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# UniSA News

February/March 2008

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



## The right environment for law

For South Australian 17-year-old, Kat Botten (pictured) getting into a double degree in law and international studies at UniSA is the first step in fulfilling some life goals. [Full Story](#)

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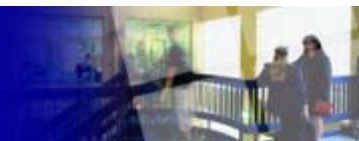


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## The right environment for law

by Michèle Nardelli

For South Australian 17-year-old, Kat Botten (pictured) getting into a double degree in law and international studies at UniSA is the first step in fulfilling some life goals.

Botten is committed to making her mark on the environment and dealing with the huge challenges of global warming.

"Part of that is going to depend on making good laws and also on defending the environment in a legal sense," Botten says.

"I like the idea of being able to challenge the cutting down of forests in the courtroom – it is an important way to make a contribution to protecting the environment."

Botten says the impact of global warming, will be one of the biggest challenges facing her generation and future generations.

"How we deal with limited water supplies in SA will be important – so I see a career in the law with a focus on environment as something really relevant both locally and internationally."

And exploring legal avenues comes as second nature to Botten. She is surrounded by lawyers with her father and uncle in the profession and two first cousins also entering the field.

"I actually took advice from my parents about where to study law," she said.

"Mum studied radiology at UniSA and was really impressed with the Uni and Dad said the leadership in the new program at UniSA would be very cutting edge because he knew some of the key people there.

"I'm thrilled to have secured a place and excited about starting this month."

Botten will commence with the first intake of law students at UniSA, a new program that has already ensured many local students who would have left the State to study law will now be able to complete the qualification in SA.

Foundation Dean of Law at UniSA Professor Paul Fairall says the new school will welcome a diverse range of students from school leavers to students who have already started their working lives but want to complete a degree in law.

"We are thrilled to welcome bright, engaged, young students like Kat to the school," Prof Fairall said.

"There are real advantages for students like Kat in our unique trimester program, because it means they can be out there following their passions in the law ahead of graduates from other universities.

"It is also a distinct advantage to students who are completing their degrees while they are working or as they make a shift from one career to the next.

"Law at UniSA will be defined by excellence, flexibility and a real passion for making a difference. As we welcome our first intake it brings to fruition the thorough planning phase for the foundation of the program



but also opens a new and exhilarating chapter where we get to engage with a vibrant student cohort and help them to attain their aspirations."

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## From the Chancellery

by Professor Peter Høj  
Vice Chancellor and President

### "On your bike" for a healthy, sustainable future

One of the fringe benefits for me at UniSA is its connection with the Tour Down Under. I have been an avid cyclist for many years - both as a commuter and in various forms of competition so I am naturally excited by UniSA's sponsorship of the event. This successful strategic partnership with the State of South Australia and with the community is another example of the pivotal role a modern university plays in today's society.



This year is UniSA's eighth year of TDU sponsorship - and over that time we have sought to increase the value of our connections with the Tour by associating it with other University activities. This has not been difficult in principle or practice, as cycling is in keeping with our academic and research focus on both healthy lifestyles and sustainability. Cycling is a clean, green and healthy activity, and a much more sustainable form of transport than most others, especially for short journeys.

As academic researchers we examine relevant issues. In conjunction with the Tour, UniSA convenes the *Thinking on Two Wheels* conferences. These events have featured presentations from academics and non-academics alike on a wide range of cycling-related topics from health through recreation, community, tourism and engineering to sustainable transport. This year, we hosted a Bicycle Research Interest Group (BRIG) muster in Adelaide on the rest day of the Tour which offered local, interstate and overseas enthusiasts a chance to take part in presentations and discussions on cycling research projects.

The TDU has become a part of the University's culture with many of our staff, students and friends getting involved. The City East Health and Fitness Centre runs a six-week high intensity TDU fitness camp designed to give serious results. There are also a number of training rides on offer for different levels of aspiration and fitness leading up to the TDU community races.

