

UniSA News

April 2007

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



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Packer family supports Hawke Centre

by Michèle Nardelli

The work of UniSA's Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre will be given a major boost from a personal donation of \$2 million from the Packer family, in memory of the late Kerry Packer.

The funds will be used to support the development of the Hawke Centre's Civic Gallery, which will open later this year in the University's new Hawke Building on North Terrace.

Last month UniSA officially announced that the iconic building would be named in honour of the only Australian Prime Minister to be born in South Australia, Robert James Lee Hawke (pictured).



Designed by national award winning architect John Wardle, the \$35 million Hawke Building will be a new cultural venue for the state and a landmark feature of the City West precinct.

It will house a 400 seat auditorium, civic gallery, a forum space and a high-tech theatre with international communications capacity.

It also includes the second largest public art gallery in the state, the Anne and Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, the Hawke Library and the University's Chancellery.

Vice Chancellor Professor Denise Bradley says that as home to free public lectures, expert local and international conferences and a full calendar of Hawke Centre events, the Hawke Building will become one of the most visited in the University.

"It is more than appropriate that this new and dynamic building will carry Bob Hawke's name," Professor Bradley said.



Director of the Hawke Centre Elizabeth Ho says the Civic Gallery will be an "ideas into action" viewing and gathering space.

"The gallery is an important aspect of the Hawke Centre's outreach program which aims to strengthen democracy, value diversity and build the future," Ho said.

"We envisage the civic gallery as a place of vibrant engagement for young people – where they feel encouraged and empowered to become active as citizens, volunteers and leaders both locally and internationally.

"The Packer family donation will support the development of that physical space and will also be invested in programs to support young people to become greater participants in their communities."

Professor Denise Bradley says the Civic Gallery will reinforce the University's strategic commitment to engagement with the community by showcasing applied research projects that contribute to social and environmental benefits.

"When we established the Hawke Centre in 1997, we were hopeful that it would be a symbol of this

University's strong commitment to public learning in the wider community," she said.

"The gallery will display social, cultural and political history, journeying from local Kaurua history through to the inspiring leadership of the Hawke Centre's international patron and honorary doctor of the University, South Africa's Dr Nelson Mandela.

"This enormously generous gift from the Packer family pays tribute to Bob Hawke's national leadership legacy. More importantly, it is an investment in new generations and we are sincerely grateful to them for their vote of confidence in the Hawke Centre program and UniSA."

Further support for the Hawke Centre has also come from a generous donation from Allan Scott AO, OAM, chairman and CEO of the Scott Group of Companies. UniSA will acknowledge his support through the naming of the Allan Scott Auditorium in the Hawke Building.

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From the Chancellery

My grandmother completed primary school and never entered the paid workforce; she helped her mother at home until she married. My mother completed one year of what she called higher primary education in a rural school; she left school and worked as a shop assistant from her 14th birthday until the day she married. She then left the paid workforce forever.

I grew up in a rented maisonette in Sydney and attended a catholic girl's school whose aims were to educate girls to be either nuns or good Catholic mothers. I was lucky. No one thought I was a potential nun; I was reasonably bright and my father thought it was genteel for me to stay on and matriculate. I don't believe anyone saw me as someone who might have a career. I was a wife in waiting – a better educated wife than my grandmother and mother – but certainly not someone who might play any part in the public sphere.



I was reasonably successful in what was then called the Leaving exam and gained a scholarship to the University of Sydney. I didn't really want to go but it was hard to see what else to do by then. I thought I might like to be a teacher.

I began teaching at Brighton High School in South Australia without any teacher training when I had just turned 20. Because I was a married woman, I was temporary – with no rights to promotion, superannuation, maternity or long service leave and I earned three quarters of the pay of a male teacher. I was 35 before I had my first superannuable, permanent position.

So how did I, with such a faltering start, end up being the third woman to be appointed a university Vice Chancellor in this country?

First, and most importantly, I had the base. I had sufficient schooling to get me into a world where I could see alternatives to the lives of the women in the suburb in which I was raised. With that base, and despite having an unreasonably large number of children – four – I was able to gain further education to better equip myself for opportunities in my career.

Second, I could make decisions about my own life because, from when I was 19, I knew that I could earn enough to support myself and that meant I could always leave a situation if it was not to my liking. Neither my mother nor my grandmother had that option.

