



Deal needed to protect marine life

By SHELLY SIMONDS

Sea turtle populations could dwindle to dangerous levels if Australia doesn't reach agreement with neighbouring countries to protect them, according to Dr Sali Bache, a research fellow in the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES).

Sea turtles are a migratory species, some travelling as far as Mexico and back, so international cooperation is vital to protect them.

"It's not enough just to have good domestic laws in place because, if other countries don't, you're going to risk losing your endangered species anyway," she said.

Australia has the opportunity to push for international protection of sea turtles and other migratory species at a meeting in Malaysia next month. Australia will meet with southeast Asian and Indian Ocean countries as part of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, to discuss a regional agreement.

"Australia is taking a lead in coordinating the international discussions, but its position on the content of the proposed agreement has been disappointing. Hopefully a strengthened document will emerge from the forthcoming meeting in Malaysia," Dr Bache said.

Dr Bache said any effective agreement had to bring together conservation and fisheries interests.

"It's through the fisheries regulators that a lot of the power is wielded because they control quotas. My research shows that in the future it will be vital to link this group together with conservationists," she said.

Dr Bache recently completed a PhD in the ANU's Graduate Program in Public Policy. Her thesis looked at the issue of fisheries bycatch with an emphasis on mammals caught accidentally during commercial fishing.

A number of mammals are affected by commercial fishing — dolphins are one of the best-known examples. Other wildlife often caught in commercial fishing include albatrosses, whales, dugongs, sharks, sea lions and some seals — although Dr Bache said seals are usually crafty and agile enough to escape fishing nets.

Sea turtles, however, don't have the dexterity or the range of movement to escape the nets used by shrimp trawlers or the longlines used in deep-sea fishing, Dr Bache said. They are also one of the least understood species in terms of their migratory patterns and population size.

The extent of the impact of commercial fishing on sea turtles is unknown, but Dr Bache cited estimates that, out of 40,000 turtles captured by Japanese longline tuna boats each year, about 17,000 are thought to die. Spanish boats fishing swordfish in the Mediterranean are estimated to capture around 20,000 turtles out of which about 7,000 die.

"This is not to say that longline sea turtle bycatch does not also happen in Australia. But once again we just don't have any reliable data," she said.

Leatherback turtles were one of the two main species caught in longlines. Dr Bache said that research just published in *Nature* showed that in 1982 there were 115,000 adult leatherback females in the world. By 1996 there were only 34,500 and this downward trend was continuing. The paper argued that if leatherback sea turtles were to survive, fisheries bycatch needed to be reduced 100-fold.

"Action from individual nations is no longer enough — the migratory and critically endangered nature of these species means they need rapid and effective international action to stem their decline, and perhaps imminent extinction," Dr Bache said.

Beating a new path at CSM

By SHELLY SIMONDS

Samba, Fume Fume, Teka, Kpalango — these are some of the exotic sounds that have been drifting out of the Canberra School of Music (CSM) recently. Now, thanks to a collaboration with the Faculty of Asian Studies, the School is bringing a new beat to other parts of the University as well.

Gary France, Head of the Percussion and Brass Departments, has helped boost the profile of world music in the CSM by incorporating indigenous music from a range of countries into the music curriculum.

He also joined with Amrih Widodo of the Southeast Asia Centre in the Faculty of Asian Studies to establish the World Music Ensemble. Mr France said the ensemble was a clearinghouse for students of various backgrounds to come together and perform the music of diverse cultures. It included several students from Asian Studies, some of whom have limited musical background.

"We established the World Music Ensemble to expose students to world music in a hands-on way. It also leaves students with an appreciation and deep understanding of the societies that they study academically," Mr France said.

The ensemble gave its first performance this month and hopes to perform again in October with Indonesian ensemble, Krakatau.

Mr France, who has studied indigenous music in India, Africa, Indonesia, China and the US, said that today's increasing multiculturalism made it important for musicians to study world music.

Mr France has two main goals in teaching world music: to teach the importance of preserving indigenous art in its pure form, and to impart an understanding of the globalisation of culture and the fusion of musical traditions.

"When you internalise the music of another culture and perform it, something new comes out of you incorporating the old and the



Drumming up interest: Gary France, Head of the Percussion and Brass Departments.

new," he said. Mr France joined the CSM in 1998 and has focused on building the percussion department's local and national profile. He started a percussion tuition program for pre-tertiary students and formed a junior and a community ensemble.

The CSM percussion ensemble has gained a local profile, performing recently at a Canberra Raiders game. Mr France has drummed up interest nationally by going on tour with ANU students and performing national broadcasts on ABC Classic FM.

"It's a big effort, bigger than what's normally required. But it's what you have to do to build a program," he said.

The effort has paid off with nine students enrolled today compared to one student two years ago. This year the percussion program enrolled its

first international student from Taiwan.

Mr France said he believed in getting the best performances from his students by investing his time in their learning. Students in the percussion department have at least eight contact hours with him a week. Spending this amount of time meant he became a mentor as well as a teacher.

"We're helping young people make the transition to independence," he said. "We deal with everything from learning how to get out of bed and get to class, to how to get out on a stage and perform like a world-class musician. We're trying to create exceptional performers — the Olympians of the percussion profession — and this takes individual attention and coaching."

Sexy flowers lure lusty bees on a promise

By ANNA MEYER*

Scientists have discovered that pollen is not the only thing bees are after when they land on certain flowers. Certain tricky plants have developed chemicals to mimic the sex pheromones of female bees, so the males try to mate with the flowers and pollen is successfully transferred from one plant to another.

A postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Botany and Zoology at the ANU, Dr Florian Schiestl, is part of a research team investigating plants such as *Ophrys* orchid, that appear to be

irresistible to certain male insects, to determine how some plants manage to fool insects so well.

Their research has discovered that flowers of one European species of *Ophrys* orchid, *O. sphegodes*, are attractive to its pollinator, the bee *Andrena nigroaenea* because the flowers produce exactly the same compounds, and in similar relative proportions as those in the sex pheromone of the female bee.

The research used a process known as gas chromatography-electroantennographic detection, that involved exposing the

antennae of the male pollinator insect to different chemicals. If the receptor cell in the antennae "smells" a compound, a measurable current is produced.

Only a few orchids use this system of sexual mimicry to attract pollinators — one genus in Europe and nine in Australia. The next step is to look at Australian species of *Ophrys* orchids, to see whether the results apply here too.

"It's a specific system, each flower species has its own insect species," Dr Schiestl said.

The team's findings were published in *Nature*, where they

mention that the results "shed new light on the evolution of this fascinating insect-plant relationship".

Their article said the compounds involved in the chemical mimicry — common straight-chain saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons — "are also part of the plant surface wax, where their primary role is to prevent the loss of water".

Dr Schiestl and his co-workers propose that "in an ancestor of *Ophrys*, an occasional mutant produced a combination that happened to resemble that of the

sex pheromone of the pollinator species, and natural selection would have favoured further plant mutants with a hydrocarbon pattern with an even closer resemblance" the article said.

Dr Schiestl said the bees don't really benefit from the arrangement.

"The flower is basically parasitising the bee," he said. "But the bees will learn to avoid the flowers and only try mating with the flowers a few times each."

* Anna Meyer is a student at the ANU's National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science.

Quiet achiever began CSM jazz studies

A man whose influence on jazz in Canberra, Australia and beyond will never be fully measurable, died of cancer at his home in Canberra on May 29, after being diagnosed with the disease in January.

A quintessentially quiet American, Don Johnson lobbied for, wrote, introduced and headed for its formative years the jazz studies course at the Canberra School of Music.

Many of the jazz studies graduates during his involvement with the course, from 1985 to 1988, are members of what is recognised in Sydney as "the Canberra phenomenon" and are, in their turn, influencing the development of the art. Johnson was born and educated in the United States, graduating in 1966 as bachelor of music, majoring in music education, from the University of North Carolina.

While still a classical student and still in his late teens he went "on the road" with the big bands of Charlie Spivak, Art Mooney and Ray Eberle and in Judy Garland's touring backing band, as both player and arranger, between 1959 and 1962. He was a scholarship student at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and completed his degree at North Carolina while teaching in local schools.

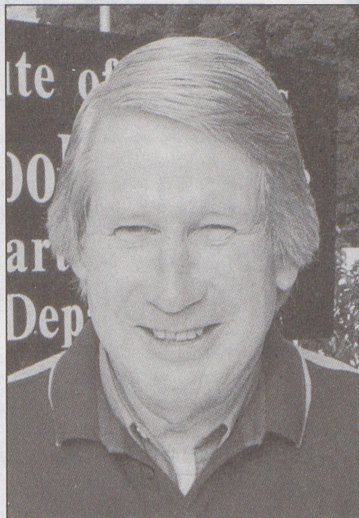
From 1960-63 he was principal trumpet with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. In 1968 he came to Australia as principal trumpet with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. Ten years later he was appointed lecturer in trumpet at the Canberra School of Music. He subsequently became a master of music in jazz from The

Australian National University in 1996, bachelor of education, at graduate level, from the University of Canberra and a registered teacher in NSW and the ACT in 1998. He had retired from the CSM to pursue the bachelor of education degree.