I greatly enjoyed taking part in the 134km Mutual Community Challenge Tour from Mannum to Strathalbyn this year. It was personally satisfying to complete the ride with about 40 others from UniSA. Even more pleasing was the number of other people taking part in the race - over 3400 riders, almost seven times the number that attempted the Challenge when I first rode it back in January 2003.

This increase in participation is a significant demonstration of the growing interest in this sustainable form of transportation. It made me realise that there is a chance Adelaide one day could be ranked alongside Amsterdam, Portland (Oregon) and Copenhagen as the world's best places to cycle. For example, in Copenhagen one third of about 800,000 daily commuters cycle to work, another third take public transport, with only the remaining third using private vehicles.

Of course a similar development in Adelaide would require better infrastructure for cycling commuters but just imagine what it would do for both our environment and public health. It is a reasonable argument that the money invested in a safer biking environment would lead to substantial savings on the State's public health expenditure - not to mention the savings to Adelaide businesses through enhanced employee productivity, health and wellbeing.

A recent Medibank Private report claimed that healthy employees are nearly three times more productive

and take up to nine times less sick leave than their unhealthy colleagues. Poor employee health and absenteeism costs Australian business \$7 billion annually while presenteeism (the loss of productivity when employees come to work but aren't functioning properly due to poor health) costs about \$25 billion each year.

There is increasing evidence that cycling significantly contributes to better physical and mental health. It can help to lower levels of depression, improve aerobic fitness, lower blood pressure and cholesterol, reduce the risk of heart attacks, strokes and obesity and improve overall life expectancy.

Through its Health Sciences Division, UniSA is intending to play a strong role in population health research and in the past 18 months, has strategically recruited a team of researchers to complement existing expertise. I have confidence that this team will use strong evidence-based research to help change behaviour and public policy to avoid what seems like a looming public health crisis, in large part driven by the increasing prevalence of obesity.

Whether that means that our health researchers will encourage even more of our staff, students and the wider public to engage in regular cycling is not easy to predict. Perhaps a first indicator will be how much bigger the TDU Challenge Tours become. If the general cycling infrastructure improves, I for one predict the number to be huge and that our carbon footprint will be just that little bit smaller as a result. So hop on your bikes and enjoy a productive and healthy 2008.

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## Classifieds

### Accommodation

**Artists' Studio**, small workspaces available now in shared artists' studio in Port Adelaide. Rental from only \$20 p/w for own space with shared facilities; short-term OK if needed. Join a group of friendly, like-minded people doing interesting work. Please contact Diana on 8232 0310 or 0419 829 667.

**CBD Share Accommodation**, Ground level of two-storey brand new townhouse in CBD. Seeking professional, non-smoker to rent part of two bedroom townhouse off Halifax/Hutt St (own courtyard, study area with Foxtel & Internet, good sized bathroom, large wardrobes) No pets; \$250 p/w plus expenses. Phone 0417 878 728

**Mawson Lakes**, \$335/week negotiable. One-year-old four bedroom home, ducted heat & cool, separate lounge & dining, dishwasher, tiled floor except bedrooms, solar hotwater system, alarm with Home Management System, spa bath, big courtyard. Very quiet and convenient location close to schools, shops and public transport to UniSA Mawson Lakes campus and Adelaide city. Please call Guna (W) 8302 3094, (H) 8250 2745 or Siri 0447 011 099

**Melrose Park**, Large three - four bedroom house for rent. \$380/week (partly furnished). Close to public transport and other facilities. Phone 0414 339 350

**Stirling**, quiet hills retreat available for rent. Charming fully-furnished and fully-self contained one bedroom cottage in Stirling (Adelaide Hills, 17km from city campuses and Magill) \$150pw (includes elec). Short walk to shopping area with all facilities and bus to city. Would consider short-term rental. Main house located on same property. Contact Martina Nist (08) 8339 8572 or email [martina.nist@unisa.edu.au](mailto:martina.nist@unisa.edu.au) for more details and pictures.

