claire O'Rourke, got it right. A number of University of Sydney women from the '60s have attained national and international recognition, but all the contemporaries, the luminaries mentioned in the article on Germaine Greer (with the exception of Eva Cox) are men. Yep. That's the '60s for you. In a nutshell.

Dindy Vaughan (BA '67), Croydon, Victoria

Choking on the arts

I was interested to read about SILLIAC in your most recent edition (*Sydney Alumni Magazine*, Winter 2006).

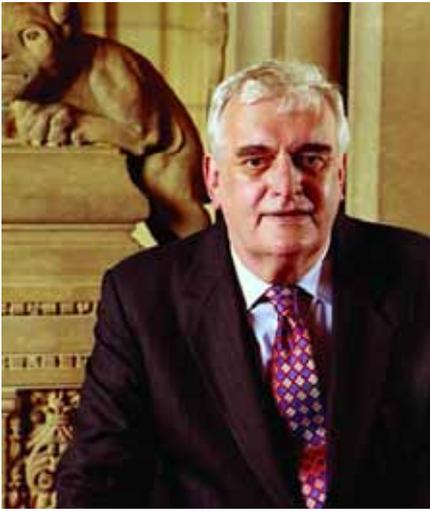
In the mid-1950s I was working as a clerical assistant in the University's fees office. Each year, the student numbers were crunched by faculty, course, gender, residence, and scholarship, and this was done by hand.

But 1957 was different. That year I spent some time in the Physics building with a colleague, Leila, keying informa-

tion onto data tape. We sat in an annexe across the hall from the mainframe, using cumbersome tape machines which spat out tapes full of holes as we typed. These tapes were then fed in pairs into SILLIAC. All was going well until we fed Arts Irregular into the computer, and it spat the dummy.

It was a far cry from the spreadsheets and databases we use now. But what an exciting experience!

**Robyn Jessiman nee Black (BA '65)
Wagga Wagga, NSW**



Vice-Chancellor Professor Gavin Brown.

Research Kaleidoscope

The days of a lone scientist pursuing her obsession in magnificent isolation are thankfully long gone, writes Vice-Chancellor Professor Gavin Brown AO.

The modern research university aims not only to deepen our knowledge of the world around us but also to translate discoveries into tangible benefits for society. There are many changing patterns in the way this is organised.

No longer do we think chiefly of the lone scientist in a laboratory pursuing individual obsessions. We have teams of researchers working on broad projects. We create research hubs which bring these teams together and the hubs extend beyond single universities as major equipment is shared. Similar groupings are becoming increasingly powerful in the social sciences and humanities – once the last redoubt of the lonely scholar.

The patterns in industry are changing also. Only a very few companies, such as Microsoft and Samsung, maintain major research facilities for product development. It is much more common, even for big business, to sift the intellectual property of others and buy or license when the moment is right.

The latter phenomenon adds to the importance of research universities in two ways. They act as information nodes of the international research network and they generate innovations in their own right.

Such thoughts were very much to the fore during this year's meeting of the presidents of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) held at the University of Sydney this June.

We learned, for example, that in China the entire cycle from research to

commercialisation to production takes place within the university. Peking University has a multi-billion dollar company which markets and manufactures in competition with more conventional businesses. Of course it develops IP generated within the university.

Dr Hwang, who leads Samsung's semiconductor division, described his company's approach as based on a commitment to uncompromising excellence in the quality of the researchers it hires. What he needs most from universities is a rich supply of well-trained young researchers.

John Mork, chief executive of the Energy Corporation of America, spoke from an oil industry perspective, emphasising how important strong research universities are to future technological developments. He would like to see us adapting better to solving specific problems on a straightforward contract basis and in realistically quick time.

The Australian industry contributor was Will Delaat, chief executive of Merck Sharp and Dohme (Australia), who evaluated the balance of pure and applied research in universities. He was emphatic that government funding of pure research is of fundamental importance to the well-being of the pharmaceutical industry.

APRU was founded ten years ago by the presidents of the University of Southern California, Cal Tech, UCLA and Berkeley. Members include Beijing, Tsinghua, Fudan; Tokyo, Keio, Kyoto; Stanford, UC(San Diego), Washington; the National University of Singapore,

Chulalongkorn, Seoul National, Sydney, ANU and Auckland.

I have been elected chair of APRU for the next two years and I believe this is important recognition of the role of Sydney, and Australia more generally, in the research network of a particularly dynamic region.

Already APRU organises meetings of senior staffers, researchers and post-graduate students from among the member universities. We have research symposia for subgroups with common interests. There has been a very successful series on earthquakes and tsunamis initiated by our Japanese colleagues. There will be a symposium on Brain and Mind Research at the University of Sydney in August and further public health initiatives are under way.

At the annual general meeting we approved the establishment of the

In China, the entire cycle from research to production takes place within the university. Peking University has a multi-billion dollar company which manufactures in competition with conventional businesses.

APRU World Institute which will be an independent affiliated body reporting regularly to the steering committee and sponsoring research on topics of world significance, approached from the perspective of the Pacific Rim. We anticipate substantial philanthropic support.

As well as sharing research best practice across institutions, APRU can evolve as an active research network with knowledge of each others' capabilities. Ideally, someone like the Energy Corp's John Mork could tap into any

node with a specific problem and be guided to the university or cluster of universities with relevant expertise.

The University's major role in APRU will strengthen both our research capacity and our international outreach. It does not, of course, weaken our commitment to engagement with universities which are not located on the Pacific Rim. In particular, I will be visiting universities in Britain, Europe and the continental US over the next month.

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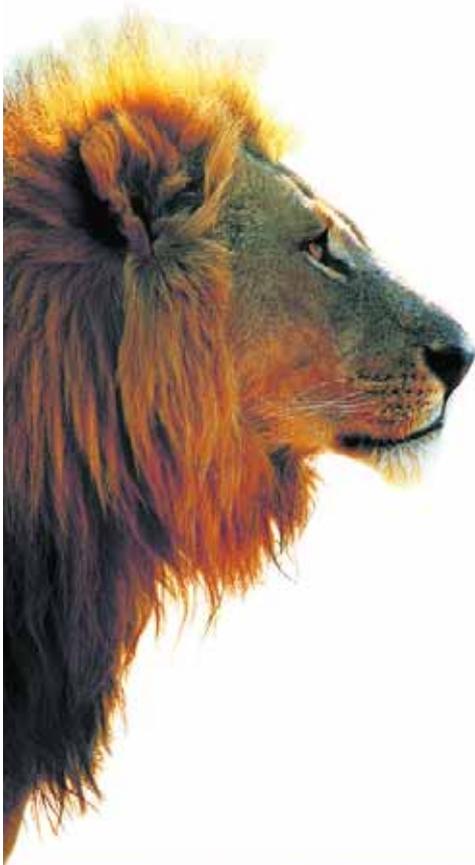
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Poets find rhyme and reason in barcode technology

The University of Sydney's Professor Elizabeth Webby (BA '63, MA '66, PhD '73) has announced plans to retire from the University's chair of Australian Literature and begin work on an online storehouse of Australian poetry.

The project is one of 22 University of Sydney initiatives funded in the latest round of Australian Research Council Linkage Grants.

Poet John Tranter (BA '71) is credited with the idea of establishing a digital collection of Australian poetry, using barcode technology to allow customers to read poetry online for free, and pay a fee for downloads.

The project is to be run in partnership with Dr Creagh Cole of the University Library, in collaboration with the Copyright Agency.

"Our aim was to solve the distribution and circulation problems that have plagued Australian poetry for many years," Professor Webby said.

"That barrier is not so much publishing the work – small print runs of 200 copies can now be made – but getting the volumes into bookshops around the country.

"By giving writers payment for copyright material, we have solved the main problem associated with making this kind of work available on the internet," Professor Webby said.

The site will feature Australian poetry, critical material, photographs, and recordings of poets reading their own work. If successful, it may expand to include other forms of writing.

The new head of Australian Literature is



photo: Ted Sealy

Professor Webby ... creating an online storehouse of Australian poetry.

University of Sydney alumnus, Professor Robert Dixon (BA '76, PhD '82).

– Chris Rodley

Sydney's interactive dictionary: 'it will be born digital'



Dr Shirley Fitzgerald ... bringing historians, academics and cultural institutions together.

An interactive history project being developed by the University of Sydney and the City of Sydney is set to produce a unique digital dictionary of Sydney's history.

The project is known as the Dictionary of Sydney, and can be seen online at www.dictionaryofsydney.org. It has received almost \$1 million from the Australian Research Council, and will contain tens of thousands of entries, using new research as well as primary sources, bibliographic material and multimedia resources to illustrate Sydney's past.

The University of Technology, Sydney, the State Records of NSW and the State Library of NSW have joined with the City of Sydney and the University of

Sydney as collaborators on the project.

Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore (BA '69) and University of Sydney Deputy Vice-Chancellor Don Nutbeam launched the digital dictionary in June.

Historian Dr Shirley Fitzgerald, who is chair of the project's board, said the dictionary brings together hundreds of historians, academics and cultural institutions to create an exciting new way of telling Sydney's history.

The key University of Sydney researchers involved in the project are Professor Stephen Garton, along with the manager of Fisher Library's Scholarly Electronic Text and Image Service (SETIS), Ross Coleman; and the head of the Archaeological Computing Laboratory, Dr Ian Johnson.

Professor Garton, who is Challis Professor of History and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, said the project was the first significant historical dictionary of a city to be conceived and presented electronically.

Glenn Stevens appointed head of Reserve Bank

The Reserve Bank of Australia has a new governor as of this September: University of Sydney alumnus Glenn Stevens (BEcon '80).

Stevens, who started as a junior research officer at the Reserve Bank in 1980, was appointed to the top job by Federal Treasurer Peter Costello. He replaces long-time governor and honorary University of Sydney alumnus Ian Macfarlane (DScEcon '04).

Stevens' appointment was well-received in financial markets when it was announced last month. ANZ treasury economist Warren Hogan told *The Australian* newspaper:

"The Treasurer couldn't have picked a better man for the job."

Stevens is widely seen as a very experienced economist with strong academic credentials. He graduated with first class honours from the University and went on to obtain a Masters Degree from the University of Western Ontario. He later accepted a position as visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

In addition to his Reserve Bank position, he is a board member of the Anika Foundation, which raises funds for research into adolescent depression and suicide.



Reserve Bank Governor Glenn Stevens.

photo: Newspix

University announces restructure of faculties

The University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor Professor Gavin Brown has announced plans to change the alignment of the University's faculties and reorganise senior management.

As well as announcing the abolition of the three-college system, the Vice-Chancellor signalled changes to the organisation of faculties at a Senate meeting in March, and provided further details at a Senate meeting in May. The University plans to align faculties into clusters, proposing a reduction in the number of administrative units from 17 to nine in the first instance. Professor Don Nutbeam, appointed to the newly created position of Provost, will oversee the restructure.

"The purpose in making these changes to the University structure is both to improve academic performance, and achieve administrative efficiency,"

Professor Nutbeam wrote in a briefing paper circulated to faculty deans.

"These initial changes are part of a continuing process of adaptation necessary to ensure that we respond effectively to a rapidly evolving and extremely competitive higher education environment.

"We want to use our limited resources wisely in pursuit of our academic priorities in teaching and research. These changes should increase the resources available for these core activities, reducing the time and money devoted to the administration of the University," Professor Nutbeam said.

Professor Nutbeam addressed the Standing Committee of Convocation (Alumni Council) on 4 July and assured them that faculties would retain their identity, and that the proposed changes focussed on strengthening administrative services.

Following that meeting, the president of the Standing Committee, Dr Barry Catchlove, said: "Alumni often identify with their own faculty or discipline, and ongoing relations with the University are sometimes built around this faculty loyalty. It is important that administrative re-organisations do not devalue this relationship."

Professor Nutbeam said the restructure should also provide opportunities to achieve academic synergies not previously achieved, and reduce administrative demands on academic staff. It is proposed that clustered faculties will be headed by an Executive Dean.

Consultations within the University and with external stakeholders about implementing the new structure continue. More details about the re-structure will be published in future editions of the *Sydney Alumni Magazine*.

Astronomy award for Bernie Mills

University of Sydney alumnus Bernard Mills (BSc '41, DSc Eng '59) has won the 2006 Grote Reber Medal for lifetime contributions to radio astronomy.

Emeritus Professor Mills AC retired as the University of Sydney's Professor of Physics (Astrophysics) in 1985, after leading the Molonglo Observatory group for 25 years. He invented the

cross-type telescope, a highly original telescope noted for its innovative radio engineering and antenna design. The telescope established Australia's credentials as a leader in the new science of radio astronomy.

The Grote Reber Medal commemorates the pioneering work of Grote Reber, the world's first radio astronomer.



Emeritus Professor Bernard Mills ... lifetime contribution to radio astronomy.

The Gender Selector

Farmers and conservationists could soon have a remarkable new tool at their disposal, thanks to the efforts of PhD student Simon de Graaf. Chris Rodley reports.

Put a wooden spoon under the bed for a girl; eat salty foods for a boy – parents have resorted to any number of methods for choosing the sex of their babies.

Now a sperm sorting technology has emerged that promises to do just that, and thanks to a University of Sydney PhD student, predetermining the sex of sheep and other animals could soon become a commercial reality in Australia.