He was instrumental in establishing the masters degree in jazz performing and arranging and composition at the ANU because, as he said, "if we are teaching these highly talented young people we should have appropriate academic qualifications". Most of the academic staff during his time also took the degree. He resumed teaching at Radford College, a Church of England grammar school, and with the ACT Department of Education and Training in the instrumental music program. In both roles he pursued his interest in, and enthusiasm for, development of big bands.

While his academic qualifications were extensive it was his talent as a trumpeter and flugelhorn player in both classical and jazz idioms, and his empathy with his students at every level, which especially marked him. He was an outstanding contradiction of George Bernard Shaw's principle that "those who can do and those who cannot teach".

A highlight in a career of many highlights was his guidance of the Canberra School of Music Big Band to a win in a national competition in 1995 for the right to represent Australia at the 1996 Monterey [California] Jazz Festival. It also toured schools, high schools and universities in California that had reputable jazz studies courses.



OBITUARY
Don Johnson
b. Chicago, Illinois, August 7 1939
— d. Canberra, May 29 2000.

After being backed by the CSM Big Band at the University of California Berkeley and in Fresno, the international trombonist Bill Watrous said that if he ever toured Australia he wanted "this band" behind him. It was one of many tributes paid by internationally recognised musicians and educators, on that tour. They included Bill Holman, who by coincidence was at a Monterey concert at which the band played some of his arrangements from the band book. He expressed his pleasure.

After a concert at San Diego State University, pre-eminent in jazz

education, a line-backer-sized African-American alto saxophonist glowered at me (as tour manager) and, with expletives deleted, asked: "How come your guys are playing our music better than we play it?"

Johnson conducted, recorded with and backed national and international musicians and played solo and small group concert and recording sessions, bridging classical and jazz throughout his career. They included appearances at many jazz festivals, at the International Jazz Educators conference in Perth and with many leading Australian performers such as Ricky May, George Golla, Julian Lee and the Morrison brothers.

His classical CV includes appearances with the Australian Chamber Orchestra at the 1980 Adelaide Festival, with the Royal London Ballet orchestra behind Rudolph Nureyev in 1976.

Space precludes detailing the extent of his activity, but a close relationship with him from the time of the establishment of the jazz studies course led to an awareness of the range of his talents, about which he was personally reticent. It also gave the opportunity to watch how people reacted to the recognition of his musicianship.

During his illness his family was comforted by the warmth of support shown from a wide representation within the music community, including cards from young music students whose lives he had touched. This was emphasised at his memorial service on Friday, June 2, at which the manner and effectiveness of his teaching at all age levels was accentuated by a succession of speakers.

Musical tributes were played by former teaching colleague Harold Luebke on saxophone and Craig Scott on bass, "My Funny Valentine"; *The Idea of North* (Trish Delaney Brown, Megan Corson, Nick Begbie and Andrew Piper — all jazz studies graduates); "The Irish Blessing", and a track from Gery Scott's "A Lot of Living to Do", on which Johnson played flugelhorn in "Here's That Rainy Day".

Don Johnson is survived by his widow, Florence, son Alex, daughter Anna, daughter-in-law Christina and two grand-daughters, Jessica, 4, and Charlotte, 18 months, sister Sally Beaty, and by his mother Monterey, who travelled from Florida to be with the family.

Michael Foster

Em. Prof. Oskar Spate

ANU Emeritus Professor Oskar Hermann Christian Spate passed away on May 29, 2000 after a distinguished career in geography. A former director of the Research School of Pacific Studies, he retired in 1976. An obituary will be published in the next edition of *The ANU Reporter*.

ANU Reporter

Published by the
ANU Public Affairs Division

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The ANU Reporter is published
throughout the academic year.

The next issue of the
ANU Reporter
will be published
on Friday 21 July 2000.

Deadline for contributions
is Wednesday 12 July 2000.



THE
AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

Printed by Canprint

ISSN 0727-386X.
Print Post Approved PP 255003/0130

VC's VIEW

The Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) at ANU has identified areas of research for intensified effort through additions to the recurrent base in funding. This strategic planing ensures that the Institute is focused on areas of national significance and growth.

The Institute Planning Committee (IPC) included internal and external members and received submissions from all Research Schools in the Institute. The Committee found that the submissions were of a very high standard and covered a number of very significant research initiatives.

I will be keeping the Committee's recommendations very much in mind as I assess the bids in the Plan for Growth. Several bids for funding from the Plan for Growth made reference to the IPC submissions and synergies between the IPC and the Plan will be important.

The IPC has recommended an addition to base of \$0.5 million in 2001 rising to \$1 million to base from 2001 for the Research School of Information Sciences and Engineering (RSISE) for research in areas including telecommunications, with an emphasis on computer science-based work. This recognises the national significance of the rapidly growing area of information technology as a research priority. RSISE's external earnings record is strong and the School's postgraduate numbers are above the IAS average. This funding will be a springboard for future growth and self-reliance.

Another strong performer in external earnings, the Research School of Social Sciences, has had \$0.5 added to its funding base from 2001, which will be directed to the Regulatory

Institutions Network (RegNet). This proposal is part of a cross-campus initiative to create a critical mass of cross-disciplinary researchers in the area of regulation and will be significant in attracting higher degree research students and generating grants to support research of major value to Australia.

A provisional allocation of \$1.2 million to base for 2001 and \$1.5 million to base for 2002 has been recommended for research on the environment — carried out in the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies together with the Research School of Earth Sciences, the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies and the Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering. Several bids in the Plan for Growth have also focused on the environment and may well bring The Faculties into collaboration with the IAS participants and with major contributors from other parts of the University in this vital area of research.

The Committee recommended that the Research School of Biological Sciences be given a \$1 million addition to base for a Biotechnology Research Centre to incorporate, among other things, research programs in biorobotics, bioenergetics, functional genomics and ecophysiology.

The Committee spent considerable time discussing the distinctive contribution that the IAS could make in the highly competitive areas of bioinformatics and biotechnology. This led to the recommendation for RSBS and also to one for a provision of \$0.8 million to base from 2001 in support of a Centre for Bio-information Science to be formed by the John Curtin School of Medical Research

and the School of Mathematical Sciences.

The Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics' distinctive contribution to Australia's role was recognised with a recommendation for a \$0.2 million addition to base from 2001 to assist RSAA's Cosmology Initiative. The Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies was recommended for \$0.4 million one-off funding for 2001 to assist work in governance in the Asia Pacific region. One-off funding of \$0.4 million was also recommended for the Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering to support the external fund raising of that School.

The Committee recommended the Research School of Chemistry have one-off funding of \$0.25 million for 2001 to take advantage of developments in Computational Chemistry connected with the Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC). \$0.33 million a year for three years has been set aside for support of the Institute's role in the University's participation in APAC.

The IPC process is a significant element in ensuring that the Strategic Directions of the University are realised. My Plan for Growth will complement this. The University is moving determinedly forward to its target of greater self-reliance. The key to success in this is the identification of the areas of our greatest strengths and applying our resources to them.

Deane Terrell



ANU DIARY

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ANU LITERARY EVENTS

Thursday 20 July

Desmond Ball and Hamish McDonald will launch their new book

Death in Balibo Lies in Canberra (Allen & Unwin)

at a lunch at 12.30pm in The Common Room, University House
Tickets \$28 from ANU Ticketing telephone 6249 5491

Lord Alistair McAlpine will be in Canberra to launch his book

Bagman to Swagman (Allen & Unwin)

Date and venue to be advised

Enquiries to Anna Damiano telephone 6249 0794
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UN calls on ANU expert in E. Timor

Although the fighting has abated in East Timor, the legal quagmire over land ownership is just beginning, one recent ANU visitor to the area found.

Daniel Fitzpatrick, a lecturer in the Faculty of Law, has recently returned from a three-month United Nations posting in Dili to assess the land title situation. He arrived in Dili in January to find that almost all land title records had been destroyed by militia during the crisis.

"They literally went into every land title office, carried out documents, and burned them in the streets. It was quite intentional and systematic," he said.

The destruction of documents, coupled with conflicting land claims, has created huge uncertainty about property ownership in East Timor. Until this was resolved, Mr Fitzpatrick said businesses would be hesitant to invest in rebuilding the country.

Conflicting land claims have emerged since independence, including those based on traditional ownership, Portuguese title and land titles granted during Indonesian occupation. The latter cover both legitimate owners and illegitimate owners, including people granted land confiscated by the Indonesian military. Mr Fitzpatrick said these claims could be made invalid because they were acquired in bad faith.

To further complicate matters, the conflict displaced over 600,000 people, many of whom are returning to live in abandoned buildings and vacant land. Some of these people may be able to make claims based on their occupation of unoccupied land.

Other difficult situations involve East Timorese forcibly relocated during Indonesian rule. In some cases there is conflict between the return of ancestral land and the status of more recent occupiers. In addition, Indonesians who have fled East Timor could return to claim land.

East Timor is faced with developing a legal framework to deal with all of these situations, Mr Fitzpatrick said. He recently submitted a report to the UN analysing the types and nature of land claims in East Timor.

In addition to writing the report, Mr Fitzpatrick has been teaching this semester and the East Timor experience has given him a new perspective to share with students. "Year after year they tell me how boring title law is, but this year I had some glaring evidence to use to convince them that it's not."