### For sale

**Two armchairs** \$75 each or \$100 for both (recently reupholstered and in excellent condition). Three seat sofa \$215 (excellent condition). If the three items are sold together \$275. Please phone Diane on 8276 5155 or email [diane.ovens@unisa.edu.au](mailto:diane.ovens@unisa.edu.au)

**Mitsubishi Pajero**, diesel four wheel drive. Ideal farm or work vehicle, new bull bar and spotlights. Drives well. Registered until April. \$6000 ono. All offers considered. Phone 0418 823 673

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

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## Colgan's Cryptic

### Across

1. Shrewd know-how's left out in complaint (8)
5. Easing of tension with a welcome intervention (4)
9. Adjust one's position effectively, as Chinese acrobats do (4,3,6)
10. Future inspection's dismissed up front (7)
11. Herd ranged afar, ending back at the start (5)
12. Straight-hit boundaries interspersed with singles (6)
13. A sequence of letters posted by an Asian (6)
16. Watch part's an indicator of times (5)
18. Following a cruel setback, one has a complaint (7)
19. Fold pounded hide (2,11)
20. Square is made secure (4)
21. Unscrupulous lie given to seduce (8)

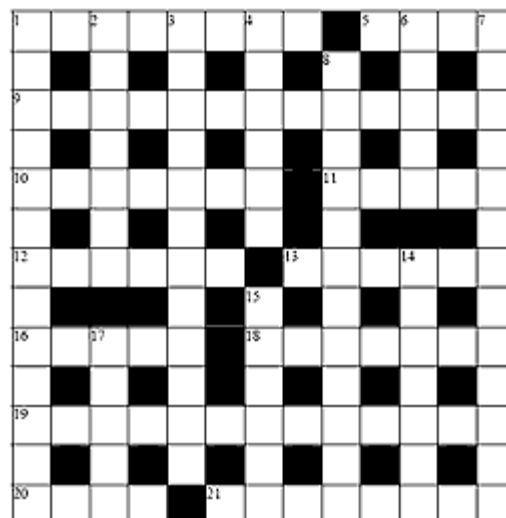
### Down

1. Take no action about different way that Government members assemble (3,2,3,5)
2. Athletic players lost second place to another football team (7)
3. Ensemble of six do routine number (7,5)
4. Leader has pronounced palpitation (6)
6. Agony overshadows start of optimist's good day (5)
7. Movies confuse cowboy Kit (7,6)
8. It's fabulous seeing eagles touch down near their nest (4,2,6)
14. Port and meat at nosh-up (7)
15. One supporting short men (6)
17. Sleazebag is to botch things, not up with it (5)

### Book voucher to win

For your chance to win a \$40 book voucher, fax your complete crossword to (08) 8302 5785 by Friday April 4.

Solutions published [online](#) on Friday April 11.



## Explanations

(C = cryptic part of clue + S = straight part of clue; or S + S = clue holding answer twice with two different straight meanings; or POW = play on words.)

Note that joining words may or may not be an integral part of the clue.

Punctuation and capital letters are irrelevant.

The art of the setter is to make it non-obvious how and where to split the clue, and to mislead the solver along an irrelevant path.

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

## Across

- C: shrewd know-how (slickness) left out (remove "I")  
S: complaint = sickness
- C: with a welcome intervention (inside "with a welcome")  
S: easing of tension = thaw
- S: adjust one's position effectively = turn the tables  
S: as Chinese acrobats do = turn the tables
- C: inspection (look) dismissed up front (out, beforehand)  
S: future = outlook
- C: ranged afar (roved), ending back at the start ("d" moved to the start)  
S: herd = drove
- C: hit boundaries (h , t) interspersed with singles (separated by "ones")  
S: straight = honest
- C: a (a) sequence of letters (fgh) posted by an (placed next to "an")  
S: Asian = Afghan
- C: part (role) an indicator of times (X)  
S: watch = Rolex
- C: following a (after "a") cruel setback ("mean" backwards) one (I) has a (a)  
S: complaint = anaemia
- C: fold (go under) pounded (ground)  
S: hide = go underground
- S: square = tied  
S: made secure = tied
- C: unscrupulous lie given (anagram of "lie given")  
S: seduce = inveigle