Invented by the US Department of Agriculture, the procedure for selecting sex begins by staining the sperm with a fluorescent dye that binds to its DNA. A laser causes the dye to fluoresce, and because there is more DNA in X than Y chromosomes, the X chromosomes shine more brightly, allowing the sperm to be divided into male and female.

Rabbits were the first animals to be sex selected using this process, in 1989. But although the technology has been available in principle for other mammals, the process was riddled with practical problems – not least that sex-selected sperm were likely to be infertile.

Enter Simon de Graaf (BScAgr Hons '02), who began his PhD project with the goal of making sex selection a reality. His research, funded by US reproductive technology company XY Inc, used the University's sex selection machine, known as MoFlo, one of only a handful around the world licensed by XY Inc.

"My aim was to investigate what was going wrong with the sperm and how we could improve the technology," de Graaf explains. "Sperm that was sex

selected was dying faster than normal sperm and was not staying alive long enough to fertilise the egg."

Mindful of the importance of wool and lamb meat to the Australian economy – wool exports alone are worth more than \$2 billion a year – Simon focused on applying the procedure to sheep. In less than four years he has been able to perfect the technique so that sperm sorted into male and female are now just as fertile as normal sperm, while sex-selected embryos are just as likely to survive.

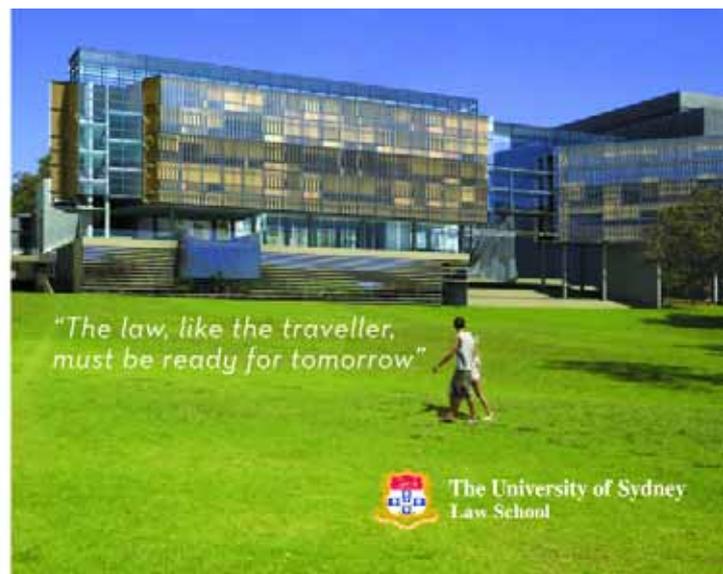
A key area of research was to make the procedure work with frozen sperm, critical if sex selection is to work in the real world. Without the ability to perform the procedure on frozen sperm and then freeze the sperm again

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afterwards, it would be almost impossible for farmers to use the process, since fresh sperm would be likely to die in transit.

Conducting the largest trial of its kind to that point, de Graaf used artificial insemination to produce the world's first offspring from any species with semen that had been frozen before sex sorting and then frozen again afterwards. "When the ewe was carrying the first sex-selected lamb, I remember watching the screen like an expectant father," he recalls. "When I saw the foetus move I felt this enormous wave of relief that all my work had paid off."

De Graaf's success means that farmers can now freeze sperm, fly it across the country to be sex selected, then perform artificial insemination at a later date. And because the technology is likely to be applied to other mammals, the breakthrough could have implications for wildlife breeding programs.

"You might be in Africa and acquire sperm from a cheetah, but you are not going to have access to a sex sorting machine," says de Graaf. "If you can freeze the sperm using liquid nitrogen, you can then take it back to the lab at your leisure, sort it into male and female, then re-freeze it to use whenever you like."

The research is also likely to have a significant impact on Australian farming: it will give stud farmers the ability to increase the number of male lambs in a drop and allow other farmers to easily expand their flocks or develop new breeds by producing female lambs.

"I know many farmers are excited by the idea they could use this technology for reproductive management," he says. "We are now waiting for a company to

photo: Ted Sealy



Making sex selection a reality ... Simon de Graaf engineered a world-first in reproduction management.

establish a commercial sex sorting facility in Australia. That could be as soon as one or two years away."

After he submits his thesis in September, de Graaf has been invited to join the prestigious Institute for Zoology and Wildlife in Berlin. Working with wildlife has become an important sideline to his work, and he has tried to apply the process of sex selection to endangered wildlife such as elephants and rhinoceros. Although he has not yet produced viable sperm, he has shown that both species can be sorted into male and female.

"Many animals only give birth to male offspring when they are in captivity, so there is a lot of interest out there in technology that would help to breed females," he says. "Sex selection could soon be helping to protect a wide range of threatened species."

"Many animals only give birth to male offspring when they are in captivity, so there is a lot of interest in technology that would help to breed females. Sex selection could help protect a wide range of threatened species."

Peak Performers

The on and off-field careers of students who have passed through the University's physical education programs are well worth celebrating, writes **Graham Croker**.

University of Sydney students ... Physical Education display, 1958.



photos: courtesy of the University of Sydney Archives

When Lieutenant Colonel A. Paul took the first class in physical training at the Sydney Teachers' College in 1906, he couldn't have foreseen the impact the subject and its offshoots would have on the nation.

In that first year of the new college, physical training was a compulsory unit for all student teachers. Since then, the physical training unit has developed into the human movement and health education programs, and students can now select physical education and health education as career paths.

Many alumni from those courses will be assembling in MacLaurin Hall at the University of Sydney on October 12 to celebrate 100 years of teaching physical and health education.

The rollcall will include many graduates who went on to do great things in physical education and health education and on the sporting fields. They include the Test cricketer and hockey Olympian Brian Booth, the former Wallaby coach Eddie Jones, the premiership-winning rugby league coach Warren Ryan, the Sydney Flames coach Karen Dalton, the former captain/coach of the Australian netball team Anne Sargeant, the Wallabies' Max Howell and Russell Fairfax, the assistant coach of the Australian Opals women's basketball team, Donna O'Connor, and two outstanding educators in human movement, Janet Davy and Cheryl Best.

**“In the decade before World War I
and again in the 1930s,
PE was closely associated with
defence concerns.”**

Although Australia's first teacher training colleges were established in Sydney in the late 19th century, it wasn't until 1906 that several colleges were amalgamated to form Sydney Teachers College at Blackfriars, on Broadway, just down the road from the University. The college moved onto the grounds of the University in 1920 and operated as a separate institution until the 1980s. In 1990 the Sydney Institute of Education (formerly Sydney Teachers College) was amalgamated with the Faculty of Education.

When the Teachers College was established there was no formal physical education program, although all students were required to do physical drill or gymnastics. As Professor Geoffrey Sherington of the Faculty of Education and Social Work says, physical education at the time owed its existence to military drill – or at least to those who had been in the military.

“The purpose of training the Teachers College students in that way was not only to ensure their physical fitness but to see that they carried this message into the schools,” he says. “In the decade before World War I and again in the 1930s, PE was thus closely associated with defence concerns. There was also compulsory military training for males aged 12 to 14 in the years just prior to World War I.”

Hence the involvement of Lieutenant Colonel Paul and Sergeant Major Cooke Russell, who joined the staff in 1923. The first course in physical education, a three-year diploma, was introduced in 1939, and by the 1960s physical education was firmly established in the college.

Top athletes choose teaching

The tradition of the former Sydney Teachers College and the Faculty of Education and Social Work in enticing elite athletes continues.

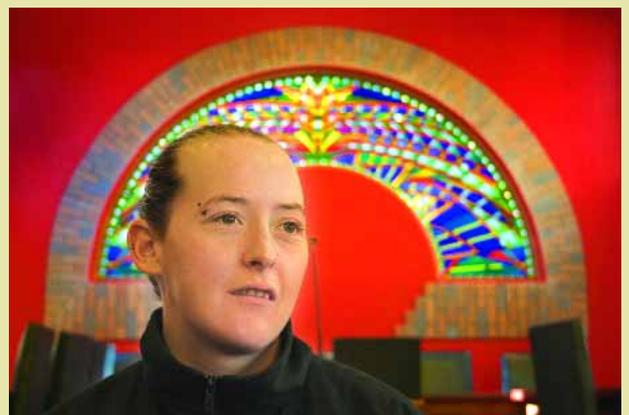
Among those in the human movement and health education class of 2006 are Luke Ablett (Sydney Swans), Dan Lewinski (first-grade rugby union with Sydney University), Alicia Poto (basketball silver medallist at the Athens Olympic Games), Leo Afeaki (Australian rugby union junior international), Greg Clune (national trampoline champion), Joanna Way (NSW lifesaving champion), Kaarle McCulloch (world junior cycling champion), Kiarn Kelly (world junior judo champion), Michelle Musselwhite (Sydney University Flames and Australian Opals women's basketball member) and Werner Botha (track and field representative).

In cycling, McCulloch has found a sport that accommodates her appetite to succeed. Powerful performances at the NSW titles late last year took her to the top ranking in the under-19 women's sprint and second in the elite women's sprint. In February this year she won the under-19 time trial at the Australian National Track Championships, a performance that paved the way for her Championships selection.

Musselwhite, who is studying human movement, graduated from the Sapphires (Australia's under-21 basketball team) to the Australian Opals in 2005. She has been a member of the Sydney University Flames since 2003, when she was named National Indigenous Sportswoman of the Year.

Botha, a middle-distance runner, is also studying human movement and health education for his Bachelor of Education degree. In 2005 he won the Queensland Open 800 metres, finished third at the Australian Championships and ended the year ranked second on the Australian Athletics Open 800 metres list.

According to Professor Derrick Armstrong, dean of the Faculty of Education and Social Work, “the faculty is proud of human movement and health education students who combine elite athleticism with scholarly achievement.” May the tradition continue.



Michelle Musselwhite ... Sydney University Flames.

Meanwhile, as schools across the state gradually accepted physical education as part of the curriculum, it became an important part of the lives of young people. Accordingly, many who enrolled in physical and health education courses were talented sportsmen and women. They became role models, giving physical education a new prominence in the school day.

A good example is the 1948 graduate Max Howell, who played rugby union for Australia while pursuing a career in education. Now a leading sports academic, Howell played against the All Blacks in 1946 and against Scotland, Ireland and Wales on the 1947 tour of the British Isles. A former headmaster of Brisbane Grammar School (1965–89), he is a fellow of the Australian College of Educators, and was a member of Commonwealth Schools Commission and the Board of Secondary School Studies.

Brian Booth enjoyed wonderful cricket and field hockey careers while pursuing a career in education. In his first-class cricket career for NSW and Australia, which lasted from 1954 to 1968, he amassed 11,265 runs at the healthy average of 45.42. He captained Australia in two Tests. He also represented Australia in field hockey at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne.

Warren Ryan is another well-known alumnus. As a rugby league player he turned out for St George and Cronulla and represented NSW Country Origin. He also pursued a teaching career before becoming a premiership-winning coach with

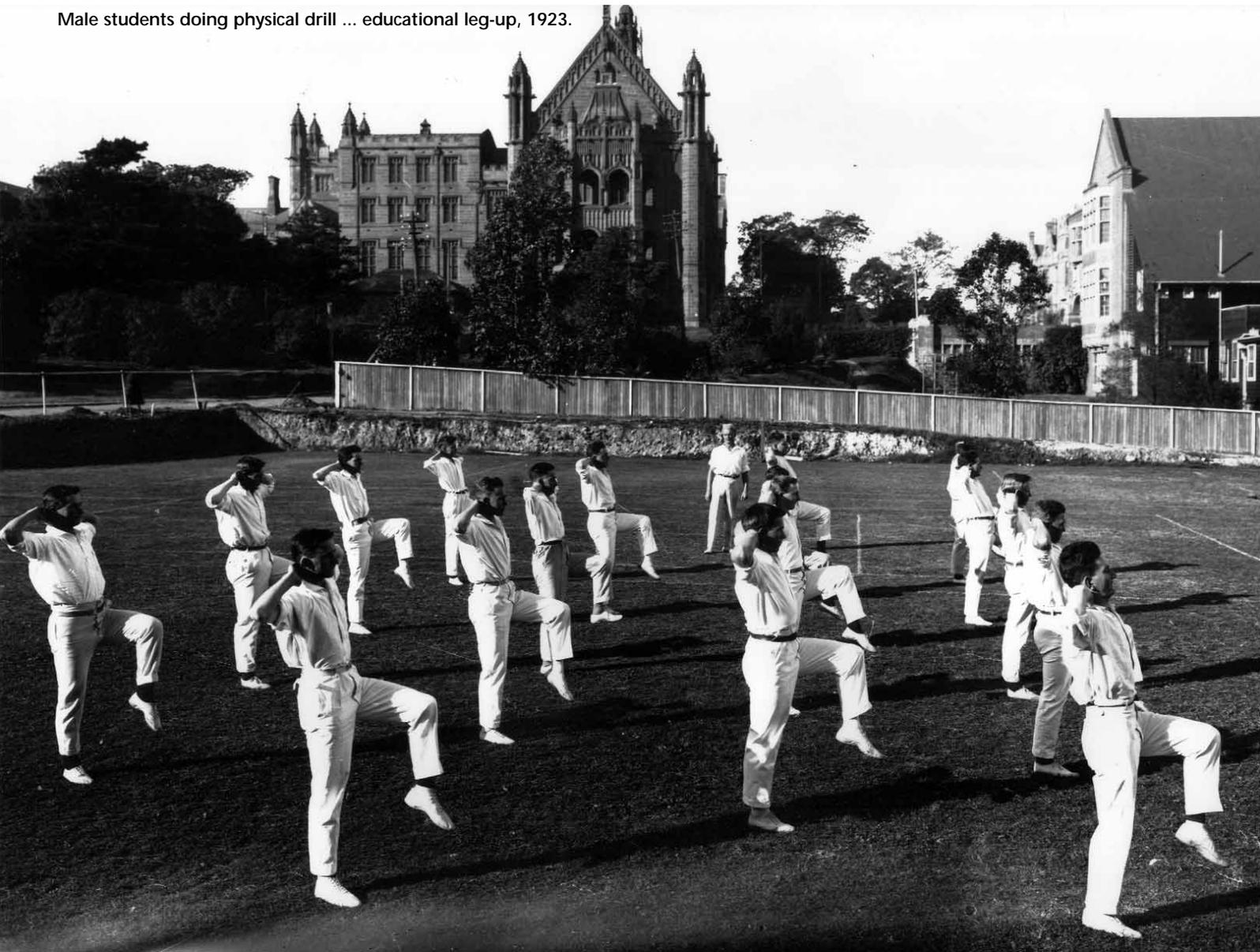
“Many who enrolled in physical and health education courses were talented sportsmen and women.”