SHELLY SIMONDS

Virtual centre's real gains in materials sciences studies

Paper clothes, biosynthetic enzymes, tough ceramics, solar cells and environmentally friendly detergents are some of the products studied and produced by the ANU's "virtual" Centre for Science and Engineering of Materials (CSEM).

The Centre, established in 1995, is now starting to "take-off" and considerable cross-campus research collaboration in materials science and engineering is being achieved, newly appointed director, Dr Phil Evans said.

The CSEM brings together the ANU's expertise in the field of materials sciences. Research ranges from arrangement of fundamental atomic structures for molecular building blocks of matter to the synthesis and characterisation of materials with desirable properties for technological applications and to the design and manufacture of complex devices and structures.

"This vertical integration of expertise does not exist anywhere else in the world," Dr Evans said. "And we are now starting to see a growing sense of community among the diverse and widely separated science groups on campus, and quite large interdisciplinary research projects are starting to emerge."

Materials research is spread across the Research Schools of Physical Sci-

ences and Engineering, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, and Biological Sciences; the John Curtin School of Medical Research; the Departments of Physics, Engineering, Chemistry, Forestry and Geology in the Faculties and the Materials Workshops of the Institute of Arts.

"The materials being studied are as diverse as self-assembling periodic



Photo: Phil Evans

Recycled fashion: a cork jacket demonstrating the diverse use of recycled material.

microstructures, surfactants, intercalated and incommensurate layered misfit compounds, solid electrolytes, coatings, thin films and membranes, polymers and polymer blends, electronic and optical materials, geo- and bio-materials and composites," Dr Evans said.

Dr Evans was appointed to the three-year term as director in April. He aims to increase enthusiasm for collaboration of teams university wide. The appointment of a promotions officer and an administrative assistant will also boost the awareness of the Centre on campus and help sell the ANU's expertise to industry and potential post-graduates.

"CSEM is an experiment — a new way of doing things for the ANU," Dr Evans said. "This structure is more fluid and more in tune with the way government and industry are now thinking."

Graduate numbers are also growing, and the Centre is planning to launch an interdisciplinary undergraduate program in materials, where students will gain a Bachelor of Science in Materials. "CSEM is demonstrating that the Faculties and the Institute can work together to produce outcomes that are greater than the sum of their parts."

TERESA BELCHER

NCEPH to revisit '80s survey

Researchers are keen to know the whereabouts of women office workers who were employed at the ANU in the early 1980s to ask them to participate in a 20-year follow-up study.

National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) PhD student, Ms Marluce Silva, is undertaking this investigation.

The study is a continuation of her supervisor Dr Gabriele Bammer's work on the relationship between the introduction of Video Display Units in the ANU workplace and an increase in the incidence of musculoskeletal problems.

"Our main objective is to address the long-term effects of work-related neck and upper-body disorders," Ms Silva said. "There is little data about the impact of these problems in the lives of working women throughout time."

When computers were being introduced in the early '80s, Australia had a huge increase in reports of musculoskeletal problems, including Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI).

"We want to talk to the women who worked in these situations, and find out if they experience any related problems today, and if they have had an impact on their lives," Ms Silva said. "It is also essential that those who did not experience any problems are also located so that we can document their experiences and compare them with those who had problems."

A total of 977 women employed as secretaries, typists and clerks were studied and Ms Silva is hoping to locate at least 80 per cent of them. Some will still be employed at the ANU, but most will have moved on.

"The main problem will be locating those women who have since married and changed surnames," Ms Silva said.

"We need to obtain the complete

name and address of these women as the survey will be conducted as a postal questionnaire.

Basically, any information will help us — even if it is just a change of name or information about where they were originally from."

"We are confident that a large proportion will be located with information provided by former work colleagues and friends at the University."

As a preliminary study to this larger investigation, Ms Silva conducted a survey last year with women who were not employed at the ANU in the early '80s. Results from this survey indicated that neck and upper-body problems are still very common among women office workers.

TERESA BELCHER

World leader to head Centre

One of the world's leading experts on health risks from global change is to return to Australia next year to head the ANU's National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH).

Professor Tony McMichael, currently Professor of Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK, is a medical graduate from Adelaide. Prof McMichael becomes Director of NCEPH in mid-2001.

ANU's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deane Terrell, said Prof McMichael's appointment was important not only for the ANU but also for health research in Australia.

Prof McMichael's previous appointments have been at the University of North Carolina (1972-76), the Australian CSIRO Division of Human Nutrition (1976-86), and the University of Adelaide (1986-93).

His research interests over 30 years

have encompassed mental health problems, the causes of occupational diseases, studies of diet and cancer, and environmental epidemiology.

Queen's Birthday Honours

Five ANU people were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours last week.

Three Professors were made Officers (AO) in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies, Professor Sue Serjeantson, at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, received her honour for service to science. Prof Henry Nix, former Director of the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, was honoured for his service to the environment. Professor Bob Douglas

IN BRIEF

The Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies (ANCLAS) will hold a conference: "Australia and Latin America: Affinity through understanding and action" on June 20-21 in the Humanities Research Centre. The inaugural ANCLAS Lecture will be delivered by the Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, and the keynote address by Dr Juan Jose Llach, Argentina's Minister for Education. For information contact John Gage at <john.gage@anu.edu.au>.

The Directors of University Pre-school & Child Care Centre, Norma Williams, and Heritage Early Childhood Centre, Alison Roach, have organised a professional development day for staff on Friday 7 July. For information contact the Centre at <unipresc@dynamite.com.au>.

The Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law will, for the first time, hold a joint conference with the American Society of International Law on 26-29 June. An informal dinner in Sydney will open the conference, after which the meeting will move to University House. For information contact the Centre for International and Public Law on 6249 0454.

A workshop, "Restorative Justice and Family Violence: New Ideas and Learning from the Past", sponsored by the Reshaping Australian Institutions Project, will be held at University House on 11-13 July. For information contact Heather Strang of the Law Program, Research School of Social Sciences at <heathers@coombs.anu.edu.au>.

The 6th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics will be held at ANU from 5-8 July. The meeting, "People and Nature: Operationalising Ecological Economics" is the first international ecological economics conference to be held in the Asia-Pacific region. For information see <www.anu.edu.au/cce/isee/registration.html>.

The Centre for the Mind will host "What Makes A Champion?" an international event from 3-6 September to coincide with the 2000 Olympic Games. Former South African president Nelson Mandela will open the event, aimed at creating an intellectual component permanently associated with the Olympic games. The program, in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney, will feature interactive forums, performances, and personal journeys.

received his honour for service to medicine.

Emeritus Prof Chris Bryant, from the National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science, was made a Member (AM) of the General Division for service to science communication, education and research in the field of parasitology.

Peter Grimshaw, from the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, received a Medal (OAM) in the General Division for service to industrial relations in the tertiary education sector and to the credit union movement.

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Library expands online resources

ANU academics, students and staff now have more facts and figures at their fingertips following recent expansion of online reference services provided through the Library.

Separate deals reached within the past few months have given anyone with a University internet address access to the full range of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) online reference material and the Oxford English Dictionary's online resources.

The ABS deal was a "whole of sector" arrangement with the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee to support academic and teaching work. Through the ABS's AusStats link, University users now have 24-hour access to the Bureau's publications and statistical collections and can freely copy, print and distribute material. The April deal was signed by 38 universities, including the ANU, and followed an agreement last year giving some universities access to the Bureau's confidentialised unit records (CURFS). The main difference between the new AusStats service and the CURF agreement, from a researcher's point of view, is that access to the CURFs is by special arrangement, while AusStats is freely available to participating students and university staff for academic and teaching purposes.

University users of the service will not be able to copy AusStats material for use in a sideline business, with any commercial or non-university purposes barred. Access to the AusStats site is at <www.abs.gov.au>; click on any of the AusStats buttons at the bottom of the page.

ANU Library Social Sciences and Humanities Information Access Librarian, Marianna Malot, said there were early indications that the deal would be very popular among the University's users. Two training courses held recently have been well attended, and the ABS has offered training courses for individual areas.

"What intrigued me was the range of interests; we had people from all over the place, not just those you would normally associate with statistics. It has been a major change, a really major development for the ABS," Ms Malot said.

From earlier this year, the Library has also been offering the Oxford English Dictionary online. The online Dictionary contains the complete A-Z sequence of the Second Edition, its three-volume Additions Series, and also draft material for the Third Edition. Revisions and new entries are added to the online dictionary every quarter.

There are 290,500 entries that describe English today and also record the history and development of the language; illustrate historical information with more than 2.4 million quotes; record the uses of writers from every part of the English-speaking world and at every level of the social or literary scale; and allow full-text searching and hypertext links to cross-referenced entries.

The dictionary is available through the Library's Web site or at <http://dictionary.oed.com/>.

SEAN DALY

Enzyme study may help in pesticides clean-up

Scientists at the Research School of Chemistry (RSC) are working towards engineering enzymes that will rapidly break down organophosphates — the compounds commonly used in pesticides.

The research may eventually be used to help reduce the harmful effects on plants and animals of run-off from pesticide spraying.