## Down

- C: take no action (sit tight) about different (around "other")  
S: way that government members assemble = sit to the right
- C: Athletic players (Charlton (Athletic)) lost second place (remove "h")  
S: another football team = Carlton
- C: ensemble of six do routine (anagram of "six do routine")  
S: numb-er = nitrous oxide
- C: pronounced palpitation (homonym of "shake")  
S: leader = sheikh
- C: agony (hell) overshadows start of optimist (above "o")  
S: good day = hello
- C: movies (westerns) confuse (addle)  
S: cowboy kit = western saddle
- C: (eagles) touch down near their nest (land off aerie)  
S: it's fabulous = land of faerie
- C: meat (ham) nosh-up (grub, upwards)  
S: port = Hamburg
- C: short men (Pat , Ron)  
S: one supporting = patron
- C: botch things (louse up) not up with it (without "up")  
S: sleazebag = louse



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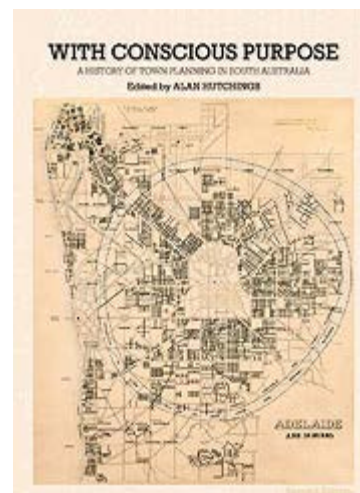
## New leaf

### With Conscious Purpose: A History of Town Planning In South Australia (Second Edition)

**Hutchings, A (editor)**  
**Planning Institute of Australia (SA)**

State Housing Minister Jay Weatherill launched the new edition of the book *With Conscious Purpose: A History of Town Planning in South Australia* at a function held in November in UniSA's Hawke Building.

The first edition of this important work was launched by former Premier Don Dunstan in 1986. This second edition has been prepared under the editorial guidance of Alan Hutchings, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in Planning in the School of Natural and Built Environments. It includes a new chapter covering the years since 1986, written by UniSA Professor of Regional and Urban Planning Steve Hamnett and Alan Hutchings, as well as new material contributed by some of the original authors and also by Dr Christine Garnaut, Senior Research Fellow in the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design.



*With Conscious Purpose - a History of Town Planning in South Australia* traces the organised and systematic development of settlements in the State, through the rise of suburbia in early Adelaide, the spread of the agricultural frontiers and the new 20th century planning philosophies and model developments.

The rapid post World War II urban expansions and new cities initiatives are analysed as are the legislative policies from the 1960s onwards.

This edition brings the reader up to date with postscripts of new research and insights and carries the story forward to the present day.

Still the only complete planning history of any Australian state, it is a work of scholarship easily accessible to students, practitioners and the interested citizen.

Copies can be purchased from the Planning Institute of Australia (SA) by phoning Kirsty Kelly on 8410 2988 or emailing [kirsty.kelly@planning.org.au](mailto:kirsty.kelly@planning.org.au)

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## In brief

### Australia Day honours for UniSA luminaries

Former UniSA Vice Chancellor Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AO, and founding Director of UniSA's Institute for Telecommunications Research Emeritus Professor Michael Miller were among the 12 distinguished UniSA friends and alumni to receive Australia Day honours.

Prof Bradley was made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), "for service to higher education through leadership and sector-wide governance, to the promotion of information-based distance learning and to the advancement of Australian education facilities internationally".