Third, I wanted to change things and I was born at the right time for that to be possible for a woman. I have been very fortunate both to cause some of the ripples and then ride the wave of economic and social change which has changed women's lives in a generation. I wanted a role in determining public policy and I was part of a generation of women who fought for and were permitted, at times very reluctantly, to enter the public sphere.

But, fourth, I have been more than the object on which that transformation played out. I have been part of the change. I have both consciously reshaped and changed myself to meet various career challenges as well as agitating and working for changes I thought would make a difference to my own life and to the lives of others.

We all have only one life. I believe it needs to be one where we strive to be the best person we can be

and to add something to the lives of others. We will fail at both of these things every day but the very effort of trying to succeed is what lies at the base of a belief in education as a transforming influence.

An excerpt from Professor Denise Bradley's occasional address presented following the conferral of an honorary doctorate and the title of Emeritus Professor on Friday March 30.

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Classifieds

For sale

Laptop, HP Pavilion DV6113TX notebook, 15.4" wxga display panel, 120 GB HD, DVD burner, 512MB RAM, 667 MgHz DDR2, wireless, bluetooth, webcam, digital TV tuner, wireless mouse (\$69.95) and new laptop bag (approx \$80). Windows XP and antivirus software installed. \$1800. Phone 0407 006 013.

Accommodation

Athelstone, furnished room and use of house. Rent negotiable, female students only. Phone 0400 549 103.

Prospect, fully furnished 3 brm home, close to transport, shops and city. Reverse cycle A/C. Available mid April to mid July.. Phone 0400 549 103.

Can you help?

Calling all civil engineering students, from the South Australian Institute of Technology 1979-80. Recently returned to Adelaide, Ravendra Singe is keen to catch up with old classmates and especially old friend Peter Thiele. Contact Ravendra on 0408 945 021.

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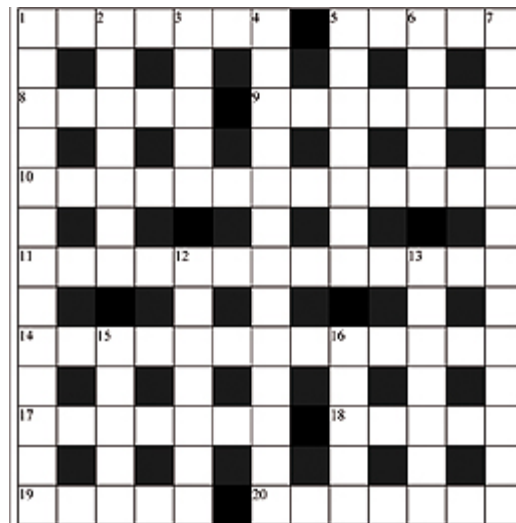
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Colgan's Cryptic crossword

Across

1. Neat way for dropping an aitch (3,4)
5. Lone circumnavigator rejected Southern doctor (5)
8. One objecting actively hasn't left (5)
9. One receiving donations prepares South Africans for action, it is reported (4,3)
10. What a fortune teller does at a poker tournament? (5,4,4)
11. The first bore to achieve success, Travolta could do it (9,4)
14. Prison held back senior leader of Satanists, supporters of wicked things (13)
17. Guest involved in lively end of debate (7)
18. City of heat and dolphins (5)
19. Alfred, the poet of 1D (5)
20. Feign weakness as a means of protection (7)



Down

1. A variance shouldn't, for example, be around 501 (13)
2. Cuts up natives (7)
3. Jerk around close to pit (5)
4. Is it the right way up or the reverse? (4,4,5)
5. Hit one's target of fish (7)
6. Murray town nearly gets hooded killer (5)
7. Glibness? It has pluses and minuses (5,8)
12. Dedicants flattened the leader of sect (7)
13. Wrongly, we blame Bathsheba's role (3,4)
15. Sailors convey victory salute to labourer (5)
16. Colour failure (5)

Wine to win

For your chance to win a bottle of [Whistler wine](#), fax your completed crossword to (08) 8302 5785 by Friday, May 6. Solutions published online on May 10.

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Our people - Associate Professor Julie Mills

After working in industry for 15 years, mostly in structural engineering design and project management, my appointment as lecturer in civil engineering in 1996 was a new challenge for me and one that I've loved ever since.