Dr David Ollis and members of the Protein Crystallography and Engineering Group in RSC have been working in collaboration with Dr John Oakshott at the CSIRO's Department of Entomology on an enzyme evolved in a common fly — giving it resistance to pesticides.

"Our CSIRO colleagues have discovered the source of organophosphate resistance in flies," Dr Ollis said.

"If we can understand how this process works, then we can use it to engineer our own enzyme."

Organophosphates are extremely toxic compounds and can last in the environment for several weeks. Nerve gas is one example of a dangerous organophosphate and, at present, humans have little resistance once it is released.

"There is a great deal of interest in being able to control the effect of nerve gas and to be able to degrade it rapidly," Dr Ollis said.

Recent advances in molecular biology and sequencing and mutagenesis techniques have allowed researchers to probe the structure and function of enzymes.

Dr Ollis' earlier work involved the isolation of an enzyme known as a hydrolase, used by bacteria to breakdown aromatic hydrocarbons.

His work showed that new enzymes could be formed from existing ones. Previously, there had been no apparent connection between different types of enzymes.

"This hydrolase had quite dif-

ferent substrates, but showed many similarities in its core to other types of enzymes.

"It has now become clear that enzymes can evolve one from another," Dr Ollis said.

"The question is can we use tools of molecular biology to develop new enzymes," Dr Ollis said.

"We want to be able to make enzymes for our purposes and be able to improve catalytic efficiency and substrate specificity.

"There is great potential to use enzymes for processes which currently use nasty solvents and high temperatures, and at the same time not generate unwanted by-products."

Dr Ollis said organisms evolved new enzymes to meet an environmental challenge.

"Basically what we are doing now, is something nature has been doing for millions of years."

TERESA BELCHER

Mower mechanics helping to explain physical properties

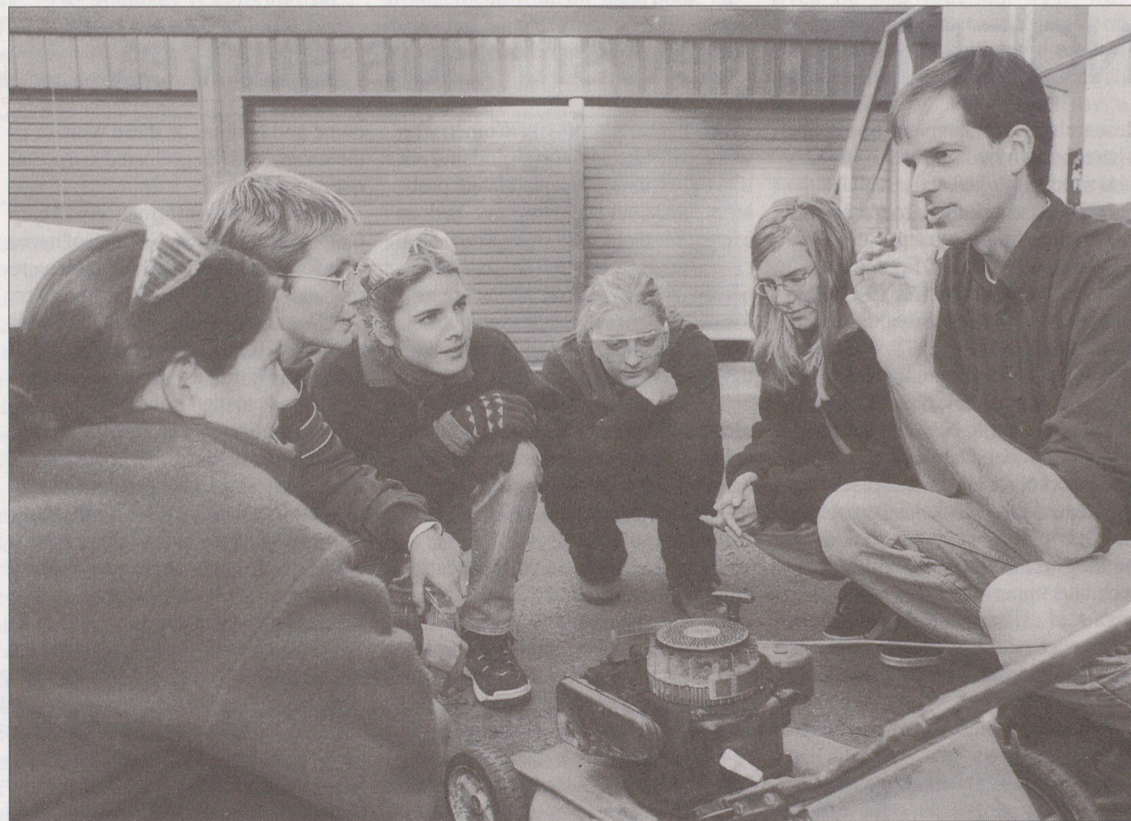


Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Grassroots graduates: Dr Paul Danehy explains conceptual physics to women students with the help of a lawnmower.

The Department of Physics is running a series of workshops designed to help women physics and engineering students get their hands dirty.

Organised and run by Dr Paul Danehy, the "Physics and Engineering Tinkering Program" workshops are aimed at increasing participants' confidence in tinkering with mechanical objects, while explaining important physics and engineering concepts.

They involve activities including taking apart a lawnmower engine to see how it works.

Dr Danehy said textbooks often used examples from engines to explain physics and engineering

concepts. "So if you don't understand how a piston and a cylinder work, how can you understand the concept of pressure?" he said.

Organisers also hope the workshops will promote networking among women in physics and engineering, with PhD and Honours students providing role models for younger students.

Dr Danehy hopes the end result will be to encourage more women to study physics and engineering at higher levels.

The workshops are supported by a grant from ANU's Equity and Diversity Unit.

ANNA MEYER

PEOPLE

Two members of the Research School of Chemistry have been awarded medals by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. Professor Alan Sargeson received the Leighton Memorial Medal for eminent service to chemistry in Australia. Professor Denis Evans was awarded the H.G. Smith Memorial Award for contribution to the development of a branch of chemical science.

The 1999 P.A.P. Moran Prize has been awarded to Dr Simon Christopher Barry for his PhD thesis "The Regression Analysis of Group Truncated Data". The prize, worth \$600, is awarded every three years to the candidate whose work is judged to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in probability or statistics.

Professor Allan Snyder, Director of the Centre of the Mind, has been selected as one of 13 outstanding Australian scientists of the 20th Century. The Cavalcade of Australian Scientists was announced at the Tall Poppy Dinner 2000 in Melbourne last month, and recognises scientists spanning the 20th century who have undertaken their major work in Australia.

Peter Hall, Professor of Statistics in the School of Mathematical Sciences, has been elected to the Royal Society of London. Prof Hall is one of the world's leading statisticians and the first Australian statistician elected since the late Prof P. A. P. Moran in 1975.

Ms Naminapu Maymuru White and Dr Geoffrey Lancaster have been selected as the H.C. Coombs Creative Arts Fellows for 2000. Ms White, a member of the Manggalili tribe, is an outstanding bark painter, wood carver and weaver. During her fellowship, she will exhibit her work and plans to hold workshops. Dr Lancaster, a classical pianist, will perform a series of recitals as part of the School of Music's concert series as well as conducting masterclasses on issues of historically-informed practice in the Classical Era.

The Department of Computer Science welcomes to ANU Philip Minter, National President of the Australian New Zealand Chambers of Commerce USA. Mr Minter will give a talk at the ANU entitled "Australian IT presence in the USA" on Wednesday 21 June at 4pm in Room N101, CSIT Building.

AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The Australia Institute is a non-profit policy research centre committed to a more just, sustainable and peaceful future. The Institute is seeking an Assistant Director to manage its small but busy office located at University House. The position involves a wide range of duties. Applicants should have strong office management and organisational skills and a high standard of computer literacy.

Salary is in the range \$35,000-\$45,000 p.a.
For further details please phone (02) 6249 6221 or
email: <mail@tai.org.au>.

Closing date for applications is 29 June 2000.
This is an anticipated vacancy.

Social studies of the world's largest gold mine

A generation ago, the economic historian Geoffrey Blainey published his classic studies of the Australian mining industry. His topics were the unique quality of each ore body, the technical solutions devised by engineers and chemists, relations between managers and workers, and the profitability of investments.

At that time he could assume a stable legislative regime and ignore the host society (since Aborigines and other land owners had quickly melted away).

The body of *Dilemmas of Development* comprises six studies of Porgera gold mine in Enga Province of the Papua New Guinea Highlands.

The contributors are social scientists, engaged by the company to advise on social and local political problems identified by management. In other ways too, their approach is radically different from Blainey's.

This is not mere academic fashion, but embodies the new priorities of mining, especially in Melanesia. On behalf of the mining industry, Rio Tinto's Leon Davis proclaimed in 1995 that managers needed "new competencies" in the social sciences, and warned that these "soft skills ... are, in fact, hard skills".

Porgera is one of the world's largest gold mines, although the ore (like others in Melanesia) is low-grade. Its geological and engineering problems do not inspire public debate.

Landowners, not landslides, pose the most serious threat to resource projects.

Again, capitalising this massive operation must have been difficult, but this is not discussed, nor is the mine's returns to investors, and only on page 32, for example, do we learn that Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) is 25 per cent owned by the Papua New Guinea Government.