Canterbury and is now a commentator on the ABC's *Grandstand*.

Another graduate to excel at football and move into the commentary box is Russell Fairfax, who became a Wallaby while attending college. After making his Test debut against France as a 19-year-old, Fairfax went on to play against the All Blacks, Fiji, Wales and England in an eight-Test career as a five-eighth and full-back, before switching to rugby league. Following a stint at teaching, he is now pursuing a career in sports journalism.

One of the University's most famous sportswomen is basketballer Karen Dalton, who represented Australia 252 times and has been made a life member of the Women's National Basketball League. She played at two Olympic Games (1984 and 1988) and four World Championships (1983, 1986, 1990 and 1994) and now coaches the Sydney University Flames.

Male students doing physical drill ... educational leg-up, 1923.





Female drill ... synchronised exercise, 1923.



STC Womens Hockey Team (1930 – 1931).

As well as following a career as an educator at tertiary level, Dr Donna O'Connor has assisted with fitness programs for the North Queensland Cowboys rugby league team and Canadian track and field teams and is presently the assistant coach of the Australian Opals women's basketball team.

To mark their achievements and those of many others, the Faculty has produced a booklet called *Leaping Backwards: 100 Years of Physical Education and Health Education at the University of Sydney 1906-2006*.

Colonel Paul would be pleased to know that the college motto, *lumen siccum* (dry light of knowledge), coined 100 years ago, has been burning bright ever since.

All alumni and friends are invited to help celebrate 100 years of physical and health education at the University of Sydney. For more information about the gala dinner in MacLaurin Hall on October 12, please contact Meg Pickup. Phone (02) 9351 6374 or email m.pickup@edfac.usyd.edu.au

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Federal Minister for Communications, Helen Coonan ... 'I wanted to make sure I'd have something to contribute beyond what I might laughingly call my own native wit.'

photo: Newspix

Coonan the agrarian

You can take the girl out of the bush ... but Federal Communications Minister Helen Coonan keeps the country close to heart. Profile by **Melissa Sweet**.

The University of Sydney's law revue must have been quite something in 1970. Among the organisers were David Marr (LLB '71) and Nicholas Cowdery (BA '68, LLB '71), who went on to achieve prominence for other talents. And one of its stars was a feisty blonde called Helen Lloyd (LLB '71).

The audience roared when Lloyd took to the stage on a motorbike, loudly singing a patriotic tune while wrapped in the Australian flag. She also wore a helmet, in the style of Britannia, and two Holden hubcaps as breastplates.

It was an image that Cowdery, now NSW's Director of Public Prosecutions, still recalls in vivid detail, along with his memory of Lloyd as "large and loud". "She was buxom and brassy," he says, "and you may quote me."

Now better known as the Federal Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (a portfolio that she jokes is "commerce by day and culture by night"), Senator Helen Coonan also has fond memories of the show: "We had a lot of fun in the law revue."

Marr, now a respected Sydney journalist and a critic of Coonan's proposals for media reform, is almost as surprised as the minister's press secretary that she suggested him as a contact for this profile. But he remembers well her "big, bold presence".

"We're talking about the late '60s and here was a woman of classic statuesque beauty that was so unfashionable at the time and she wasn't hiding it," he says. "And I loved it. I just thought, this woman is herself in a way that is really quite something. She was glamour. And the other thing was that she was conservative at a time when we took for granted fairly radical views."

When 18-year-old Helen Lloyd arrived in Sydney in 1965 on a Commonwealth scholarship, a whole new world opened up. University life was in stark contrast to her childhood on a large family farm near the small town of Mangopliah via Wagga Wagga in the NSW Riverina.

Her father, the youngest of 17, had three daughters. Helen, the youngest, rode her horse to school and ran wild until coming under the influence of primary school teacher John Cornish. He encouraged his charges to achieve and is often cited by his former pupil as a major influence on her life.

She struggled with rules and restrictions when sent to a Catholic boarding school at Wagga Wagga at the age of 11, however. "I was very unsettled and quite unhappy at boarding school," she says. "I just sort of retreated into books and my own kind of world to a large extent."

Six years of Arts Law studies changed everything. "I was certainly somebody who found university just the most exciting and fantastic experience," Coonan says. "All the possibilities opened up for you: the idea of learning, knowledge, friendships, connecting to people." She was interested in political issues and went on some Aboriginal freedom rides, but gave little sign that she would go on to become one of most powerful women in Australian politics.

After graduation she married David Coonan and was active in the Women's Electoral Lobby. Not wanting to work in a big law firm, she set up her own practice, which initially focused on women's and children's issues. Several years later, her flourishing practice merged with a large law firm and her focus had shifted to commercial work.

A stint in New York, working in entertainment and media law, was followed by admission to the bar in Sydney in 1986 by Justice Andrew Rogers (LLB '56), who also happened to be her second husband. She has a son, Adam, from her first marriage.

Some were surprised when Coonan joined the Liberal Party, but her parents were Liberal supporters (her mother handed out how-to-vote cards) and Coonan never saw herself as anything else. Nevertheless, she waited to embark on a political career until backed by a solid professional background.

"I wanted to make sure that I'd have something to contribute beyond what I might laughingly call my own native wit," she says. "I'm a firm believer that you're more effective politically if you've got some good framework to work from and you've had a bit of life experience."

Marr was among those surprised by the change of career. "I suppose my impression was that she wasn't built for the hard yards of politics, for the endless committee meetings, for the electioneering," he says. "But she is, and I was wrong."



photo: NewsPix

Through a lens darkly ... Minister's media plans under scrutiny.

New media laws

Indeed, the senator's stamina is legendary among her staff, who affectionately call her "the robot" and mention that the 58-year-old has been known to arrive at work at 7am, within hours of flying back into the country. "I just wish she was 10 years younger and could have been our first woman PM," says one staff member wistfully.

Whenever possible she begins her day with a brisk walk with her husband and two dogs. She counts herself "absolutely blessed to have a very solid relationship and a lovely family" and is also "very, very fortunate" to have high energy levels.

But on the chilly morning we meet in her Canberra office she looks weary after a function in Sydney the previous evening followed by a 5am start. One thing she dislikes about politics is the toll it takes on family and friendships. "Although it sounds terribly old-fashioned, I would never have wanted to do this job while I had any young children. I think that would have been an almost impossible ask."

Coonan is often in the spotlight. In March, when the minister released her long-awaited discussion paper on media reform, canvassing relaxation of cross-media laws and foreign ownership restrictions as well as a vision for the digital future, she spoke of "a compelling case for change". "If the Government does not act," she said, "then there is a genuine risk that Australia will become a dinosaur of the analogue age."

In the months before Coonan took her reform proposals to Cabinet, many observers doubted she would succeed. The media moguls were not supportive and neither, the headlines suggested, was Prime Minister John Howard (LLB '61).

Mark Day, a media commentator with *The Australian*, believed Coonan was making a "brave" but probably doomed attempt. "Media policy is ultimately decided in the PM's office," he said. "It's now pretty apparent the politics will prevent that total package from being instituted."

However, Coonan successfully steered her package through Cabinet, announcing a raft of changes to media regulation and a digital action plan. How she will clear the next hurdle – translating her plans into legislation – remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, the minister has presided over a series of controversies at the ABC, including board appointments of so-called "cultural warriors" such as the controversial historian Keith Windschuttle (BA '70). "The ABC situation is catastrophic," says David Marr. "She has not been able to get the ABC the funding that it requires. She's been a party to astonishingly bizarre appointments to the ABC board. I can't believe in my wildest dreams that ... she would have either thought up or welcomed the appointment of Windschuttle to the board."

The ABC journalist Quentin Dempster, whose position as staff-elected director on the board was abolished under

"I just thought, this woman is herself in a way that is really quite something."

Coonan, is similarly scathing, accusing her of pandering to an ideological hatred of public broadcasting. "We don't expect Helen Coonan to breach cabinet secrecy but the real story of her influence on media reform lies within that cabinet," says Dempster. "Her speeches and rhetoric about the digital revolution indicate she has some good ideas about what should be done in the national interest, but for still undisclosed reasons she does not seem to be able to deliver."

When a glossy magazine profiled Coonan earlier this year, complete with a fashion shoot, the article was liberally sprinkled with the names of her powerful friends and allies, including Peter Collins (LLB '73), Glen-Marie Frost, Kathryn Greiner, Pru Goward and Lucy Turnbull (LLB '82). But when she speaks

publicly, in interviews or speeches, she dwells on her country childhood rather than acknowledging her place as a member of the country's elite.

No doubt the minister's country background has been a handy asset in her many negotiations involving rural interests, but Justice Margaret Beazley (LLB '74) believes it truly is an integral part of her friend's character. "I think that upbringing accounts for a lot of her sentiments as an individual," says the NSW Supreme Court judge. "It gave her a lot of values and they remain. It doesn't matter at what level she operates, whether at the personal or political level: there is a lot of substance in this person."

Best not be timid

In an address to graduating law students at the University of Sydney last year, Coonan urged them to be bold and to use the law as a bulwark against injustice. "The legal system is, in my view, not best served by timid practitioners," she said. "Open your eyes to the possibilities, question the orthodox and be thrilled by what you can achieve as you develop your skill."

Her address resonated with the Dean of the Law School, Professor Ron McCallum. He might not share the minister's politics – which she calls "slightly right of centre" – but has great respect for the person. "She's a very fine human being," he says. "I think she is one of those very good people who has seen a lot of life and has a deep inner core of humanity."

A refugee advocate at the University, Associate Professor Mary Crock, who taught Adam Coonan and has worked behind the scenes with his mother on refugee cases, is also a fan: "She's incredibly intelligent and very hard working. She's a very good politician but she's also got a conscience."

"Open your eyes to the possibilities, question the orthodox and be thrilled by what you can achieve ..."

Coonan is not afraid to acknowledge mistakes. After an outcry by mental health experts over her suggestion in 2002 that people with anxiety and depression were malingers who should get back to work, she made a public apology and backed it up with work for the Mental Health Council of Australia, of which she is now a patron. She is thinking of using an upcoming celebration marking 10 years in the Senate to promote the cause of mental health.

Usually quick on her feet and coherent, she was slow to respond when asked to nominate her single most important achievement. She had plenty to pick from, after all, including being the first woman to hold a federal Treasury portfolio and the first appointed to the Coalition's leadership team, not to mention her superannuation and business tax reforms.

Some weeks later she finally nominated the securing of \$3.1 billion funding for rural communications as part of the Telstra privatisation deal. Her rural background had made her aware of the needs of small communities, she said. No wonder more than one headline writer has dubbed her "Coonan the agrarian". The fate of her media reforms may determine whether she merits such a label.



photo: courtesy of Nicholas Cowdery

Waving the flag at the University of Sydney's 1971 law revue (from left) ... Nicholas Cowdery, Leo George, David Marr, unknown, Helen Lloyd with hubcaps, "Captain Australia", Margaret McHarg, Richard Perram, and unknown.

Dead Media

When the University of Sydney's Dr Anne Dunn asked her students how many of them listened to music radio, almost 80 per cent said never. After all, who cares about old formats when new media promise more exciting ways to connect? But spare a thought for dead or dying media such as music radio, the home movie camera or the illustrated newspaper. Their passing not only alters the content of our everyday communication, but changes the way we think.



New media never wipes out old media. This is an article of faith among the media moguls of Australia, who otherwise might be spooked by the pace of change. Rupert Murdoch has been one of the main prophets of media change, but when he visited Australia recently, even he chanted the mantra that radio didn't wipe out newspapers, television didn't wipe out radio, and videos didn't wipe out cinema.

But is it true? As the headlines of the past few months suggest, everything about our media is changing. The Federal Government wants to alter the way media ownership is regulated, but before legislation can be agreed upon, let alone drafted, the technology moves on and leaves regulators behind.

And then there are the social changes associated with technological change. University of Sydney alumnus Dr Gerard Goggin (PhD '99) is one of many scholars interested in the new cultural forms associated with mobile media.

Dr Goggin is an Australian Research Fellow in the Department of Media and Communications at the University, and he is half-way through a five-year project, funded by the Australian Research Council, which explores mobile phone culture and how it fits into the contemporary cultural and media landscape.