Working as an engineer at a time when women engineers were a rarity, I faced many challenges. It was during this time that I married and had three children (who still keep me very busy through their extensive sporting commitments), and I had to break new ground wherever I worked with regard to maternity leave and part-time work.

I came to the University as one of two women appointed to be the "new blood" in a traditional engineering school, where farewells became regular events as many civil engineering staff retired within my first year there.

Because of my industry background, I was very committed to project-based learning and I was given some latitude to try new things and make changes. Within a short time the courses that I ran were given a more project-based focus.

I gained my PhD in 2002 from Curtin University in the area of engineering education and with promotions to senior lecturer and then Associate Professor, the civil engineering degree was changed to include a significant proportion of project-based learning.

Teaching remains my first priority at UniSA, but I am also involved in research and administration as Program Director in Civil Engineering.

My teaching has been rewarded with University teaching awards and a Carrick Institute citation for outstanding contribution to student learning. I received the citation for my work on project-based learning and for my other passion, equity for women in engineering.

My biggest reward is graduation day, when I see students walk across the stage and know how hard they have worked to get there.

As chair of the National Women in Engineering Committee of Engineers Australia, I was instrumental in getting 2007 designated as the Year of Women in Engineering. My focus in the gender area continues with research projects at the Centre for Gender Studies.

Associate Professor Julie Mills is Program Director of Civil Engineering in the School of Natural and Built Environments.

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New leaf

Coordinated Multiuser Communications

Schlegel, C, Grant, A
Springer, Netherlands

Many communications systems, such as mobile telephone and wireless local area networks, are subject to multiple-access interference, caused by a multitude of users sharing a common radio transmission medium.

This interference limits the reliability, data transmission speed and overall quality delivered to the end user.

Coordinated Multiuser Communications provides an introduction to the main theoretical results and practical engineering methods for eliminating the negative effects of multiple-access interference. Application of these methods is leading to faster, more reliable, and more affordable broadband communications.

The idea for the book originated in research conducted by the authors in the early days of the Institute for Telecommunications Research.

This collaboration is ongoing, and the book represents more than ten years of collaborative research.

Christian Schlegel worked at UniSA from 1992 to 1994 and is now Professor for High-Capacity Digital Communications at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. Alex Grant completed bachelor and doctoral degrees in electronic engineering at UniSA. He is now Research Professor of Information Theory at UniSA's Institute for Telecommunications Research. He is also co-founder of Cohda Wireless, a growing Adelaide-based company that is commercialising these technologies for provision of outdoor mobile broadband networks.

For more information visit: [Springer](#)

Labour disputes and their resolution in China

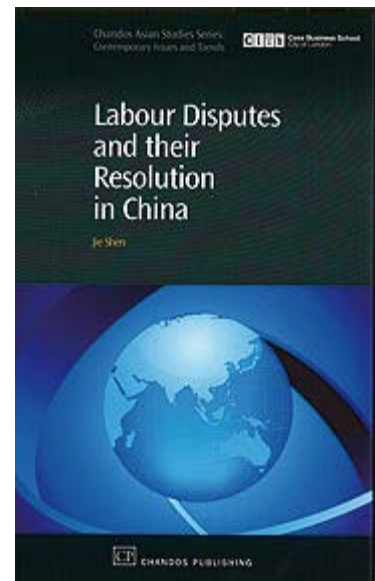
Shen, J
Chandos Publishing, Oxford

Using first-hand research, official statistics and a systematic literature review, this book investigates labour disputes in China, which have become more frequent with the market-oriented economic reforms that began in the late 1970s.

Examining how these labour disputes are resolved is also an integral part of this research, given that China's economic reform and the material achievements it has resulted in have been hailed a great success.

There have been, however, unforeseen consequences of Western-style economic reform for a society that for millennia has been collectivist in nature and has emphasised social order and cohesion – namely, widespread violations of workers' rights. This book shows labour disputes are the predominant social problem in China today.





China's economic miracle has been applauded by many in the West as a sensible alternative to the chaos of the 1966-76 "Cultural Revolution", but the Chinese Government is now faced with the challenge of managing social problems and ideas that are inherent in capitalist economies, and ensuring that it retains political control of the country.

The Chinese Government is under great pressure from its own people and externally despite being committed to protecting workers' rights and wanting labour disputes to be settled equitably.

This book discusses possible solutions to this dilemma.