DILEMMAS OF DEVELOPMENT: THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PORGERA GOLD MINE, 1989-1994



Colin Filer

Asia Pacific Press, 1999. \$19.95

From PJV's perspective, it is the cultures of the host societies (and the vagaries of national and provincial policies) which needs investigation. To fulfil legal requirements, and to anticipate local political difficulties, social scientists have been engaged for "social impact studies" at several stages of the mine's hectic life.

These studies are not to be attempted by the faint-hearted. Susanne Bonnell and Glenn Banks had to deal with an ineffective national government, the destruction of provincial government buildings and records, dubious or absent statistics on health and education, the rapid increase in the local population, and complex land-ownership.

Further "impact" (as Colin Filer explains in his introduction) wrongly implies a passive society, while social change may be as dynamic as PJV's engineering feats. By default, PJV provides the schools, health services, roads, bridges, training, scholarships normally offered by the public sector.

Villagers see the mine as their only chance for such benefits. Since it must behave rather like a government, relations between people and project are much more complex than those of patron and client, tenant and landlord.

The importance of these studies is not merely to document changes in the host society as it enjoys benefits and endures disruptions. These authors turn the paradigm around.

This approach becomes most explicit in John Burton's concluding

chapter, which reviews earlier reports in order to assess the mining industry's ability to adopt "soft skills".

Every manager wants to "learn the lessons of Bougainville", to avoid riot and rebellion, but none is certain what the lesson may be. Burton's broad experience lends great weight to his mainly negative judgment.

Typical managers cannot read social science monographs, and entrust social impact studies to relatively young consultants, whose field work is too late and much too fast to be comprehensive. (Environmental impacts are assessed by many more, and more senior, professionals.)

Their recommendations are couched in qualitative terms which exasperate the engineers who manage operations. Nor is it clear to whom their advice should be addressed.

There is commonly an interval of several months while reports are shunted, unread, from one office to another: they never reach the Community Relations Department in time to be helpful.

In any event the Community Relations Department is over-worked — and marginalised in the corporate structure — precisely when the construction phase is generating the most acute social and political tensions.

Despite this critique, Burton cherishes an optimistic belief that the industry can assimilate social and political information.

Thirty years ago, when large-scale

mining erupted in Bougainville, the eminent anthropologist Douglas Oliver complained that managers did not treat social and political relations with the same seriousness as bridge-building.

A remarkable CEO agreed, and tried to act on that advice. However, in each successive mining project, social and political analyses have been 'tacked on' (or not) to what remains essentially an engineering enterprise.

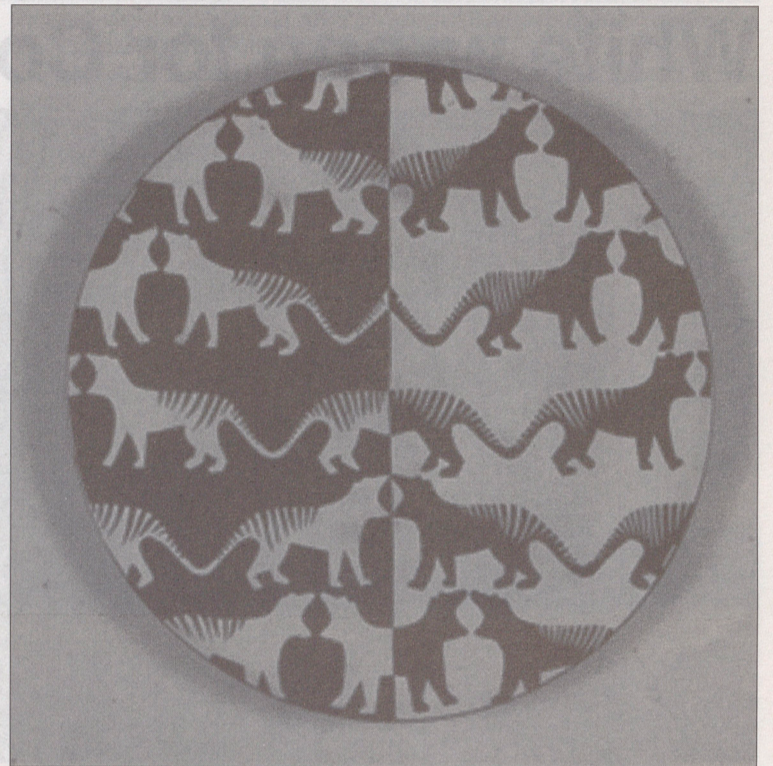
Consultants are engaged only when

the inexorable timetable of engineers and financiers has generated an undeniable problem.

It is clearly true, as managers complain, that "economically rational" behaviour is inhibited by cultural practices: but the blinkers of managers are not the least of these impediments.

Donald Denoon
Pacific and Asian History,
RSPAS

Glass artist's visions of Australian fauna



John Brekke, *The Tiger Vanishes No. 1*, 1999, blown glass, 54cm X 5cm

A vision of Australia as seen through the eyes of American glass artist John Brekke will be on display at the ANU's Drill Hall Gallery later this month.

The exhibition, entitled *John Brekke: Narrative Overlay*, presents Brekke's hand-blown glass discs that are sandblasted, etched and slumped. The works are imbued with colourful images such as Australian fauna, often overlaid with text. Like a traveller's journal, Brekke records through his medium of glass a personal response to his experience of Australia.

"I came here with a certain visual language to use as a starting point. The idea was that as I spent time in Australia, meeting people, getting to know the landscape it would colour the work I do."

The first thing to strike the viewer of his work is usually the surface and shape of the object, Mr Brekke said. Viewers gradually make out letters, and then words and eventually sentences come into focus.

"If you look at the object long

enough you start to pick up the story embedded in the glass," he said.

Mr Brekke has been in Australia on a Fulbright Scholarship, completing a Masters at the Canberra School of Art Glass Workshop.

Fulbright Scholarships, administered by The Australian-American Educational Foundation, are awarded for academic excellence in a given field with the aim of furthering mutual understanding between Australians and Americans through educational and cultural exchange.

"The Fulbright scholarship is geared toward cross-cultural exploration and the exchange of ideas. The Australian committee is especially open to a range of projects including the arts and music," Mr Brekke said.

Her Excellency Mrs Genta Hawkins Holmes, Ambassador of the United States of America will open the exhibition on 22 June at the Gallery.

The exhibition has been curated by Karen O'Clery and continues at the Drill Hall Gallery until Sunday 23 July.

French mention for ANU art site

French newspaper *Le Monde* recently mentioned the "Artserve" Web site of Professor Michael Greenhalgh as one of the 15 best art Internet sites in the world.

The article grouped the site with others including the Louvre, Museum of Modern Art in New York,

Beaubourg, Guggenheim, the Metropolitan and the Hermitage.

Prof Greenhalgh, the Sir William Dobell Professor of Art History in the Faculty of Arts, said the article was listing sites with paintings and his Artserve site was the only one mentioned in Australia.

WHO WROTE IT?

Brought to you by UNIVERSITY HOUSE

On her first day back in Sydney Leah went with Izzie to Bondi. The world shone with the light of picnics and Leah was delighted with everything she saw. The ordinariness of those little Bondi streets did not dismay her. She loved their mess, their crass. She liked the paspalum growing in the grass strips, the white clover with its rusty heart, the nettles poking out of chain-mail fences. A man in a cotton singlet was asleep in a kitchen chair on the footpath and around the corner came a nanny-goat, its chain rattling behind it, pursued by a woman in Sunday curlers and her husband's dressing gown.

"You mongrel," said the woman to the clever goat. "Lovely day," she said to Leah

The first entry to identify the above piece and its author, drawn after the close of entries on Wednesday 26 July, will receive a \$30 voucher from University House. Entries should be emailed or sent to the Editor (see page 2 for contact details).

The Who Wrote It? of 19 May, was won by Beth Mason. The text was an excerpt from a paper by Paul Dirac published in 1929 in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*. Nowadays, following advances in mathematics and computation, anybody can carry out on their personal computer the calculations that in 1929 Dirac found much too complicated.

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Promoting the University's achievements

During the past two years, every edition of *ANU Reporter* has carried a special profile of one academic or administrative area of the University. The series has tried to demonstrate the vitality and achievements of research and teaching at ANU, and of its support services, to staff and external readers of the paper.

It has been a fascinating series based on real news about the activities of each area. So real in fact has been the news that some of it has been picked up from *ANU Reporter* and published by the mainstream media.

In that sense, the series has

been an analogue for the work of the Public Affairs Division. Whether it is handling the myriad media enquiries we receive each year (371 in the first five months of this year), staging a public lecture (36 in 1999), organising exhibitions for the ANU's Drill Hall Gallery (15 in 1999), or linking up with our graduates, the public affairs team looks to maximise opportunities to promote the University.

In going about its daily business, our team is helping the University to not only tell local, national and international audiences about the achievements of its staff and students, but also to demonstrate that we are a

good member of the ACT neighbourhood.