Dr Goggin's work is already bearing fruit. He has a book, *Cell Phone Culture: Mobile Technology in Everyday Life*, due for release this month, and there are plans for the University to host a *Mobile Media* conference in July 2007. The event will be

the first international conference in Australia to focus on social and cultural aspects of mobile and wireless technologies.

Change is coming fast. Even television, which still dominates the leisure time of most Australians, was recently described as a "dinosaur industry" by a Channel 7 executive at a media conference. She hastened to add that the meteor that would make free-to-air television extinct had not yet arrived and was still some way off.

But there is no doubt television is feeling the chill of an ice age. Total television viewing is down, particularly among the young. Figures collected by the media buying agency, Mitchell's, show that for the first time since television became a fixture in the Australian home, young people watch less per day than their elders.

Despite the mantra about new media never killing old, it isn't hard to find forms of communication that have been either wiped out or fundamentally altered in their social importance.

Town criers were once an important source of news and information. They are now a tourist novelty. The 78 rpm record killed the Edison phonograph cylinder, and was in turn killed by vinyl. Polaroid cameras came and quickly went. Kodak film and the Box Brownie killed forms of wet plate photography and democratised the snapshot. Talkies killed silent movies. Radio killed the player piano. Television slowly killed the illustrated newspaper, most of the general interest magazines and most of the comic book industry. Radio and television slowly killed the

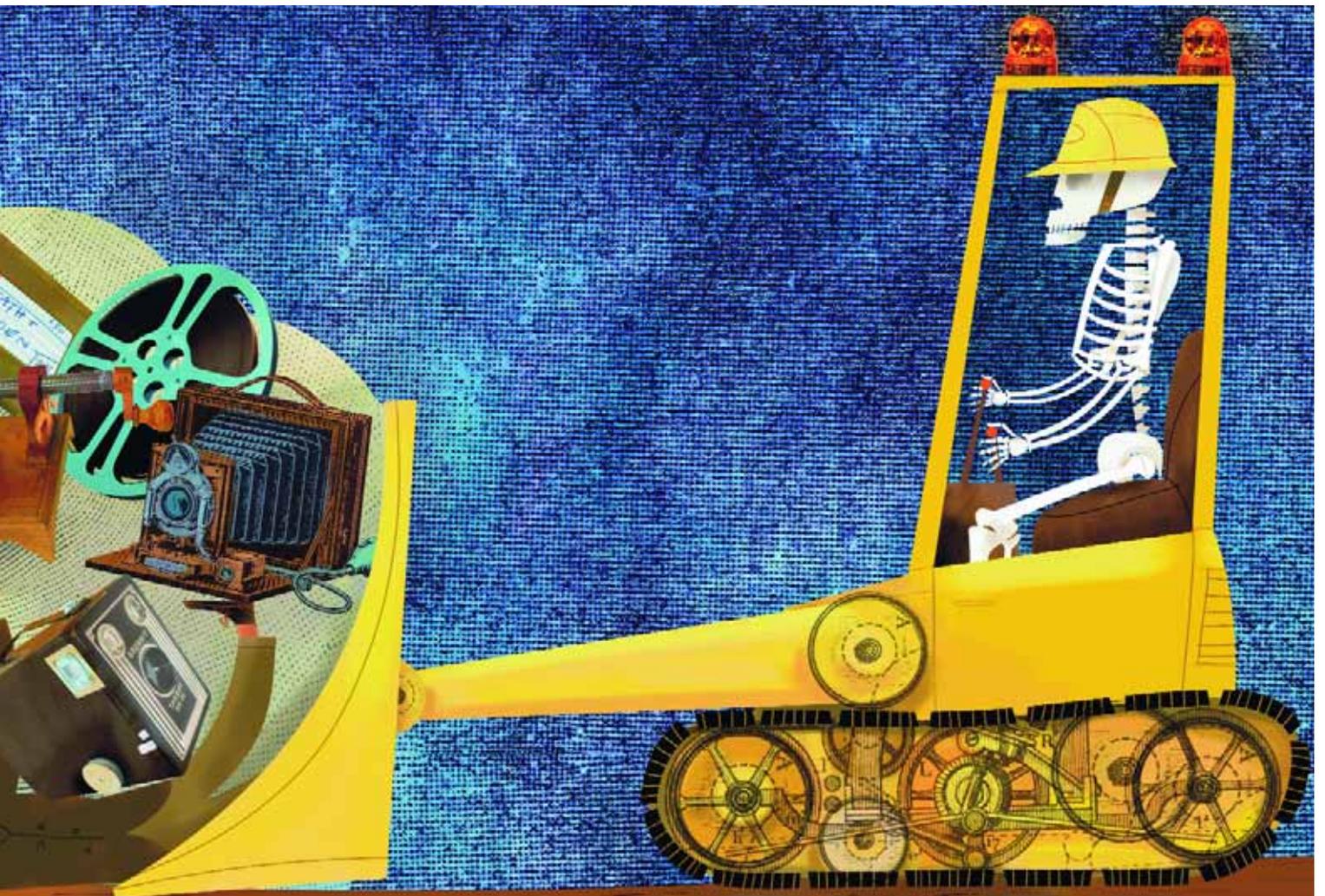


Illustration: Gregory Baldwin

afternoon newspapers. Television killed old-style radio programming, including almost all radio drama. The video camcorder killed the home movie camera. Videos are on the way out. Cassette tapes are almost gone.

Then there are the entertainment venues that have died, including drive-in cinemas and music halls, and with them all the torrid social interactions they hosted.

And finally the long list of dead communications technologies. Semaphore was killed by the telegraph, which in turn was killed by the telephone. Telex machines were killed by fax machines, and fax machines are now on the way out thanks to e-mail. PABXs are dead. The VHS cassette took over the market for 16mm non-theatrical films. Super 8mm killed standard 8mm, and standard 8mm killed 16mm. And remember roneo machines and carbon paper?

The significance is not that so many forms of communication have died, but that with each death, the content and significance of communication changes. And with that, society changes, and so does the way we think.

American historian Mitchell Stephens has pointed out that notions of objective reporting can only exist in a society used to communicating news through the written word. When we hear news orally we know we are getting an individual's take on events. But writing means that words have a life independent of the author. Language, and the thought that goes with it, are objectified.

In his book *The History of News*, Stephens documents the debates that have accompanied each new media invention.

As for newspapers,
Dr Dunn says economic
logic suggests they can't
survive in their present form.

"Enthusiasts gushed over each of them: critics moaned. Writing, it was recognised, provided a great intellectual tool, but Socrates, according to Plato, complained that the ability to write things down would weaken our memories." It may sound extreme, but Stephens concludes that the shift from oral means of connecting with others to the printed word probably *has* affected our capacity to memorise.

With the invention of the printing press and the newspaper, it became possible to have large audiences for news. This led to the professionalisation of journalism with all that means for democracy and public life. It also meant that for the first time people living at opposite ends of the country could nevertheless have the feeling of belonging to one community.

The telegraph in turn changed the format of news. Before its invention newspaper articles were like letters – leisurely essay-style missives. The need to convey news more quickly, and also more briefly,

led to the inverted pyramid format of news reporting, which seeks to put the essential facts briefly and in order of their importance. This is still taught to journalism students today.

So what changes are upon us now? Think digital broadcasting as opposed to analogue, the internet, and the mobile phone. The next question is whether these changes are analogous to the invention of the telephone, which changed us a great deal, or the invention of the printing press, which changed everything.

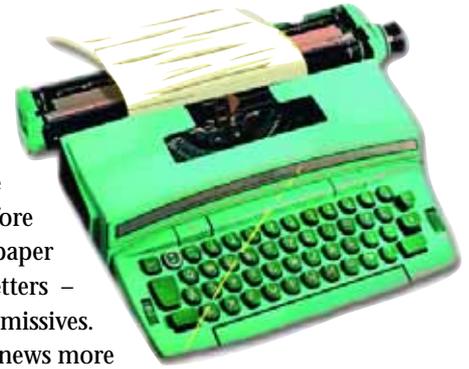
Dr Chris Chesher, senior lecturer in the Digital Technology and Culture Program in the School of Letters, Arts and Media at the University of Sydney believes that arguing about whether media forms will survive is less important than thinking about cultural forms, or the types of content that persist and play important roles in our lives. "Cultural forms will always be more resilient than technical forms," he says.

But the fast pace of change raises dozens of interconnected economic, political and social issues, he says. High among them is the question of what business models will support and pay for content on new media. "Free-to-air television has a way to go yet, simply because it has an established business model and most new media does not," he says.

So what will survive in media, and what new cultural forms will emerge? Dr Chesher points to the persistence of music and the new ways in which it is being used to express identity. "I have been staggered by how quickly people have taken up mobile phone ring tones. People will pay for a much degraded form of music track. Something about the event of receiving a phone call together with your own choice of music as the ring tone is an affirmation of identity and clearly important to people."

He believes news will also continue to be important. Human beings have always shared news and information, but in the modern world there is a "compression of temporality" imposed first by radio and television, and now by the World Wide Web. News will become both compacted and globalised. It's hard to see where conventional newspapers will fit. Possibly they will become more like magazines.

The trend is clearly towards portability and interactivity, Chesher says. He believes that even on free-to-air television there has been a return to formats that recall the "live-ness" and vaudeville nature of the medium's early days. He sees Channel Ten's *Big Brother* and *Australian Idol* as examples of a return to live formats. The twist is that these new-style live formats rely on the new media addition of audience interactivity via mobile



phone SMS messaging, and the ability of the audience to watch events whenever they wish by internet streaming and third generation mobile phones.

Telephones have already become cameras, and MP3 players. Soon they will be televisions. "Everyday life is largely about negotiating between devices and ways of connecting and relating to other people and the world at large," Dr Chesher says.

As for emerging cultural forms, Dr Chesher thinks the most significant are those to do with new ways of making human connections, including internet-based games and social networking sites such as MySpace.com.

Dr Anne Dunn, a former journalist and producer who is now chair of the media and communications program of the School of Letters, Arts and Media at the University of Sydney recently conducted a straw poll among some of her students and found that six out of eight of them never listened to music radio. Rather they downloaded their preferred material from the net. She can't see a role for music radio in the future.

But on the other hand, she says, students are actively engaged in making radio. She says that interest in the Redfern community radio station FBI on 94.5 remains at unprecedented levels. Young people are also increasingly involved in community television.

"We have to understand that in the future any media outlet will have to allow for the participation of the audience as content providers," Dr Dunn says. She believes this is a role tailor-made for public broadcasters such as the ABC. The BBC in England is showing the way, having recently announced a plan for the future, with the title *Beyond Broadcasting*. The BBC proposes putting all of its program archives on the web for downloading, and becoming the main venue for people who want to create their own content.

Dr Dunn says: "Commercial media are not going to invite this kind of audience participation unless there is money in it. Public broadcasters don't have to worry about whether they can package an audience for an advertiser. They can engage their audiences in really innovative ways."

Locally, the ABC was one of the first media organisations to explore innovative uses of the internet, but it is beginning to be left behind in the area of user-generated content. Dr Dunn describes the ABC's online guest page as a "timid" concession to the idea of user-generated content.

As for newspapers, Dr Dunn says economic logic suggests they can't survive in their present form.

"Why would you invest so much money in plant for printing and distributing newspapers for a diminishing return?"

Classified advertising is fast migrating to the internet, and

Telephones have already become cameras, and MP3 players. Soon they will be televisions.