For more information visit: [Chandos publishing](#)

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In brief

Broadband coup for SA research

The sounds of flute and clarinet, played some 30km apart, were the first broadcast for the high-volume broadband network, SABRENet, launched by Federal Education, Science and Training Minister Julie Bishop last month. The sophisticated new network is providing virtually unlimited high-speed broadband capacity to the state's research and education community. The optical fibre network links 27 sites in the Adelaide region including university campuses, teaching hospitals, technology parks and government research institutions. Chair of SABRENet, UniSA's Paul Sherlock, says the SA research and education community will benefit enormously from this investment by the state's three universities and the State and Federal Governments. "This network allows us to transport huge amounts of data at lightning speeds and will enable supercomputer real-time simulations, multi-screen high definition videoconferencing and local participation in global bandwidth-enabled experiments," he said.

Wings take flight

UniSA's Aviation Academy took delivery of five new Cessna 172S aircraft shipped from Independence, USA, last month. The new fleet will play a key role in the UniSA Summer Shark Patrol service and will also lift the profile of the highly successful pilot training academy. With a record intake of 42 new students this year, the academy now offers its tertiary aviation program to about 80 students annually. All student pilots have the advantage of getting practical flight and occupational experience as part of the UniSA Summer Shark Patrol team working as pilots, on-board communications officers, and State Emergency Services trained shark spotters, to ensure the service is delivered during the summer season.

New UNAP manager

Marc Shannon (pictured) was recently appointed manager of UniSA Northern Adelaide Partnerships (UNAP). A UniSA marketing graduate, Shannon returns to the University after five years as business development manager of research at James Cook University in North Queensland. He previously held various positions at UniSA including senior business development project officer role in the Division of Health Sciences, marketing manager of the Australian Electrical Testing Centre and business analyst at Techsearch. In 2001 he received a Vice Chancellor's special commendation for innovation. As manager of UNAP, Shannon is responsible for the implementation of UniSA's strategy to create community-university partnerships that can promote social inclusion through education, training, research and consultancy programs. The program is primarily focused on the cities of Salisbury and Playford but also extends its activities into Gawler and Port Adelaide/Enfield. Shannon has first-hand knowledge of the north Adelaide region; he grew up in Elizabeth and attended Craigmore High. "My main role at UNAP is to strengthen and coordinate activity and to develop new innovative projects that will make a meaningful difference to the education, health, wellbeing and workforce participation of people in the north," he says.



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Graduations, with honours

by Michèle Nardelli

After 10 years as Vice Chancellor, Professor Denise Bradley took to the stage at the Adelaide Festival Theatre for the last time to complete one duty of office that she believes is central to the job, overseeing graduations.

"This is what the University is all about – changing people's lives through the experience of education. I particularly like to be present as our graduands receive their awards, to celebrate and acknowledge their commitment and effort," Professor Bradley said.

Since becoming Vice Chancellor, she has seen almost 100,000 graduands cross the stage as part of a celebration of the intelligence, determination and sheer hard work it takes to complete their degrees.

But this time, the Vice Chancellor was on the receiving end of congratulations.

On March 30 Professor Bradley was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University and made an Emeritus Professor – a first for UniSA.

In his citation for the Vice Chancellor, Professor Michael Rowan outlined her many career achievements but also drew attention to the personal qualities that are a hallmark of her success.

"It is striking how often she has been involved at the beginning of what becomes a defining policy issue or major development in the higher education sector," Professor Rowan said.

"Her capacity to absorb information and quickly reach a conclusion which can be successfully carried through is unequalled in my experience.

"That and her enormous energy and total commitment to the job, have been the foundation of her successful leadership of the University."

Professor Bradley said she was honoured to carry the title of honorary doctor from a university that has been such a significant part of her life.

"I'm pleased with what UniSA has become – diverse, progressive, international in outlook and an institution that is engaged across the community, in business, education, industry and society."

In the same week UniSA also acknowledged the director of the Australian National Gallery and former director of the Art Gallery of South Australia, Ron Radford AM, for his distinguished public service, awarding him an honorary doctorate. Radford began his career as an education officer for the National Gallery of Victoria and by the early 1970s had won a position as director of the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, where he built its reputation as one of the nation's most vibrant and important regional art centres. He took on the role of curator of European and Australian paintings and sculpture at the Art Gallery of South Australia in 1981 and stepped up to the role of director of the gallery in 1991, a position he held for 13 years.