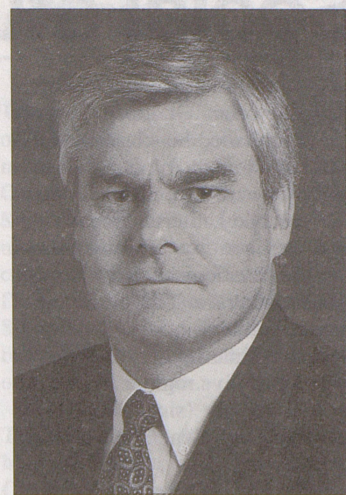
Just how that happens can be gauged from the following;

In 1999, the Australian media carried an average of 51.7 references to ANU each week — and the vast majority of those were about research. One survey has shown ANU to be the most-cited Australian university in the international media.

Also in 1999, more than 16,000 people visited the Drill Hall Gallery, 8000 attended a public lecture or literary event, 30,000 visited the ANU's Science Festival display, and another 1,500 attended the ANU-sponsored Science Forum. Functions

linked the University with its graduates in the UK, Asia and in Australia. There were links with schools, chess players, and the Lions Club of Canberra-Woden, which sponsors the annual Oratory Contest for ANU students. Visit <<http://www.anu.edu.au/pad/pubs/annreps/pad.html>> and <<http://www.anu.edu.au/pad/pubs/annreps/dhg.html>> to find out more.

The Division's web site publishes details of University events, summaries of daily media coverage, media releases, and editions of *ANU Reporter*. Bookmark <<http://www.anu.edu.au/pad/>> for your daily news fix.



Jim Mahoney
Director, Public Affairs Division

White wrong for Coombs art

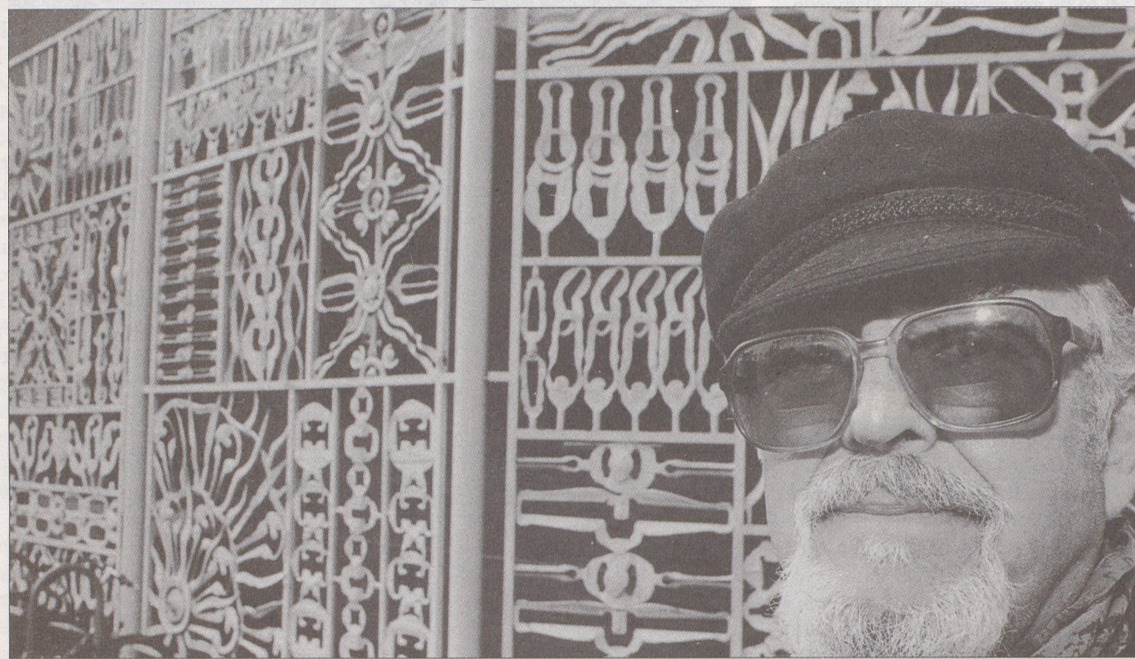


Photo: Bob Cooper, Comms Photography

Screen rights: Artist Matcham Skipper revisits his work for the first time since it was painted in 1972.

The metal screens at the front of the Coombs Building have never been quite right, according to the artist who sculpted them, Matcham Skipper.

Soon after they were completed and installed in the newly built building in 1972 the gun-metal grey panels were painted white — a colour they were never intended to be.

Now, through the collaboration of ANU Art Collection officer, David Boon, and Facilities and Services, the screens may finally return to the original look the artist intended.

The Art Collection, managed through the Public Affairs Division, is responsible for the care of the Univer-

sity's art collection. Mr Boon said he was approached about repainting the screens and learned that they were not originally white.

He contacted Mr Skipper and learned that the screens had been painted without his approval.

"He had painstakingly prepared the metal surface to achieve a certain colour and lustre and robustness — given that he galvanised them at one point in his elaborate process of surface treatment.

"Very unfortunately the head architect of the Coombs building project went away towards the end of the construction period and left the completion

of the project to another architect who quickly smothered Matcham Skipper's sculpture in white paint, much to Matcham's complete disgust."

The artist had not seen the screens until he returned to the ANU last week to discuss possible methods to remove the paint.

A final decision on whether the screens will return to their original metallic look will be made by the Director of Facilities and Services after a process of consultation with all parties involved. But Mr Boon said he was keen to see the work return to the look it was originally intended to be.

SEAN DALY

Project to improve kids' literacy

The ANU's Community Relations unit in the Public Affairs Division is joining with the ACT Department of Education to introduce a project to promote literacy and reading among Canberra's children and foster links with local schools.

The Books for Kids project developed from a concept by New Zealand author, Alan Duff, who was a guest speaker at an ANU Literary Event held at the New Zealand High Commission last year. Mr Duff is the author of the popular books *Once Were Warriors* and *Both Sides of the Moon*.

Mr Duff spoke about a project, Books in Homes, being run in New Zealand that has donated over 450,000 high quality books to children in

bookless homes since 1992. It is promoted in schools by sporting and media stars, giving books and reading credibility for children. Surveys have noted that the program has improved both the behaviour of students and their reading ability. The New Zealand Ministry of Education and teachers have commended the program.

ANU Community Relations manager, Anna Damiano, has been liaising with the ACT Department of Education, through its Literacy and Numeracy Team, about a Canberra-based project along similar lines.

"A project of this kind has a great deal of potential to help all Canberra kids enjoy reading books and can improve their literacy skills as a result,"

Literacy and Numeracy Team Leader, Carol Cockburn, said.

The ANU project will begin by establishing focus groups of teachers, parents and students, to determine whether schools would be interested in participating, and the best way to implement the project. A pilot project on a smaller scale would then be trialled and evaluated before the full project is launched in early 2001.

"The project is an obvious one for the ANU to support," Ms Damiano said. "Improved literacy skills encourage children to learn and go on to higher education."

ANTHONY STEEPER
Community Relations and Media Liaison Assistant

Maximising ANU's media coverage

The ANU had the most media coverage, both domestically and internationally, of any Australian university last year, according to figures from media monitoring company Rehame.

The company's figures show the ANU had the highest number of mentions in the Australian electronic and print media and the international print media, with Melbourne and Sydney Universities second and third respectively.

Rehame said the ANU was mentioned 3,189 times in the Australian electronic media (television and radio) compared to Melbourne University's 2,136 and Sydney's 2,045.

The majority of these media references involve the ANU's Media Liaison office in the Public Affairs Division. The office focuses on generating positive media coverage for ANU academics, research and events.

It provides practical support for academics who want to publicise their work and advice for people planning a launch or public event at the ANU.

"Getting media coverage is not easy," Media Liaison officer, Clarissa Thorpe said. "The research or event must be of interest to the wider community. Media tracking has revealed that research stories dominate ANU media coverage — particularly stories involving medical discoveries, science research, politics and social research."

An average of two ANU press releases were issued each week, Ms Thorpe said.

"The idea is to tip off journalists

about interesting research or an important event that is of interest to the Canberra, national or international community."

Ms Thorpe said that, although issuing press releases was the most visible component of the media office's work, far more of her time was devoted to responding to enquiries from the media.

"Every day dozens of journalists ring asking for academics to comment on particular research areas. We field calls about just about any major media issue, for example — armed gunmen have just raided the Fijian parliament, does the ANU have an expert on the Fijian constitution? Is there an economist who can explain how the GST will effect the traditional nuclear family? Should defence spending be increased post East Timor? How do you encourage bats to move from a roost without distressing the young? How does a cancer tumour grow in the body? How does the High Court work?"

Ms Thorpe said the office produces an "Experts List" each year with details on academics willing to be interviewed on specific subjects.

"Journalists tell us the list is useful and if they find a 'good speaker' on a newsworthy topic, they are happy to return for further interviews," she said.

The media unit also provides media training, telling potential interviewees what to expect when a television crew shows up for a story, and how to prepare for a print or radio journalist interview.

SEAN DALY

ANU green

Strategies for Sustainability

DON'T FORGET

Nominations for the inaugural ANU Environmental Achievement Award close on 30th June 2000

For further information and a nomination form, see our website: www.anu.edu.au/facilities/anugreen/environmental_award_guidelines.html

Visitors made to feel welcome



Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Young business and political delegates from China visited the ANU last week as part of the Australia Asia Young Leaders Program (AAYLP), established to facilitate political exchanges and promote understanding of foreign politics, business and culture amongst young people with leadership potential in Australia and Asia.