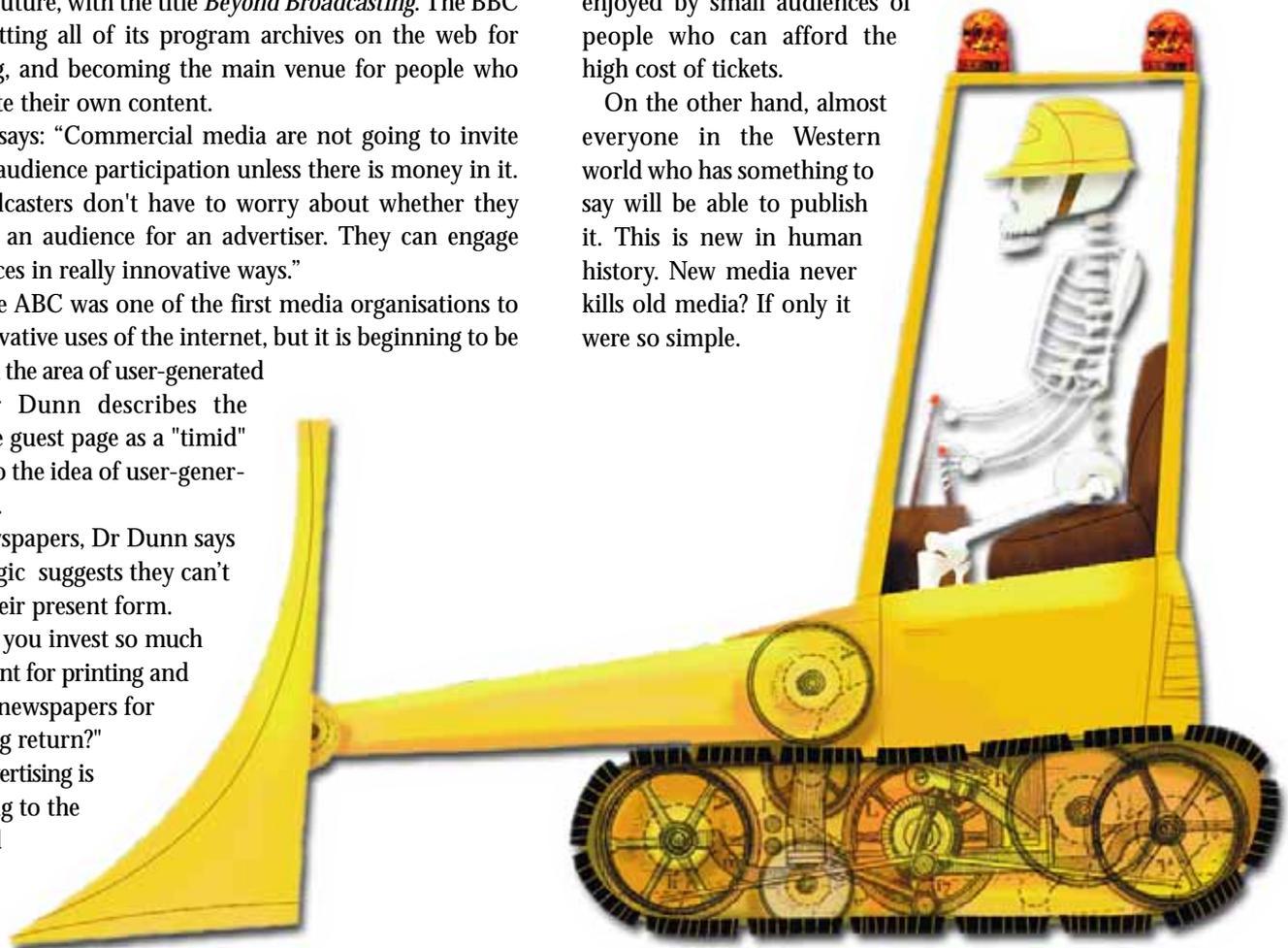
long-term circulation trends tell a gloomy story, particularly for broadsheet newspapers."

Will the idea of a mass media become a thing of the past? And what will that mean for society and democracy?

Michael Eisner, former chief executive of the Walt Disney Company, said on a trip to Australia earlier this year that the move to pay television had become a big issue in the United States, creating a TV underclass that could not afford to pay for content that was previously free. As the audiences for advertising fragment between new media, it is likely that people will have to pay much more than they do now for news, information and entertainment. And this means that many people will be either unable to pay, or will choose not to do so.

One of the gloomier of the many possible futures is that media with rich content – particularly quality journalism and drama – will become a minority and elite concern. The trajectory might be rather like that of live theatre, which was once mass entertainment and is now enjoyed by small audiences of people who can afford the high cost of tickets.

On the other hand, almost everyone in the Western world who has something to say will be able to publish it. This is new in human history. New media never kills old media? If only it were so simple.



Looking Forward, Looking Back

A History of Wollongong City Surf Life Saving Club

Dr Ian McNeill (BDS '58, MDS '82)

University of Sydney alumnus Ian McNeill traces the history of one of the country's oldest surf life saving clubs. It's a concise social history that spans two world wars, the Depression, and the 1990s success of the club's junior lifesavers, also known as Penguins. "If you look at a photo of the second clubhouse, you can see a seat running along the length of the building," writes one of the club's oldest members, 86-year-old Laurie Shelton. "We all sat there when we were out of work during the Depression. We sat there and yarned – it was great therapy during those bad times." The book is published by Wollongong City Surf Lifesaving Club.



A Guide to the Architecture of the University of Sydney

Trevor Howells

(BSc '73, BArch '76)

Watermark Press

Highlight's the University's architectural heritage, including the Roundhouse (pictured).



An Enigmatic Life

Marcia Cameron (MA '92)

Acorn Press

The story of David Broughton Knox (BA '38), considered the father of contemporary Sydney Anglicanism.

The Australian Miracle

Thomas Barlow (BSc '93)

Picador

A myth-debunking polemic about Australian innovation – and a ripping defence of academic freedom.

Australia's Operatic Phoenix

Alison Gyger (BA '55)

Pellinor

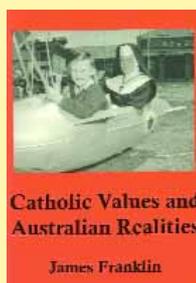
Traces the period from the end of the war to 1973, the opening of the Sydney Opera House, and the rise of the national opera company.

Catholic Values and Australian Realities

James Franklin (BA '75, MA '77)

Connor Court Publishing

Essays on the Catholic contribution to ethical debates such as immigration and values in schools.



Child of the Revolution

Luis M. Garcia (BA '81)

Allen & Unwin

An evocative memoir of growing up in 1960s Cuba.



Black Founders

Cassandra Pybus (BA '71, PhD '79)

UNSW Press

In recounting the unknown story of our first black settlers, this book changes the way we think about the foundation of Australia.

Economics for Collaborative Environmental Management

Graham Marshall (BScAgr '81)

Earthscan Publications

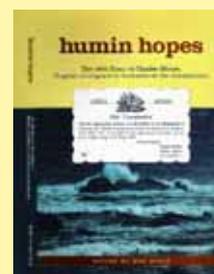
Mainstream economics remains poorly equipped to comprehend the collaborative vision for managing our natural resources. This book proposes an economics aligned with this vision.

Humin Hopes

Edited by Rob Wills (BA '68)

Pigface Press

The 1855 diary of Charles Moore, English immigrant to Australia on the Constitution.



Daughters of Earth

Edited by Justine Larbalestier (BA '92, PhD '97)

Wesleyan University Press
Feminist science fiction in the 20th century.

Contributions to this section are welcome. Please send a brief synopsis along with details of the author, degree and year of graduation, title, publisher, release date, and a high res jpeg of the publication's cover to the *Sydney Alumni Magazine* editor (see pg 1 for contact details). Space permits only a selection of books here. Visit us online at www.usyd.edu.au/alumni for more.

Theatre

Seymour Centre hosts a season of Bite

Three of Sydney's best independent theatre productions from 2005 return to the Seymour Centre and Riverside Theatre this quarter.

Rebecca Clarke's one-woman play *Unspoken*, Nick Whitby's *To the Green Fields Beyond*, and Drew Fairley and Kate Smith's comedy, *Bangers and Mash*, comprise this first BITE (Best of Independent Theatre) season.

Unspoken was recognized as Best Independent Production and Best Newcomer 2005 at last year's Sydney Theatre Awards. It tells a compelling story about what it is

Bangers and Mash explores the 30-something dilemma of single life and shared housing. An unlikely pair of housemates grapples with that unspoken chemistry: will they or won't they break the golden rule, and if they do, what will it cost? *Bangers and Mash* runs at the Seymour Centre from 18 October to 11 November (no Riverside season).



Drama in the house ... Kate Smith and Drew Fairley in *Bangers and Mash*.

like to have a brother with severe disabilities, and speaks about the complexity of family and the many voices of love. It runs at the Seymour Centre from 30 August to 16 September, and at the Riverside Theatre from 20 September to 23 September.

To the Green Fields Beyond captures the essence of the Great War in the events of one night and raises questions which resonate today.

It runs at the Seymour Centre from 19 September to 14 October, and at the Riverside Theatre from 18 October to 21 October.

University of Sydney alumni are offered a special price of \$24 for Seymour Centre tickets. This offer is only available through the Seymour Centre box office on (02) 93517940. Riverside Theatre contact is (02) 8839 3399.

Exhibitions

Cycles of life and death

Unearthed Tales 2:

a fascination with death

Continues the Nicholson Museum's fascination with the curious and bizarre. Nicholson Museum, until July 2007.

Living Water

Living Water features the University's historic Australian and Pacific ethnographic collections with a water theme. It features finely crafted objects of adornment, and water carriers, paddles and model canoes from the Pacific Islands. Macleay Museum, from 1 August 2006.

Water Dreaming

Tom Arthur, Arthur Boyd, Elisabeth Cummings, and Euan Macleod, among others, explore the symbolic, spiritual and poetic aspects of water. University Art Gallery, 1 August to 27 October 2006

Lebanon

Highlights Lebanon's spectacular archaeological heritage. Nicholson Museum opens 17 October 2006.

Egypt: The Black Land (pictured)

Looks at life and death in Egypt. Highlights include the mummy and ornate coffin of the priest Padiashaikhet; and a monumental head of Ramses II. Nicholson Museum, until July 2007.



Detail of the god Thoth, taken from the coffin of Padiashaikhet, c. 725 – 700 BC.

A Settlement at the crossroads

One of the University's most remarkable institutions has survived turbulent times but desperately needs support. **Rodney Molesworth** explains.

The Settlement Movement arose in England in the late 19th century, when the squalor created by rapid industrialisation and urbanisation was at its peak.

Amid many other charitable activities, what distinguished the movement was the belief of university men and women

that the conditions of the poor would not improve until educated people were prepared to live and work among them; to befriend them, assist them and learn from them; to abandon the security and comfort of their leafy neighbourhoods and risk disease, crime and the disdain of their peers.

Today that same spirit inspires the work of the Settlement Neighbourhood Centre in Darlington, an institution with more than 100 years of history. For the past 30 years it has had a particular focus on helping indigenous residents of the area.

The first “settlement house”, Toynbee Hall, was set up by Oxford men in 1884 in the East End of London. The idea was initially lampooned – *The Spectator* predicting it would be “the vacation resort of undergraduate hotheads and frothy declaimers” – but it was widely successful and even became fashionable. It still thrives, serving a population now nearly all immigrant.

News of Toynbee Hall spread rapidly to Sydney, and by 1896 former Toynbee residents were “settling” independently in Surry Hills. The Sydney University Settlement proper can perhaps claim a beginning in 1891, when the Women's Society began its work among the poor of Woolloomooloo. More realistic is 1908, when Sarah Evans went into residence in a house outside the gates of Women's College.

From the beginning, the Settlement was not an official part of the University of Sydney. It was begun and was led, until the 1960s, by societies auspiced by the Union and was supported

by the voluntary efforts of academics and their families and undergraduates.

Despite recurrent financial crises, it has been a success. At the beginning it had support from the wealthy and titled. The Sydney University Women's Society was brought into being by the efforts of the wife of the then governor of NSW, and its first president was the wife of the chancellor. Vice-regal patronage continued for decades.

By 1913 it was the Sydney University Women's Settlement, and the annual general meeting was held in the Great Hall with 50 present. In the mid-1920s, perhaps emboldened by the strong support from senior academics and administrators, it was resolved to purchase the hall at 17 Edward Street, Darlington, for £1600, even though the building fund stood at a little over £100. After an extraordinary outpouring of generosity by individuals and local businesses, the deal was accomplished. The Settlement operates today from the same premises.

In its early years the leadership of the Settlement was an all-female affair. Not until 1931 was its constitution changed to permit male members, creating an elaborate structure for graduate and undergraduate involvement, particularly through the cultural and social activities of university clubs and societies.

By the 1940s the Settlement executive and the undergraduate committee were adopting the ideas of professional social work, and the Department of Social Work had an *ex officio* position on the committee. That is still the case on the current management committee,

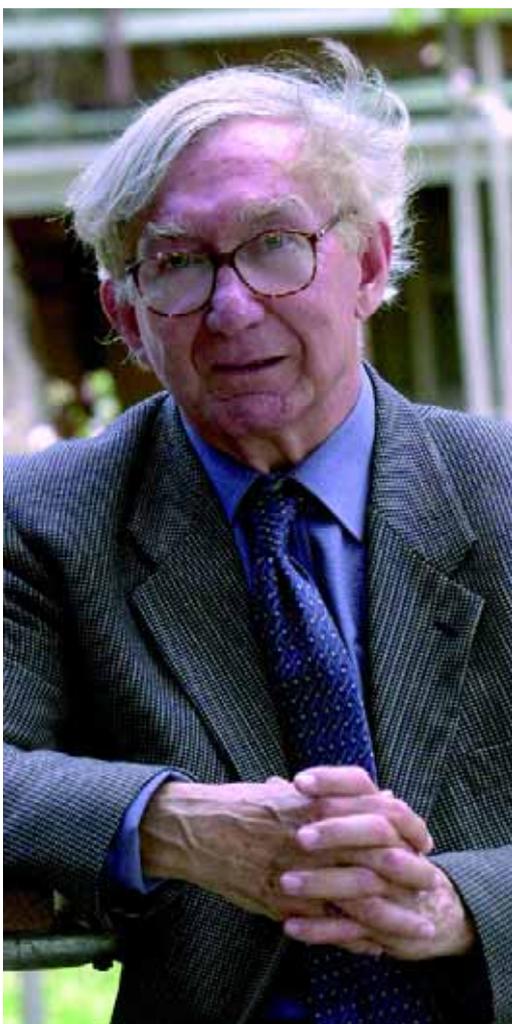


photo: Newspix

Professor Tony Vinson ... reconnecting the Settlement with the University.

where the position was energetically filled by Professor Tony Vinson of the Faculty of Education and Social work. It is now held by Ruth Phillips.

The '40s and '50s was a time of great activity and achievement, including the purchase of all the houses between the hall and Vine Street – numbers 1 to 15 – which are still owned by the Settlement and provide low-income housing. Around this time it became apparent that the ultimate goal of the Settlement Movement was finally being achieved: the traditional client group – working-class and post-war migrants – were increasingly taking over decision-making from their university friends, and as a result the association with the University began to wane from the mid-1960s.