Dr Radford said he was delighted to accept the honorary award from the University of South Australia.



"I am proud that I was originally asked to accept it when I was living in Adelaide," he said, "and I am honoured because I respect the achievements of the University of South Australia. It is a new and vibrant university which does not stand on merits of the past. It looks to the future."

Recently retired Professor Robyn King was also made an Emeritus Professor. Professor King will continue his association with the University as a research supervisor and through his service on the board of the Cooperative Research Centre for Integrated Engineering Asset Management.

The March graduations were held over five days with more than 2800 graduands taking part from all four divisions, including 75 PhDs and four Doctors of Business Administration.

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Carrick Grant success

by Professor Peter Lee,
Pro Vice Chancellor: Academic

UniSA's commitment to innovation and excellence in teaching and learning has been affirmed by the 2006 results for the national Carrick Institute grant scheme.

The Carrick Institute was launched in August 2004 as a Commonwealth Government initiative to promote teaching and learning in Australian higher education. Among the institute's various responsibilities is the management of a national awards scheme recognising excellence in university teaching.

The institute also manages a competitive grant scheme for innovation in teaching and learning. Last year, the first full year of this scheme, the institute received 290 grant applications and awarded 47 grants worth almost \$8 million to 23 lead institutions.



By any standard, UniSA performed well.

Of the 45 institutions eligible for Carrick funding nationally, UniSA ranked third in terms of application success rate – 37.5 per cent, more than double the national average – and fifth in terms of the dollar amount allocated with \$490,754.

UniSA is clearly placed as the leading institution in the state for 2006, both in terms of its outstanding success rate and by securing 57 per cent of the funds allocated to SA.

Further, UniSA was one of only six universities to receive three or more grants, and one of only three to receive grants in all three of the Carrick grant programs.

This is all the more noteworthy, given that 15 higher education institutions with a combined 56 grant applications failed to secure funding altogether.

Of the Australian Technology Network (ATN) universities, UniSA ranked first for application success rate and second for total funding. Collectively, the ATN universities achieved an above average success rate, securing almost a quarter the funds allocated by Carrick.

Congratulations to UniSA's Carrick grant winners for 2006:

Professor Tricia Vilkinas and Associate Professor Betty Leask, Improving the leadership capability of academic coordinators in postgraduate and undergraduate programs in business;

Martin Freney, Dr Denise Wood and Hew Ellwood, Computer-aided feedback and assessment systems;

Dr Rob Ranzijn, Associate Professor Keith McConnochie, Wendy Nolan, Associate Professor Andrew Day, Colleen Clarke, Professor Bernard Guerin, Dr Christopher Sonn (Victoria University), Dr Mary Katsikitis (Australian Psychological Society), Disseminating strategies for incorporating Australian Indigenous content into psychology undergraduate programs throughout Australia.

UniSA looks to build on its achievements in the 2007 round, which is now open. Enquiries about the Carrick grant scheme may be made to Dr Peter Hill on (08) 8302 1381.

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Access all business areas

New students in the Division of Business recently discovered that getting to know the University's campus and services can be worthwhile in more ways than one. The Business Passport to Success, an orientation activity, which required students to answer a range of questions about Uni life and to collect stamps from offices around the University for their "passport" helped many to get their university life off to a flying start. Everyone who completed an entry took home a USB drive, but seven lucky and very diligent students won prizes including a laptop computer, iPods, and vouchers at Unibooks, Aroma cafe and the UniSA Cafeteria.

Professor Gerry Griffin, Pro Vice Chancellor of Business, Associate Professor Betty Leask, Dean of Teaching and Learning, and division manager Judy Szekeres drew the winning entries in the Lion Arts Courtyard during Ignition 2007.

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Premier funds visionary research

Self-dimming architectural glass, which can substantially reduce summer cooling costs, is just one of the potential applications of a UniSA-led research project that has received more than \$375,000 from the Premier's Science Research Fund (PSRF).

The project is part of a unique \$1.7 million facility to develop conducting polymers – plastics with high electrical conductivities which have a myriad of uses in the automotive, aerospace, defence, biomedical and sustainable energy sectors.

The Materials Research and Engineering Facility for Conducting Polymers is a multidisciplinary partnership between UniSA's Ian Wark Research Institute (The Wark™) and the Mawson Institute for Advanced Manufacturing (MIAM), the State Government, Schefenacker Vision Systems and Carl Zeiss Vision.