As an internationally recognised University, the ANU attracts a large number of prominent visitors each year. High-level visitors expected in the next few months include Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid and former South African President, Nelson Mandela.

Their visits require a high degree of coordination, including liaison with government and university officials, to ensure the visitor's time at the University is a smooth and enjoyable experience.

The VIP Visits and Protocol Officer in the Public Affairs Division, June Pearson, is the primary contact for organising and coordinating visits to the University.

Ms Pearson said many visitors to the ANU were academics and administrators seeking to learn about its organisational structure and function,

as well as its research interests.

"It is also important for the University to have contacts," Ms Pearson said. "If we are hospitable to international visitors, then reciprocal invitations and collaborations often occur."

Ms Pearson said she averages one group a week and, in order to host each one successfully, she needs to look at the individual interests of the group, invite relevant staff, find venues and organise hospitality.

"One has to consider the protocol and be aware of the customs of the group," Ms Pearson said. "For example, diet is exceptionally important — making sure that there is nothing in a meal that may offend people's customs."

Ms Pearson, who has been in the position since November last year,

enjoys the variety that the job has to offer.

"One minute you are organising a jazz band, the next driving people around on a tour of the University, and the next coordinating the opening of a building."

There is also a great deal that needs to be considered on the protocol side of the job, including how to address a person, making sure the right people are invited to functions, the right people are sitting next to the dignitaries, and that the level of gift is appropriate.

"There are a set of University guidelines to follow," Ms Pearson said. "If you get all these things right, the visit runs very smoothly, however, if you get anything wrong, then it can be a disaster."

TERESA BELCHER

International and local events forge alumni links

As the University faces increasing competition both domestically and internationally, it is placing a greater emphasis on maintaining its relationship with its alumni, Graduate Affairs Manager Kate Gemmell said.

"In the Graduate Affairs area, the current focus is on continuing to build relationships with the various chapters of our alumni association, locally, nationally, and internationally," she said. "These events will commence with a cocktail function on June 15, where members of ANU's Victorian alumni will gather in Melbourne."

Ms Gemmell said the function at ANU House, would give alumni the chance to view the facilities at ANU's new Victorian base and similar events were scheduled for other Australian capitals in the coming months.

Ms Gemmell will also join the Vice-Chancellor and staff from Student Recruitment and International Education at the Australian International Alumni Convention in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia in August.

"This conference will bring together

a wide range of international alumni, and is an important step in strengthening our strategic links with alumni in South East Asia," Ms Gemmell said.

"To help develop a strong alumni base for the future, the organisers of the conference have awarded three scholarships to enable three outstanding young members of the ANU community to also attend the conference. Matthew Tinning, recent recipient of the Tilyard Prize; Sue Sapoan, President of the International Students Association; and Kerri Weir, a recent MBA graduate, were the three representatives chosen by Graduate Affairs, and we look to their input on alumni matters both at the conference and beyond."

Ms Gemmell said Graduate Affairs was also surveying local members and meeting with chapter organisers and future plans include an increasing emphasis on professional development for members and linking alumni with the very successful ongoing ANU Public Lecture series.

SEAN DALY

Eye-catching success



Women in Engineering

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Don't be surprised to see this logo popping up on t-shirts, books or bags all around campus.

The logo, designed by ANU Graphics in the Public Affairs Division, is for the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology's (FEIT) Women in Engineering program — and is proving a big hit.

"We needed an exciting graphic symbol that could be easily identified with the ANU FEIT Women in Engineering program, that was identifiably feminine, and people could relate to, but also conveyed a relationship with technology and the future," FEIT Women and International Students Program coordinator, Denise Bett said. "The eye is 'wide-eyed' and forward looking,

so is engineering and women's place and contribution in it, making people's lives better within society."

Ms Bett said the logo was used on all the program's publications and everything used to publicise the residential workshops run for Year 10, 11 and 12 students every year.

"The young women who come to the workshops loved it so much they wanted t-shirts with the logo on it. Boral kindly sponsored [the t-shirt printing] as they were also impressed with how well the logo looks and conveys the message that engineering and technology is something girls want to participate in and make a contribution to."

SEAN DALY



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Resident problem solver takes a personal approach

Most ANU staff members will experience some personal crisis during their careers and when these periods of difficulty arise, the ANU's resident Adviser to Staff can provide assistance.

The current adviser, Heather McLeod, is acting in the post while the regular Adviser to Staff, Karen Foster, is on leave. Ms Foster will return to the position in November this year.

"You can be the lowest-paid or the highest-paid person at the University and it doesn't matter: life is going to happen to you. Nothing will protect you from the pain of a loss and you will have to figure out how to keep working," she said.

The Adviser to Staff provides free and confidential counselling to ANU academics and general staff experiencing work-related or personal problems.

"I think my position is an acknowledgment by the University that periods of crisis will occur in people's lives and they may need some help from the workplace to get through it. This is a community of people and we need to look after each other."

Ms McLeod sees her role as a professional listener and sounding board. She uses a solution-focused approach to help people get through specific times of crisis.

"I sometimes view myself as a problem solver. People come to me with a problem and we talk it through

Juggling the demands of modern life while maintaining a career often leads to stress and conflict. **Shelly Simonds** talks to Heather McLeod, a professional adviser employed by the University to help general staff and academics through the difficult periods.

and then try to find a solution," she said.

Half of her consultations are from staff dealing with personal problems and the other half concern workplace issues. Many work-related problems involve staff conflict and the tensions that arise when professional issues drift into the personal sphere.

"I do a fair bit of mediation between staff," she said. "What people often find distressing is trying to separate the personal issues from professional ones."

"For employees, conflicts at work can be better managed by speaking up if something bothers you," she said. "If you're unsure about what's expected of you, be assertive about bringing the matter up with a manager to reach a resolution instead of letting the issue fester."

Managers often come to Ms McLeod for advice on how to deal with staff performance.

"It's often hard to know how many chances you give people before you say 'you're not performing up to standard'. Managers have a job to do and goals to accomplish and if they can't get people to cooperate it can be distressing," Ms McLeod said.

Managers can minimise conflict by treating employees with respect and fairness. They should also prac-



Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Hearing aid: Advisor to Staff Heather McLeod is on hand to listen to and advise on personal or professional problems experienced by staff at the University.

tice good communication skills by being approachable, upfront and direct. It's also important not to talk behind a person's back, she said.

Ms McLeod has seven years' experience advising students as a staff member with the ANU Counselling Centre, in the Student Administration and Support Services Division.

Ms McLeod said counselling ANU staff was a nice change of pace

from her work with students.

"I really enjoy working with students, but with staff you work with people who have a range of experience. I can relate to people who have experience in the workforce and with family and other things."

She said working people had complex lives, juggling many responsibilities.

"They have uncontrollable fac-

tors to deal with in life, like their children getting sick and parents aging and needing help — difficult things that happen but they still have to come to work the next day."

People often feel such a responsibility to the workplace that they don't think to ask for support and flexibility from the University when they have a serious crisis.

Ms McLeod gives direction on how a person's needs might be accommodated.

"People often see limited choices, thinking either I resign or I experience this overwhelming stress. I try to show them there are other options," she said.

Many of the personal problems people come to her with involve relationship breakdowns.

"Our relationships are so intrinsic to us and when they breakdown, people can really lose it — which is a normal response to grief. They show emotions that others in the workplace don't want to know about. It's important that they have someone they can talk to."

She said that as an adviser to students she also had many people come to her with relationship issues.

"So it's not just an age thing. It's about who we are as human beings. When our relationships breakdown, we crash and then have to learn to pick up the pieces."

Ms McLeod will be presenting a seminar on handling depression later this month.

ANU Reporter Classifieds

The FREE classified ads that appear here are downloaded from the ANU's campus internet site, The Nugget www.anu.edu.au/pad/nugget on the Friday prior to publication. Only ads submitted to The Nugget will be published here — no other submissions will be accepted by the ANU Reporter. If space is limited, preference will be given on a "first in" basis.