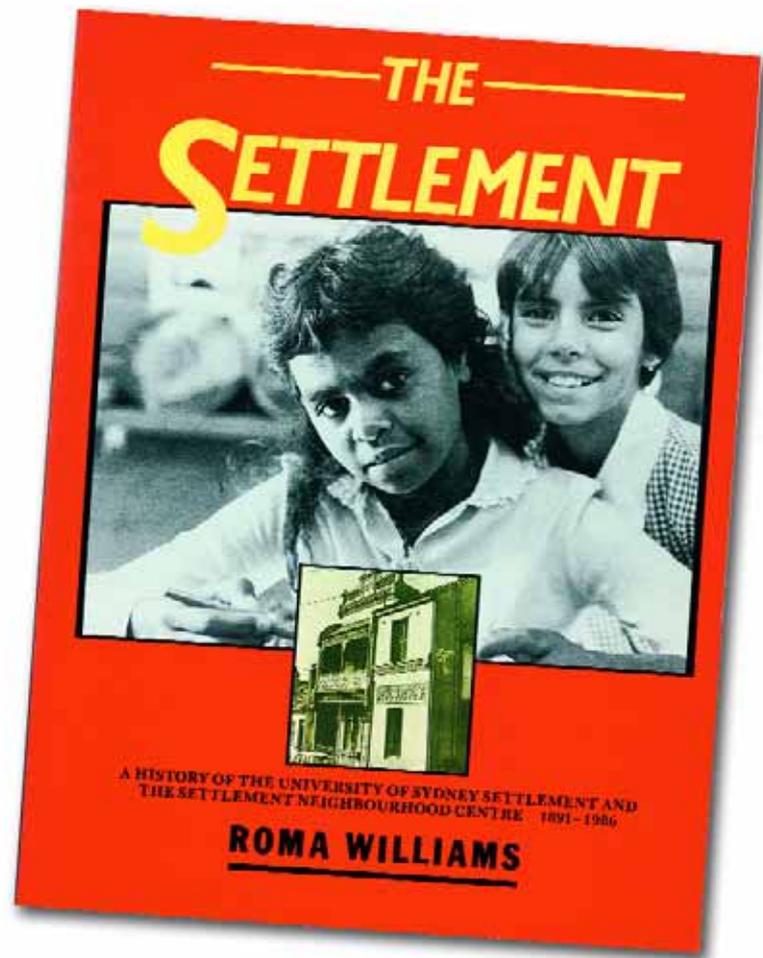
New radicalism

One of the most contentious issues at this time was the expansion of the University into long-established working-class districts of Darlington, ousting families with deep roots in the area. Equally, a new radicalism found itself at odds with the traditional style of fund-raising, based as it was on garden parties and debutante balls.

In 1974 the federal government funded the purchase of The Block in Redfern for Aboriginal housing. The subsequent influx of indigenous residents to the area has been a principal factor in the changing role of the Settlement, but there are others. Increasing gentrification has led to instances of cultural conflict. The loss of traditional blue-collar employment has increased welfare dependency. The winding back of the welfare state has left fewer resources for the needs of the homeless, the mentally ill and those rejected by mainstream agencies. Drug and alcohol abuse, and the crime they encourage, have increased.

The Settlement's client group for its programs and its low-cost housing is almost entirely Aboriginal, and this client group is in a state of distress that would be readily recognised by any 19th century "settler". The wheel has turned, then turned again.

The institution has been a magnet for drama and controversy from the outset. In 2004 the management committee came under the control of a group of



Roma Williams's book on the Settlement ... the institution has been a magnet for drama and controversy from the outset.

people, many of whom owned property in Edward Street. They decided to sell the run-down Hall for \$815,000 and buy another (also run-down) for \$2.85 million. The difference could only be made up by selling most or all of the other properties bought over three-quarters of a century by the efforts of dedicated volunteers. This would, of course, have meant the removal of all Settlement clients from Edward Street.

Matters came to a head in July last year when it became apparent that contracts intended to bind the Settlement had been signed in respect of both properties. Amid high tempers and wild statements a special general meeting was called. A private member's bill was rushed through the NSW Parliament to prevent property being sold without the consent of members – but too late.

The special general meeting voted to remove the management committee and elected an entirely new one, charged with keeping the Settlement in Edward Street, revitalising its programs

and operations and restoring its finances. It is a tall order, but the new committee has worked strenuously to meet these aims.

The contracts for sale were rejected as invalid and have been terminated, although the financial fallout is unquantified. Much work has been done to restore confidence and revitalise the Settlement's image and function. Professor Vinson has worked tirelessly to reconnect the Settlement with the University. Plans are being drawn up for the long-overdue refurbishment of the Hall.

There is, naturally, not one penny available for these renovations, estimated to cost \$400,000. One cannot help but recall the brazen audacity of the Settlement's guiding spirits in the 1920s and hope for a similar, miraculous, outcome.

Rodney Molesworth (BA '68, LLB '73) until very recently was a member of the management committee of The Sydney University Settlement.

Across the Advantage Line

Macquarie Bank's David Clarke has helped the football club thrive amid a loss of funding, writes **Graham Croker**.

In an age of continued financial cutbacks to the tertiary sector by a succession of federal governments of both hues, universities are increasingly relying on their alumni to fill the gap.

Thanks to the recent introduction of voluntary student unionism (VSU), organisations such as Sydney University Sport (SUS) and its constituent clubs face a potential loss of over \$3 million a year from student sports fees alone.

Addresses and telephone numbers of sporting alumni are being eagerly sought as sporting clubs – there are 49 within SUS – seek alternative funds to keep their programs afloat.

Sydney University Football Club (SUFC) president David Mortimer called on David Clarke (BEc '63, DScEcon '00), executive chairman of Macquarie Bank, to head up the SUFC Foundation. It was an inspired choice. Clarke once raised \$15 million for the Salvation Army Education Foundation and headed up the Opera Australia Capital Fund which doubled its \$1 million target under his stewardship.

A five-eighth and inside centre with the Club in 1963-64, when he toured New Zealand with Australian Universities, Clarke was only too happy to "put something back" into the Club and the University.



Premiers ... SUFC captain Tim Davidson with the 2005 Tooheys Cup.



Macquarie Bank's David Clarke ... 'happy to put something back'.

After setting a \$2 million target and launching the funding drive at the Club's 140th anniversary luncheon in 2003, Clarke said that alumni responded in droves and the target was exceeded within the two-year time-frame. "If alumni are interested in sport and the University is doing well, it will generate pride in the institution and generate involvement with the University in other ways," Clarke said. "And that was the case in 2005 when we held the Sydney grade cricket and rugby premierships and both club championships in the one year."

Clarke, a former chairman of the Australian Rugby Union, hopes the SUFC effort will cover some of the lost VSU revenue, and said he had a number of reasons for helping. "I had a terrific time while playing for the Football Club and many of the friendships I have made during my time there," he said. "It was an important part of my life."

"The Club needs to be in a situation where we stay strong to maintain

our place in whatever competition is introduced. If a national competition is formed we are now in a better financial position to survive." Clarke said SUFC had been fortunate to have Andrew Wennerbom and David Mortimer guiding the club in recent seasons. "Both are on the fundraising board, along with Vice-Chancellor Gavin Brown, who has a great interest in sport in general, and rugby in particular," he said.

The chief executive of Sydney University Sport, Greg Harris, who also sits on the board, said "with the strictures being placed on us at SUS, individual clubs at the elite level are having to call on their sporting alumni to help keep them viable and competitive. With the possibility of a national provincial competition – similar to our water polo and women's basketball clubs – and other commercial pressures, it is vital that Sydney University Football Club is in a strong position to contest for a franchise."

Harris said the University's elite clubs deserve to compete at the highest levels.

"There are very few organisations that have the ability to offer young players such an excellent foundation for a successful life," he said. "Sydney University is in a unique position, providing an environment of excellence, a pathway to higher representative sporting honours in a setting where academic qualifications are achieved."

FOUNDATION CONTACTS

Alumni wishing to contribute or find out more about the foundations should contact:

Sydney University Football Club Foundation:
(02) 8232 5107 (Tuesday only) or (02) 9351 7245, or email Trevor Walsh at t.walsh@susport.usyd.edu.au.

Sydney University Cricket Club Foundation:
PO Box 205, Holme Building, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, or contact the SUCC on (02) 9351 4965.

Visit www.susport.com for latest sports news and results.

Michael Hawker: on top of the game

Former Wallaby star Michael Hawker traded the football field for a career in banking. He now heads insurance giant IAG and is guest speaker at the Graduate Connections Breakfast in Sydney on 1 November
Chris Rodley reports.

Michael Hawker (BSc '83) has reached the pinnacle of two hugely different careers: in the 1980s he represented Australia as a Wallaby in 25 rugby tests, and today he heads the nation's largest insurer, Insurance Australia Group.

He attributes his remarkable successes not to the culmination of any long-term plan but to the simple idea that he would try his best at whatever came his way.

"When I was young, I didn't have a vision that I was going to be X, Y or Z," he says. "Instead, I took the optimistic view that I would just do the best I could and it would take me somewhere. If I'm interested in something,

I'll try it out and give it 1000 per cent."

Born in 1959 to a father passionate about sport, Hawker grew up in a home where there was "always a football somewhere in the backyard". From an early age he was practising passes up and down the hallway, trying not to hit the walls.

His skills continued to improve at Shore, a school so committed to fostering sporting talent that students "either played rugby or showed a medical certificate". In 1977 came his first big break, being selected for the Australian Schoolboys tour of Britain. "I was lying in bed when my father woke me up and told me I had been selected to play overseas," Hawker recalls. "I was 17 and had never been out of NSW, so it was a huge experience."

On that tour he would play alongside a dream team of future stars, including the Ella brothers and Wally Lewis. "Playing at that level was exhilarating: we were like the Harlem Globetrotters in the way we enjoyed the game, and play was innovative, creative and exciting."

By 1980 Hawker was playing full internationals, making his debut against Fiji at five-eighth. Over the next three years he would carve out a memorable international career in a

combination with Mark Ella and Michael O'Connor.

After a tour of France in 1983, Hawker decided the time had come for other challenges. "It's hard to do something at a high level unless you're passionate about it," he says. "Once you lose the passion, your performance drops. The real art in life is finding those things you are passionate about."

Although he was later lured back onto the field by Alan Jones, the Wallabies' coach at the time, Hawker's fitness was not at its peak and his international sporting career ended after the 1987 tour of Argentina, when he was dropped from the team.

"I felt lousy, but at the end of the day you get over it because it's in the past," he explains. "It's like hitting a bad golf shot: you can't worry about the last one while you're playing the next. You move on."

Moving on is exactly what he did as he turned his attention to a new career in the financial services industry. Rising through the ranks, he was named as one of the world's best bankers under 40 and filled senior executive posts at Citibank and Westpac. In 2001, he was headhunted to become chief executive of IAG.



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Singapore
Singapore Alumni Reception
Wed 27 Sept, 7.00-9.00pm

Shanghai
China Alumni Dinner
Mon Oct, 6.30-8.30pm

Hong Kong
Hong Kong Alumni Dinner
Wed 1 Nov, 7.30-10.00pm

To register please visit

www.usyd.edu.au/overseasevents or telephone +61 2 9351 2673



photo: SKC Photography

IAG chief Michael Hawker ... it's all about teams.

His time as a Wallaby is still a powerful source of inspiration. Among other things, says Hawker, it has taught him much about the nature of teams.

"Rugby has given me a clarity of thinking about what makes an effective team. The challenge is getting a team that trusts each other to meet a common objective. In football, if you think the person next to you is no good, you will miss them out. Teams only work when each person understands what they are doing and they do it well." Another lesson concerns the importance of dedication.

"Leadership requires courage and self-discipline, and that is one of the things rugby gives you. If you are the

only person who can stop someone from scoring a try, you don't want to make yourself look like a goose. So you mentally drive yourself onwards."

The Graduate Connection Breakfast series features notable alumni speaking about contemporary business practices and arts innovations. Michael Hawker is the guest speaker on 1 November 2006, speaking on the topic 'Leadership challenges in rugby, business and corporate social responsibility' at The Tearoom, QVB, Sydney, from 7.30am. For more information and costs, contact Andrea Besnard at the Alumni Relations Office. Phone: 02 9351 2673 or email rsvp@usyd.edu.au

Alumni survey winners

Over 4,000 alumni responded to an advertisement in the previous *Sydney Alumni Magazine* (Winter 2006) encouraging readers to update their profiles via the alumni website. Seven respondents won prizes by completing the survey. The president of the Standing Committee of Convocation, Dr Barry Catchlove (MBBS '66), drew the prizes as follows:

- Mark Brown (BPhysio '81, DipSports Physio '97, MSportsPhysio '03)
Major – Health Science
- Lynne Murray (MMus '02)
Major – Musicology
- Philip Pritchard (BA '90, MA '91)
Majors – Japanese and Psychology
- Michael Quinnell (BA '65)
Majors – Archaeology and English
- Christine McNeil (DipEd '69 Arts)
Majors – Italian, French Studies, and Education
- Greg Rappo (BScAgr '74)
Major – Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science
- John Fahey (PhD Arts '04)
Major – History

The survey asked alumni about the type of programs they want from the University, and sought information about degree majors and professions. Ms Tracey Beck, director of Alumni Relations, said she was delighted with the response rate. "Over 3,000 Australian and 1,000 international alumni have provided information that will help improve our communications and develop programs," she said.