Project leader and The Wark™ Senior Research Fellow, Dr Peter Murphy, says the equipment bought through the PSRF funding will have wide-scale benefit for manufacturing in the state.

"The equipment is a vital part of this new facility, which will take the laboratory R&D of conducting polymers to the commercial stage," Dr Murphy says.

The Wark™ Director, Laureate Professor John Ralston, says the conducting polymers research facility spearheads The Wark™ and MIAM's plan to create a world-class facility for materials surface engineering and evaluation.

"It will be a unique, specialised facility for research and development on the materials science and engineering applications of new classes of materials with great promise," Prof Ralston says.

Director of the Mawson Institute, Professor Rob Short applauded the venture.

"This is exactly the type of facility and partnership that we are seeking to establish at the Mawson and The Wark™, whereby UniSA working with the South Australian manufacturers will develop cutting edge technologies that underpin existing jobs in South Australia, as well as provide the opportunity to diversify manufacturing and create new jobs and exports."

The Wark™ has an annual budget of \$20 million and employs 150 staff.

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Ian Davey research thesis prize

Water economist Dr Diwakara Halanaik is the winner of the inaugural Ian Davey Research Thesis Prize for the most outstanding PhD thesis.

The perpetual prize was recently established by former Pro Vice Chancellor of Research, Emeritus Professor Ian Davey, to recognise excellence in research and research education.

"Over the 12 years I'd spent in charge of research and research education, the University had been very good for me," Prof Davey said. "I thought I should establish something that would continue to recognise excellence in those areas."

The prize is awarded for a thesis that is passed without significant changes, is accepted or likely to be accepted for publication and is likely to have a significant impact on communities beyond the University. The award also takes into account the quality of the thesis' examiners and the content of their report.

Prof Davey said Dr Halanaik's thesis, Institutional Regimes for Sustainable Groundwater Management in India and Australia: Implications for Water Policy, supervised by Professor Jennifer McKay in the Division of Business, more than amply satisfied the criteria.

"What was particularly good, and particularly interesting for me, about the thesis was that it had very, very complimentary reports indeed," Prof Davey said. "There had already been evidence of publication in international journals - which we thought was an indication of quality already. The examiners from the University of Indiana and a very well-established and reputable private research centre in Bangalore, India, were internationally recognised in the field.

"And the thesis topic of water and water policy focuses on a whole set of issues that is so topical today, not only in Australia but throughout the world in terms of how we manage our water resources more effectively."

Prof Davey said it was also very pleasing that Dr Halanaik had been able to undertake PhD research through a UniSA President's Scholarship, an award Prof Davey had been instrumental in creating.

The prize, a certificate and a cheque for \$2,500 was presented to Dr Halanaik at last month's graduation ceremonies.

"I'm very excited and happy about the prize. I feel that my work has been recognised and that I've done a good job. I feel very happy," said Dr Halanaik, who is now a policy officer with Queensland's Department of Natural Resources and Water.

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Speaking up for Afghanistan

by Thel Krollig

According to Malalai Joya, human right's activist and arguably Afghanistan's most famous woman, Australian policymakers must align their policies with the aspirations and wishes of Afghanis rather than follow US policy if they want to help the people of Afghanistan and to bring positive changes there.

"They must recognise the needs of Afghan people and stop any kind of support to the warlords and reactionary and ignorant elements within the system. Only by such policy can they gain people's trust and prove themselves as real friends of Afghan people," the 28-year-old member of the Afghan parliament said last month at lecture as part of the Hawke Centre's Focus on Rights lecture series.



Malalai, presented here in association with her national UNIFEM Australia tour for International Women's Day and strongly assisted by the local Support Association for the Women of Afghanistan (SAWA), was one of the prominent winners in Afghanistan's landmark parliamentary elections. She is an outspoken critic of the country's warlords, has survived three attempts on her life and experienced death threats for her determined stand to rebuild Afghanistan as a civil society.

"Five years after the collapse of the misogynist and anti-democratic regime of the Taliban, and after almost five years of the US-led attack on Afghanistan, you may expect that I might be able to describe the achievements and positive outcomes in Afghanistan. But it is a land still burning in twofold fire," she said.



She is critical of the US Government, which "removed the medieval-minded regime of the Taliban and their Al Qaeda masters, but then proceeded to bring to power the Northern Alliance, comprising brothers-in-creed of the Taliban and as brutal and anti-democratic.