FOR SALE

- WOODBURNER:** Jetmaster, open fire box, \$300; contact Kay Provins on 6279 8252 work or 6254 8909 home.
- ROOF RACKS:** Hardly used, \$15; contact John on 6249 0620 work or 0401 301 922 home.
- ANSWERING MACHINE:** Telstra; as new and still in the box, negotiable; contact John on 6249 0620 work or 0401 301 922 home.
- SOFA BED:** Large 2-seater as new (was \$1200) urgent sale, \$299; contact John on 6249 0620 work or 0401 301 922 home.
- DOUBLE BED:** Box bed with draws, plus mattress, \$35; contact Sean on 0416 249 100.
- VVBETLE:** c.1967, needs work, good for restoration, \$300 ono; contact Melissa on 6207 2131 work.
- BED:** Freedom Furniture "Mexico" double bed with blue glass, as new (worth \$430 in store), \$350; contact Melissa on 6207 2131 work.
- EXERCISE BIKE:** Older-style bike, but does the job, \$30; contact Teresa on 6249 4170 work.
- TRAMPOLINE:** Exercise trampoline, \$30; contact Teresa on 6249 4170 work.
- SKIS:** Skis xc 190 cm; boots size 8; 3pin binding, \$70; contact Ernst Willheim on 6249 4170 work or 6273 1007 home.
- HYUNDAI EXCEL:** 1992, man hatch, 100,000km, \$5,000 ono; contact James Derlacki on 6265 0664 work or 6247 1989 home.
- FORD TELSTAR:** 85 auto, recon eng, recon trans, \$2,000; contact Rita on 6249 2403 work or 6299 9773 home.
- REFRIGERATOR:** Westinghouse Silhouette Autodefrost 221 refrigerator, \$200; contact Dr Ian Holloway on 6249 4317 work or 6295 0160 home
- HEADPHONES:** Arkon cordless head-

- phones, \$30; contact Dr Ian Holloway on 6249 4317 work or 6295 0160 home.
- TWINVAC:** Kambrook Twinvac (almost brand new) \$40; contact Dr Ian Holloway on 6249 4317 work or 6295 0160 home.
- REFRIGERATOR:** Small Sanyo, good condition, \$180; contact Fayz on 6260 4605 work or 6260 4605 home.
- BEDS:** Two single beds with quality mattresses, good condition, \$60 each; contact Fayz on 6260 4605 work or 6260 4605 home.

WANTED TO BUY

MIXING BOWL: Replacement bowl (large size) for Sunbeam Kitchen Centre mixer (circa 1980). I broke mine; contact Shelly on 6249 2106.

SERVICES REQUIRED

CHILDMINDING: Student required to provide after-school care for two girls (6 & 8 years) in exchange for accommodation (granny flat with utilities provided). Contact Felicity or Stephen on 6257 4977 work.

CAT MINDER: I need a temporary home for five weeks from 4/7/00 to 12/8/00 for my 5-yr desexed male cat. Will pay \$150 and provide food. Contact Eva on 6257 3063.

TO LET

- FLYNN:** Three bedroom, fully furnished house, close to bus, car available, \$200. Contact Els Wynen/ David Vanzetti on 6272 2012 work or 6258 3561 home.
- AMAROO:** dble b/r in 3b/r duplex, BIR & ensuite, fully furnished, available 4 August, \$90 + expenses. Contact Rachelle on 0410 578 273.
- ARANDA:** 3-bedroom house, northerly aspect, sunny and light, fully furnished, spacious, well equipped kitchen/dining room, gas heating, large carport and extra car space, close to bike paths and unis, easy care maintained garden, suit overseas academics and students, avail. 5th June, \$250/wk; contact Judith on 0428 630 337 mobile or 6251 3317 home.
- CONDER:** Full Board (incl 3 meals a day) very modern 3-bedroom house furnished, 3 min bus stop, 5 min shopping centre, nice back garden, to share with young professional couple, \$120. Contact John on 6294 4576 home.

WANTED TO RENT

WANTED: Visiting academic seeks small apt (suitable for couple) near university; for period end of June/July 1 - Sept. 10. Contact Petr Lom on email: lompetr@ceu.hu work or (36 1) 329 3819 home.

HOLIDAY RENTALS

- AVOCA BEACH:** Modern two-bedroom unit, 30 seconds from surf, sleeps 4-6; Contact Tony Adams on 6249 5616 work or 6288 5065 home.
- BAWLEY POINT:** Holiday cottage, secluded bush setting, short walk to beach; Contact Pat Walker on 6251 3136 home.
- BEACH COTTAGE:** Rosedale, NSW, with sea views, native bush, verandah, 2 BR, SC, sleeps 4, non-smokers only; Contact Roma Fisher on 6295 9067.
- BROULEE:** 2 or 3 bedroom, 200m from beach, prices vary; Contact John Frezza on 6279 9809 work or 6286 4580 home.
- BROULEE HEADLANDS:** Studio + two bedrooms, 2 baths, sleeps 8. Bush and garden setting, secluded; Contact Kate Jacobs on (02) 6943 2551.
- LONG BEACH:** Holiday house, easy access to beach, sleeps 6, \$250-\$400/wk — seasonal; Contact Gillian Malbon on 6288 4998 work or 6249 4617 home.
- MALUA BAY:** 2 Bedrooms, 5 minutes from beach and shops, \$450/wk; Contact John on 6241 9971 home.
- MYSTERY BAY:** Narooma/Tilba region, 2-storey house, close to beach, beside National Park, 3br/2 bath, Dec-Jan, \$550/wk, other times \$375/wk; Contact 6251 1467.
- SOUTH DURRAS:** Two-storey beachfront house, sleeps 7, walks to Murramarang National Park, Durras Lake, State Forest; Contact Leonie on 6249 4578 work or 6241 6801 home.
- SURF BEACH:** Unit 11 Breakaway Lodge, right on beach, great views; Contact Wendy and Dave on 6249 4460 work or (02) 4471 3522 home.

SERVICES

SAVE MONEY: The secrets to Saving Money in Canberra — revealed! For more information, contact Fiona Lippey — Miser Extraordinaire on canberrasavings@bigpond.com.

- SPEECHCRAFT TRAINING COURSE:** For more information, contact Yvonne Heslop on 6249 3787.
- HOUSE CLEANING:** Trustworthy, efficient, professional cleaner with 20 years experience. \$15 per hour. Phone Elisa on 6284 2141.
- HOUSE SITTING:** Married couple, quiet, no children, non-smoking, returning to ANU from Japan on 1 June. Happy to care for garden, pets, etc; Contact Donna & Paul Kennelly on email: <donnakennelly@hotmail.com>.
- ACTOR TRAINING:** Enhance creativity, career, charisma through intuition. Spolin techniques; adult workshops; individual coaching; corporate training; Contact Margaret Forster on 6249 2278.
- RESUMES:** Get results! Fast, accurate, with impact. Reasonable rates; Contact Sue Kennedy on 6287 1390.
- ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUTORING:** Improve your English language skills, gain help with oral and written English, essay and report preparation; Contact Evan Roche on 6278 6085 work.
- STATS AND COMMERCE TUTOR:** Tutor in STATS1006 and COMM 1010, private and group tutoring, experienced tutor; Contact email: <cs3194444@student.anu.edu.au> or 6267 4371 home.
- RUSSIAN TUTOR:** Russian native speaker, editing and assignments (Russian software available), instruction and assistance for visiting Russia; Contact Leonid A. Petrov on email: <petrov@coombs.anu.edu.au> or 6249 3172 work or 6230 1610 home.
- FRENCH TUTOR:** Conversation and writing, individual or group, rates negotiable. Contact email: <cs3194444@student.anu.edu.au> or 6267 4371 work.
- HINDI AND BENGALI TUTOR:** Conversation and writing, individual or group, rate negotiable; Contact Farah T. Khan on email: <ft_khan@hotmail.com> or 6257 4553.
- SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP:** Meets Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm, Univ. House cellar bar, all levels welcome; Contact Maribelle on email: <Maribelle.young@anu.edu.au> or 6249 5943 work.
- EDITING/TYPING/WORD PROCESSING:** Fast, accurate typing services available at reasonable rates, editing and proofreading services also available; Contact Jillian Green on email: <jilliag@orac.net.au> or 0404 887 297 (message bank) mobile.
- EDITING/PROOFREADING:** Contact Lisa Curtin on 0408 650 765 mobile or email: <lisac@teknet.net.au>.
- IS YOUR CHILD DYSLIXIC?** Experienced, specialised tutoring for primary and secondary children who have persistent difficulties with reading, spelling and writing, personal references for satisfied parents available; Contact Penny Mullbacher on 6282 1770 work.
- LATIN AMERICAN SPANISH CLASSES:** Conversation and writing, individual or group lessons by Argentinian native; Contact Mariana di Tada on email: <mltditada@hotmail.com> or 6284 7471 home.
- SPANISH TUTOR:** Individual tutoring and conversation classes, rates negotiable; Contact Ana L. Galvez on email: <algalvez@hotmail.com> or 6279 9070 work.
- LATIN AMERICAN DANCE CLASSES:** Salsa, Merengue, Tango, ChaChaCha and more! New beginners classes beginning in May and June. Friendly and experienced teacher, just back from Latin America. Learn in fun and supportive group classes (Wednesday nights — \$10) or privately (lessons by appointment — \$20); Contact Sam on email: <cs3224502@student.anu.edu.au> or 6262 7576 home.
- TOASTMASTERS:** Learn to speak to an audience, early-morning toastmasters in the City; Contact Jim on 6249 2764 work.
- PUBLIC SPEAKING:** Training in public speaking through regular meetings on campus. Uni II Toastmasters can help build self-confidence. Check out our website at <www.anu.edu.au/tm2>; Contact Yvonne Heslop at University II Toastmasters on 6249 3787 work.
- PROOFREADING:** Experienced editor, any material, competitive rates, student discount available; Contact Catriona Bruce on 6251 7711 work.
- DRUM MAKING WORKSHOP:** In 2 days complete your own Sembe drum; lacking, fitting goat skin head, tensioning, tuning and learning basic rhythms, materials supplied; Contact Sembe Drums, Geoff Filmer on 6235 0158 work.