We Respect Your Privacy

The University maintains a single database with contact details of our alumni, benefactors and friends.

To ensure that you are kept up to date with University events and news, from time to time we provide contact details to appropriate groups to which you have an affiliation, such as alumni associations, foundations, SU Sport and residential colleges.

Under no circumstances do we provide information to other groups or individuals outside of these affiliations.

Of course, you can at any time instruct us not to provide information to these affiliated groups by contacting Advancement Services (fax 02 9351 5688) or email to alumni@vcc.usyd.edu.au

We look forward to your continued involvement in the life of Australia's first University.

2006 Alumni Awards



photo: Carmen Lee Spiers



photo: Carmen Lee Spiers

Kim Oates (top), Col James and Jocelyn Chey ... 2006 Alumni Award winners.

Three alumni have been awarded a prestigious Alumni Award in 2006. Professor Jocelyn Valerie Chey (BA '61, PhDArts '71) received the award for her significant personal contributions to Australia-China relations, refugee support services, and local community activities. Mr Col James AM (DipTCPlan '77) was recognised for his outstanding community services to the poor, homeless, disadvantaged and Aboriginal groups. Professor Ronald Kim Oates AM (MBBS '67, MD '84, DSc '06) received the award for his contributions to child health issues and child rights, and his commitment to the medical profession.

The Standing Committee of Convocation presents the awards each year to celebrate the important contributions alumni make to our society through their distinguished community service.

What legacy will you leave?

Through a bequest to the University of Sydney, you can leave a lasting legacy by educating future Nobel laureates, prime ministers, chief justices, literary greats, and community and business leaders.

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The University of Sydney NSW 2006 T: +61 2 9036 9036 F: +61 2 9036 6150 E: bequests@vcc.usyd.edu.au W: www.usyd.edu.au/bequests



The University of Sydney

alumni updates



Richard Trethowan ... Professor of Plant Breeding.

Dr Trethowan appointment

The Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources welcomes one of its distinguished alumni, Dr Richard Trethowan (BScAgr '84, PhDAgr '89), who has returned to Australia to take up an appointment as Professor of Plant Breeding at the faculty's Plant Breeding Institute.

Health Sciences Alumni Awards

Applications are invited for the Faculty of Health Sciences Award, offered annually

to members of the Health Sciences Graduates' Association. Phone the faculty office on (02) 9351 9572 or Helga Pettitt (Dip Comm Nurs '79, Grad Dip Appl Sc Adv Clin Nurs '91) on (02) 9988 0079 for more information.

Enquiries about the Cumberland Foundation Study Award should be directed to Dr Jeffrey Miller AM (BA '57, M Ed '62) on (02) 4234 1237. Applications close 31 October.

UK Summer Reception

The UK Alumni Association 2006 Summer Reception held on 13 July attracted over 100 guests to the Royal College of General Practitioners overlooking the lawns of Ennismore Gardens. Recently elected president, Pauline Lyle-Smith (BA '67, LLB '70), kicked things off with great style.

A high point of the reception was the Chancellor's tale of events – precipitated by a chance meeting after the London bombing – which led to the decision by Michael Hintze (BSc '75, BE(Elec) '77) to endow the Sydney University inaugural Chair in International Security.

The presence of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, and Don Wilson, Vice-Principal, University Relations, signalled the weight given by the University to the UK Alumni Association. Lending further panache to the occasion were distinguished guests including Nancy Wake OA,

highly decorated heroine of the WW2, now 93 and in a wheel chair; our founder, Baroness Gardner of Parkes (BDS '54), and members of her family; and our former president, Melissa Hardee (BA '80, LLB '85). See Diary on page 36 of this edition for details of upcoming events.

Law School building underway

Over 100 University of Sydney alumni, friends and staff gathered on the Camperdown campus on 15 June to celebrate the start of construction of the University's new Law School building.

A plaque was unveiled to mark the occasion. Guests included the Dean of Law, Professor Ron McCallum; the Chancellor, the Hon Justice Kim Santow; the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gavin Brown; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW, the Hon James Spigelman; former Prime Minister, the Hon Gough Whitlam and Margaret Whitlam.

Designed by architects Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp, the building is scheduled to open in 2008, enabling the Faculty of Law to relocate to the heart of the main campus from its current Phillip Street site.

The decision to move the Law School, according to Justice Spigelman, "will enrich the lives of future law students, as it will enrich the intellectual life of the University as a whole."



The University of Sydney

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2000s

Phillip Brown (BA '00) and Karen Brown (MTeach '98) have renovated a house in Newcastle and have two daughters. Karen is teaching Visual Arts at Newcastle Grammar School; Phillip completed a Graduate Diploma in Education and is teaching at Fern Valley Montessori Primary School, Newcastle.

Clare Chenoweth (MMediaPrac '04) has completed her Master of Media Practice, and has been working in public relations at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney. She will be a volunteer teacher in Vietnam for one year, and hopes to work in an NGO on her return.

Anita King (BA '04) is in her third year of a Bachelor

of Education (Early Childhood) at the Institute of Early Childhood, Macquarie University.

Charlene Prado (BSc '05) has been working with the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research at Westmead Hospital. Born and raised in Sydney, she just returned from her very first exploration of her forebears' native Philippines.

1990s

Yvonne Frindle (BMus Hons '92, DipEd '93) is now programs editor of the Sydney Symphony. Known to concert audiences as a writer and speaker, she also holds a Graduate Diploma in Communications from the University of Technology Sydney, and has worked in publications and artistic

administration for Symphony Australia and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

Dr Naren Gunja (MBBS '98) is an emergency physician at Westmead Hospital and has become a Fellow of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, along with Dr. Kavita Varshney (MBBS '97).

Elizabeth Johnstone Kuiper (LLB '92) is a partner at Blake Dawson Waldron where she is the practice head of the company law and governance group. She is married to Taco Kuiper (BA '63). Elizabeth was recently appointed to the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Catherine Christie (BA '93, MA '98) moved from Sydney to a small farm in the Southern Highlands, and hopes to obtain a PhD over the next few years. She is very happy.

William Roberts (BA '95) is the acting head of Library Waverley College. He was an EFL instructor in Japan for 3 years.

1980s

Tony James Chu (MBBS '86) works part-time as a paediatric registrar while acting and filmmaking. He founded the Sydney networking group of actors, screenwriters and filmmakers called NAFA, and he has made over 20 short films.

His production credits include the feature film called *Gene-X*.

Phillip Farmer (MEd '89, MA '96) taught history and worked as a careers advisor for 26 years at St Aloysius College. After his retirement he moved to Mudgee where early in 2006 he accepted the honorary position of archivist of St John's Anglican Church. Phillip says it's amazing how interesting local history can be.

Dianne Tsitsos, née Hranbani, (BEcon '83, DipEd '83), started casual teaching in 1983 and one year later was appointed to Kingsgrove North High School where she has been ever since. Dianne is married and has two teenage daughters.

David Wong (BDS '85) is getting married later this year and plans to continue working as a software developer in London for several years before returning to Australia.

1970s

Jane Diplock AO (BA '73, DipEd '75, LLB '78) chaired the New Zealand Securities Commission from 2001 to 2006, and was reappointed in 2006 for a further five years. From 2004 to 2006 she was also a chairman of the executive committee of the Inter-national Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).

SHARE YOUR NEWS

University of Sydney alumni are invited to share their news in this section of the *Sydney Alumni Magazine*.

We're interested in hearing about your career, academic achievements, community involvement, or other events.

Please send details via email or post to the *Sydney Alumni Magazine* editor. Full contact details are listed on page 1.

You can also update your details and search for classmates online by registering with your Alumni Web Community at www.usyd.edu.au/alumni



Apirana Mahuika (MA '73) has lectured at the Wellington Teachers Training College, Victoria University Wellington, and Massey University in Palmerston, New Zealand. He has a Bachelor of Arts from Auckland University, a Diploma of Theology, and a PhD (Hon) from the Waikato University. He is a chair of Te Runanga O Ngati Porou (an Iwi Trust Board under Maori Trust Board Act 1955) and a chair of Te Roopu Manukura at the University of Waikato.

Professor Cassandra Pybus (BA '71, PhD '79) was a Fulbright Senior Fellow in 2001 and an ARC Professorial Fellow between 2001 and 2005. Cassandra holds a two-year Writers Fellowship from the Australia Council. Her recent book *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and Their Global Quest for Liberty* was described in May this year as "breathhtaking" by Harvard historian Jill Lepore in the *New Yorker*. Her latest book *Black Founders* has just been released by UNSW Press.

Michael Sheehan (BA '77, DipEd '78) is teaching maths at Alstonville High School on the Far North Coast of New South Wales. He is divorced, and has five children. Michael is involved in amateur theatre and is in rehearsals for *Les Miserables*.

Jennifer Sumsion (BEcon '76 MEd '83, PhDEd '98) is an associate professor at the Institute of Early Childhood at Macquarie University. In September 2006 she will take up the inaugural Chair of Early Childhood Education at Charles Sturt University.

1960s

Annette Van Den Bosch (BA '66, DipEd '66, PhDArts '90) is retiring as a senior lecturer in visual culture at Monash University. She will join the Centre for Research in Arts

and Leisure Management at Deakin University.

Adetoye Faniran (PhDArts '69) retired in September 2003. He was appointed emeritus professor of geography of the University of Ibadan in July 2005. He celebrated

Little Wonders

Eighty-year-old Anthony Christie BA '01) taught English at a kindergarten in China for four months last year. He says he had the time of his life.

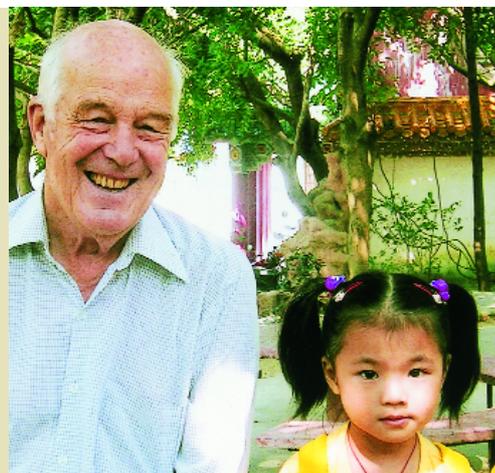
The most remarkable aspect of my first venture into overseas teaching was that it was made possible by a rare combination of good luck and coincidence.

As a volunteer tutor, I came to know a young Chinese student who I would meet occasionally for conversation practice in Sydney. One afternoon I mentioned that I would be keen to teach in Asia. Unbeknown to me, my pupil was in regular contact with a family friend who had a business associate in China who happened to be the director of a kindergarten in Kaiping.

Some weeks later I received an invitation to teach. There would be little pay but my airfare would be refunded and accommodation provided (I was later given generous bonuses).

And so, on September 6 last year, I arrived at Guangzhou airport to an enthusiastic welcome, followed by a splendid dinner, then a drive northward in a luxury car playing Vivaldi. So far, so very good.

Over 500 children were enrolled in the Henry Chinese and English Kindergarten. They were aged between three and eight, and were taught by a staff of 40. The classrooms were light and airy, a large hall provided ample space for music and dancing, and there were extensive kitchen and dining areas, all spotlessly clean. I taught basic words to the beginners, while the older children bravely tackled verbs and simple sentence structure. English songs and rhymes were especially popular.



Anthony Christie and friend ... having the time of their lives.

The children were bright and very keen to learn. Their delight in mastering a new word or phrase was palpable; each day bought some new victory, some fresh gleam of comprehension. It was very rewarding, worthwhile, and fun.

There was occasional confusion crossing the cultural divide. In the early weeks, I was baffled when, halfway through a lesson, a small group would cry out "bye-bye, bye-bye." Was this a gentle hint for me to depart? As it turned out, their sad farewells were for the words and drawings I was rubbing off the board.

I had fully expected each day would begin with a stirring hymn to Mao, or perhaps an ode to the heroes of the Long March, but there was not a hammer and sickle in sight. However, there was very great interest in Australia. When I went into the town, I would be approached by student groups asking shyly: "You, sir, kindly you to speak English with us, yes?" So, heading to the nearest coffee shop or McDonalds, I helped where I could.

Thus, in a small way, we can help break down language and cultural barriers, perhaps as the fates intended.

his 70th birthday on 1 August 2005 with the publication of *Our Transformer God* and *A Harvest of Divine Interventions: The Life and Times of Professor Adetoye Famiran*. They address the spiritual approach to sustainability.

Rosalind Krüger (née Bonnette) (BSc '69) graduated with a Diploma in Education from the University of Western Australia, a Master of Arts from Michigan State University and a Bachelor of Education from the Western Australia College of Advanced Education. Rosalind is a registered psychologist and works at Hake School in Wembley Downs, WA.

Robert Mellor (BA '65) recently retired from the University of Western Sydney where he has been the head of the School of Quantitative Methods and Mathematical Sciences for the past five years. Robert obtained his PhD from Harvard University in 1973 and spent 17 years in the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

1950s

Eric Baker (LLB '53) was admitted as a solicitor in December 1953 and entered into partnership with Rex Reynolds in March 1954. In July 1978 he was appointed a judge of the Family Court of Australia and in 1983 received a commission for two years as a member of the appeal division of that court. In April 1986 he became a permanent member of the appeal division,

where he remained until his retirement in January 1999. Since retirement he has acted as a special counsel with Watts McCray. Now aged 75, he says he has no present plans for retirement.