"Today, the Afghan people are hostages in the hands of the most brutal enemies of democracy and human rights," she said.

"And many evil men, who are responsible for killing tens of thousands of innocent people in the past two decades, are in power and hold the key positions."

Malalai is currently fighting to defeat legislation introduced into the parliament, which would preclude prosecution of anyone for committing war crimes in the past 25 years.

"Unlike the propaganda raised by certain Western media, Afghan women and men are not 'liberated' at all. Today, we have a mafia system in Afghanistan and our so-called government is deeply implicated in the drug mafia and warlords. US-supported President Hamid Karzai and westernised intellectuals have joined hands with fundamentalists of any brand to impose this mafia-system on our people," she said.

"I am well aware of the hardships, challenges, and death from anti-democratic forces, but I trust my people. One day these forces may kill me, as they have guns and power and the support of the US

government. But they can never silence my voice and hide the truth."

Malalai, a women's literacy and health worker and orphanage founder, took her place in the 249-seat National Assembly, or Wolesi Jirga, to represent the remote province of Farah. Her work has been widely recognised including by the World Economic Forum, which selected her among 250 Young Global Leaders for 2007.

The Hawke Centre event raised more than \$1,500 in public donations for her cause and more information is available at the website, www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au

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Daniels' urban eco-mission

by Geraldine Hinter

In moving forward to achieve sustainability in our city, UniSA's new Chair of Urban Ecology, Professor Chris Daniels, says we should be also looking back to early Adelaide households, particularly those built after the turn of the twentieth century.

Because of water shortages in creeks and streams, homes at that time had large rainwater tanks to collect water for drinking and washing. Add a vegetable patch and a chicken run, and a backyard begins to play an important part in a sustainable household.

"People dealt with water shortages then, but stopped dealing with them when reticulated water and later River Murray water were piped in. Despite the pipeline being a short-term solution, rainwater tanks started to disappear and so did people's ability to be self sufficient," Prof Daniels said.



"Now we're looking to return to what we had 100 years ago."

He is a big believer in the bottom-up approach to change, influencing people and reminding them about what their grandparents had. And he sees his recent appointment as a wonderful opportunity to tackle large-scale problems like the state's water supply and wildlife conservation from a multidisciplinary approach.

Urban ecology focuses on individual animals or plants through to communities, pollution and related issues like water and fire, as well as looking into the future social structure of communities.

The co-author of a book on the historical analysis of Adelaide as a natural ecosystem, Daniels, who is also Professor of Environmental Ecology in the School of Natural and Built Environments, has already established a baseline for Adelaide's urban ecology.

"Adelaide is a great model for looking at large-scale problems," Prof Daniels said.

"It is a city in a Mediterranean environment, which is very rich in biodiversity.

"One of the city's large-scale problems is water, which is a very crucial part of the Adelaide community, and it is also a big issue for life. How we manage water is not only crucial to our survival, but is vital for our agricultural base and for our biodiversity.

"Water is used for many different and sometimes conflicting demands. If used upstream for agriculture and for all of our drinking, not enough comes downstream to support estuarine habitats, so we need to look at ways to rehabilitate habitats through wetlands or reuse of water.



"This requires multidisciplinary approaches to water management, looking at areas such as how we

structure our linear parks and deal with issues like cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) and other pollutants in our rivers and streams, in the context of multiple uses.

"We also have to interact more strongly with eastern states regarding supplies upstream from the Murray and Darling rivers."

As a zoologist with an abiding interest in reptiles, particularly lizards, Prof Daniels is also interested in the conservation status of endangered animals and how we use ecology to develop wildlife conservation principles, and understand the biology of the animals and plants that are here with us.

Through teaching programs, education and research, Prof Daniels aims to impact scientifically on urban ecology, and also on policy that he believes will lead to better management of natural resources and change people's attitudes towards wildlife conservation and the environment.

He is excited to be at UniSA because of all of the opportunities to work on large-scale projects in a multidisciplinary school that covers many different aspects of built environment from engineering, reticulated water and urban planning through to environmental biology.

"I am looking forward to focusing on urban ecology issues with the benefit of a strong team of water researchers, water engineers and biologists interacting with town planners and other engineers who have links to transport, as well as many industry partners who focus on wildlife conservation," Prof Daniels said.

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