Bruce Litchfield (BDS '56, MDS '64) is practising dentistry in Canberra part-time. Bruce is also founder and executive chairman of the Australian Institute of Family Counselling, and he has written 12 books on counselling and family issues. Bruce travels annually to Uganda, Eastern Europe and Russia to conduct seminars on family health, addiction and counselling. He obtained a PhD in counselling in Hawaii in 1992.

1940s

Fred Blanks (BSc '48) was born in Germany in 1925 and arrived in Australia in 1938. After graduating from the University he joined ICI Australia and worked in plastics and petrochemicals until his retirement. Music has been Fred's life-long hobby. He was a music critic for the *Sydney Morning Herald* from 1963 to 1998, has worked as a freelance writer for many music publications, and lectured on music history for WEA and Sydney University's Continuing Education Centre. In 1988 he was admitted to membership of the Order of Australia for services to music.

Evelyn Brown (BA '40, MA '46) trained as a teacher of languages. During World War II she worked in CSIR (Now CSIRO) at Badgerys Creek. From 1943 to 1951

she worked at the National Standards Radiophysics Laboratory. In 1951 she married F.C Brown; they had two sons, one daughter, and nine grandchildren. Between 1965 and 1985, Evelyn taught languages, first at a state high school, then at St George Technical College, then at an adult learning centre. She has been writing poetry since her youth, and her poems have been published in collections and literary journals since the 1960s.

James Gerrand (BSc '40, BE (Mech&Elec) '42) was diagnosed with Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP) 15 years ago, and formed the Inflammatory Neuropathy Support Group of Victoria Inc. for patients and family suffering from Guillain-Barré Syndrome and CIDP. The support group has some 300 members, mainly in Victoria, but also interstate and overseas.

James McGlade (BA '40) writes of his appreciation of the *Sydney Alumni Magazine* (and previously *The Gazette*) over the past 60 years. James was headmaster of St Patrick's College from 1953 to 1955. He later lectured in English and History at the Council for Christian Education in Schools from 1979 to 1988 and at the Australian Catholic University from 1989 to 2002.

Bernice O'Sullivan (BA '48, DipEd '49) began her career as a high school teacher in Forbes, married, and became an experienced teacher to migrants until 1960. She returned to general teaching at a Catholic

school in the ACT, and became assistant principal until the mid-'90s. Bernice also writes poetry, articles and short stories.

Joyce Parker (BA '41, DipEd '41 MEd '69 MA' 75) taught at Queanbeyan High School in 1941 and at Singleton High School in 1942. In 1943 she married Geoffrey Parker (BSc '39, BE '41). After stints in the UK, she was appointed deputy head of Tara Anglican School in 1972 and in the following year became principal. Joyce held this position until 1979.

Reg Walker (MBBS '45) writes that in April 2006 his grandson Christopher Bradley (BMusStud '06) received his Bachelor of Music Studies. Reg performed the carillon recital at Christopher's graduation ceremony. Reg has been connected with the carillon since 1942 when he was first appointed as assistant carillonist. He says this is the first time in the history of the University that a grandfather has given the carillon recital for his grandson.

Dr Grace Warren (MBBS '54, DM '85) obtained a Master of Surgery in 1972 for her work with neuropathic bone lesions in leprosy patients. The University acknowledged her achievements in 1985 by conferring a Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa). The following year she received the Order of Australia. Grace began visiting Pakistan in 1967 and has returned there regularly to assist in their leprosy programs. On 23 March 2005 the

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan conferred on Grace the award of Sitara-i-Pakistan (Star of Pakistan).

Eric F Wilson (BEc '41), retired Reserve Bank officer, was recently elected patron of the University of Sydney Athletics Club, succeeding the late Myer Rosenblum. Eric was awarded a Blue three times before World War II. After three and a half years as a prisoner of war in Malaya, he resumed competition walking for the University. He gave this away in 1949 and later became a track judge for University and interclub athletic competition and an international walk judge. He married in 1951, and he and Helen Wilson (MA '95) have four children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

1930s

Margaret Mackie (BA '37 DipEd '40) is 91 years-old and she is still teaching philosophy to children.

Eleanor McSwan OAM (BA '39, DipEd '40) commenced teaching in 1940, married in 1945, and returned to teaching in Maclean from 1954 to 1973. In 1969 she was one of the foundation members of the Maclean District History Society; she is now a life member. She has published 10 books on the history of the Lower Clarence region. In 1995 she was awarded an OAM for her service to the community. In May 2006 the E.H. (Lin) McSwan Research Centre was established in Eleanor's honour.

A daughter's chronicle

A hand-me-down gown ties Kath Bicknell into the past.

Walking down the aisle of the University of Sydney's historic Great Hall to accept her degree this year held particular significance for Arts graduate Kath Bicknell (BA '06). She was the fourth generation of woman graduates in her family.

Kath graduated wearing her great-grandmother's 100-year-old gown, hood and trencher.

"It was incredibly moving and symbolic to be part of a repeated act, in the same space, wearing the same gown, with so much history around me," she says.

Kath's great-grandmother, Catherine Vernon Farmer (BA 1908) has passed down a note describing her time studying French and Latin at the University a century ago, where gowns were worn each day.

"She may even have worn the gown after her graduation, when she worked as a teacher in Wagga Wagga," Kath says.

Kath's family connection with the University is embodied in the old Arts Faculty gown, hood and trencher which Kath describes as "faded, moth-eaten and very, very special."

The gown was stored away after Catherine Farmer's time. Over 60 years later, it was worn by Catherine's daughter, (Kath Bicknell's grandmother) Diana Vernon Watson (BA '71), who followed in

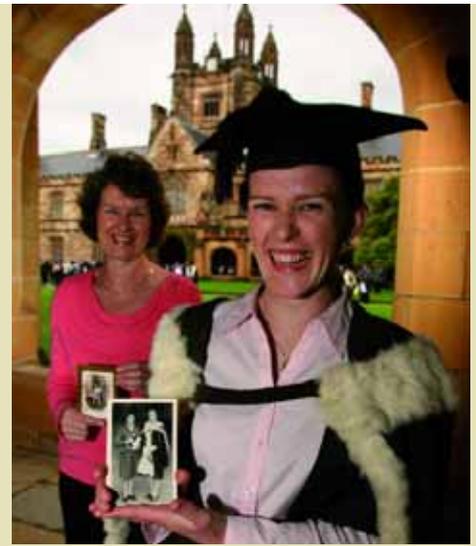


photo: Ted Sealy

Arts graduate Kath Bicknell ... moved by her family's history.

her mother's footsteps when she attended the University as a mature-age student in her 50s.

One of Diana's four children, Catherine Wilson (BA '70) had also worn the old gown to her graduation ceremony.

All four of Diana's children attended the University of Sydney, with Kath's mother, Anne Bicknell, nee Watson, (MBBS) graduating in 1978.

Kath Bicknell now works in the Graduate Program at the Department of Health and Ageing and is also in a trial Australian Institute of Sports cycling development squad.

Kath doesn't plan to start the fifth generation of women graduates any time soon. But when she does, the gown will be waiting.

— Fran Molloy

POSTCARD FROM THE PAST: 1905 – 1908



Catherine Vernon Farmer ... graduated with a BA in 1908.

Things are rather primitive in the women's quarters. Situated in an old cottage there were rooms barely furnished which acted as a common room, with no amenities as there are now in Manning House. Mrs Fidler, who had an office in one room, acted as a tutor and advisor if help was wanted by the students in studies or problems. Tea could be made in what was known as the kitchen, where C took her lunch. Students were expected to wear gowns to lectures and dressing was conservative.

note by Catherine Vernon Farmer

SEPTEMBER 19

Malaysia Alumni Reunion Reception Mandarin Oriental

www.usyd.edu.au/alumosevents

SEPTEMBER 19

Chinese Studies Alumni Association annual general meeting

Guest speaker: Rory Macpherson
6pm, Fifth Floor Common Room,
MacCallum Building,
University of Sydney.

SEPTEMBER 27

Singapore Alumni Reunion Reception

The Pines Ballroom, The Pines,
www.usyd.edu.au/alumosevents

SEPTEMBER 29

Philadelphia (USA) Alumni Reception

Guest speaker: Alan Ruby
(BA '72, Dip Ed '73)
Philadelphia Club, Philadelphia
Email: sup@usyd.edu.au

SEPTEMBER 30

1966 Chemical Engineering Undergraduates Reunion

Email: Richard.Flook@omya.com
or
arlene.gofer@tafensw.edu.au2

OCTOBER 12

Postgraduate Science Open Night

Eastern Avenue Complex, University
of Sydney, 5.30pm – 8.30pm.

OCTOBER 19

Exhibition Opening: The Lebanon 6pm at the Nicholson Museum.

Guest speaker: Dr Paul Reynolds.
Bookings essential.
Phone (02) 9351 2812 or email:
michael.turner@arts.usyd.edu.au

OCTOBER 12

100 Years Celebration: Physical
Education and Health Education at
Sydney Teachers College and the
University of Sydney (see page 13).
Phone: (02) 9351 6374
Email: m.pickup@edfac.usyd.edu.au



OCTOBER 24

Dr Charles Perkins AO Annual Memorial Oration

6 pm. The Great Hall
Complimentary admission for
alumni, registration is essential.
RSVP: (02) 9351 2673
Email: rsvp@usyd.edu.au

OCTOBER 25

Hidden Intelligence in Pervasive Computing

Speaker: A/P Judy Kay.
Eastern Ave Auditorium at 5.45pm.
Bookings essential.
Phone (02) 9351 3021 or
email info@science.usyd.edu.au.

OCTOBER 28

1976 Law Graduates Reunion

Phone: +61 2 9351 0327
Email: alumni@law.usyd.edu.au

OCTOBER 28

UK Alumni Association Autumn Reception

Contact: Kerrie Botley,
Phone: +44 20 72016882
Email: Kerrie.Botley@cqsm.com

OCTOBER 30

China Alumni Reunion Dinner (Shanghai)

Sky Ballroom, Shanghai Grand Theatre
www.usyd.edu.au/alumosevents

NOVEMBER 1

Graduate Connection Breakfast

Guest speaker: Michael Hawker
(BSc '83).
Phone: (02) 9351 2673
Email rsvp@usyd.edu.au

NOVEMBER 3

Animalia 2006, Conservatorium of Music

James Morrison performs with
the Australian Youth Orchestra, in
the Veterinary Science Foundation's
annual fundraising concert.
Contact (02) 9351 8026.



NOVEMBER 11

Class of '66 reunion Agricultural Science ('67 graduates).

Sydney University Union.
Contact: John Quilty,
10 Turner St, Warnbro, WA 6169.
Email: jq@westnet.com.au

NOVEMBER 28

2006 Blue and Gold Xmas Hamper Golf Day at La Perouse

Contact: Donna McIntyre
(02) 9351 4969 or email
d.mcintyre@susport.usyd.edu.au

NOVEMBER 1

Hong Kong Alumni Reunion Dinner

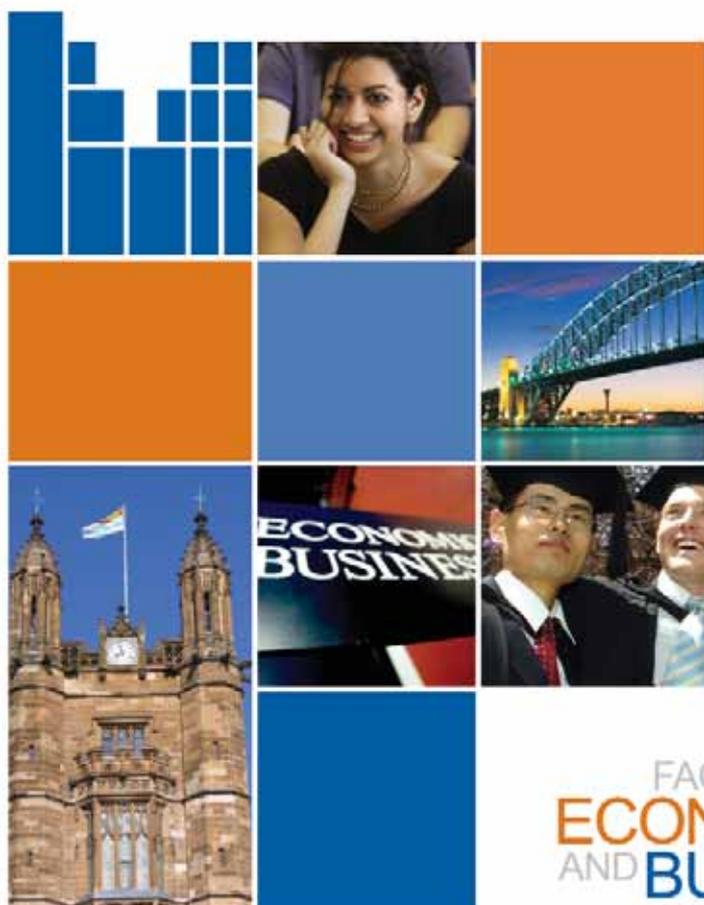
Hong Kong Bankers Club,
www.usyd.edu.au/alumosevents

DECEMBER 9

Messiah, Sydney University Graduate Choir

Great Hall, University of Sydney
Contact: MCA Ticketing.
Phone: 1300 306 776 or
www.mca-tix.com

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