She and Patron-in-Chief of UniSA's Hawke Centre, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, Governor of South Australia, were two of only six Australians to receive the highest accolade.



Prof Miller was made an Officer in the General Division (AO), "for service to science, particularly through leadership roles in the innovation and development of future generation telecommunications technology".

Other recipients were alumni Dean Brown (former SA Premier), John Fotheringham, Ronald Harvey, Sister Helen Little, Elizabeth Raupach (Director of the Helpmann Academy), former lecturer and donor Dr Adam Jamrozik, Honorary Doctor and member of the Ian Wark advisory board Sydney Richards and Professor Gerard Sutton, Vice Chancellor of the University of Wollongong.

On behalf of the University, Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Høj congratulated all the recipients, making special mention of his predecessor Prof Bradley.

"We are all very proud and delighted that Prof Bradley has been acknowledged with the Companion of the Order of Australia award - it is certainly well deserved," Prof Høj said.

"To contribute to the establishment of a successful institution such as UniSA in such a short period of time is one thing, but to have achieved so much at a broader sectoral level through her leading role in so many organisations and groups is nothing short of remarkable.

"Prof Bradley's achievements as a business woman, a scholar and a leader are an inspiration to many Australians, myself included."

Prof Høj added that "the best way we can pay respect to Prof Bradley's enormous achievements is to ensure that UniSA will continue the path of improvement along all fronts to ensure it becomes a very significant contributor to Australia having the best higher education system in the world and to it becoming one of the world's best educated, most innovative, cohesive and sustainable societies".

### Dr Hetzel awarded prestigious international public health prize

At a ceremony last month, the King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej personally awarded Dr Basil Hetzel AC, former UniSA Chancellor, the prestigious 2007 Prince Mahidol Prize for his contribution to international public health.

Dr Hetzel's work in public health dates back to 1964 in Papua New Guinea when his team at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (University of Adelaide), in collaboration with the PNG Public Health Department showed that cretinism (a severe form of brain damage) could be prevented by the injection of iodized oil before pregnancy.

Now in his 80s Dr Hetzel is still vigilant about public health trends and the impact of iodine deficiency in communities.

"Recent research in Australia has identified significant iodine deficiency in school children and in pregnant women," Dr Hetzel said.

"This indicates the need for greater use of already available iodized salt.

"We have seen enormous progress in the 30 years since we identified the importance of iodine deficiency to brain development – but it is something we need to continue to monitor and continue to provide public health education about.

"I see the Prince Mahidol Prize as a wonderful recognition of the benefits our work has brought to the health of communities throughout the world."

### **Collett collects ISANA bursary**

Diana Collett, an international student counsellor in UniSA's Learning Connection has won the 2007 International Student Advisers' Network of Australia (ISANA) Bursary offered by Australian Education International.

The \$1000 prize was awarded to Collett at the 18th ISANA Annual International Education Conference held recently in Adelaide for her paper *Coming Together: New Approaches to Intercultural Interaction in Higher Education*, which examined the strategies being developed at UniSA that explore the effect of differing worldviews on interaction among international and local students and staff.

The bursary was one of three given to postgraduate students whose papers were seen to be making a significant contribution to the ISANA conference and to knowledge in international education. The submitted papers were judged by a national panel of practitioners and academics.



### **International role for legal expert**

UniSA Professor Rob Fowler has just been named as a member of the governing board of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Academy of Environmental Law.

The Academy is a prestigious global educational organisation designed to build knowledge of environmental law through an international academic network. Under the umbrella of the IUCN the Academy of Environmental Law links into the world's largest and most important conservation network.

With a strong focus on developing countries and countries in transition, the Academy aims to enhance the teaching capacities in universities worldwide in all areas of environmental legal education with a focus on curriculum development and teaching the teachers programs.

Prof Fowler says the Academy works globally to encourage innovative collaborative research into how law can play a role in resolving today's environmental challenges.

And Prof Fowler comes to the position with a wealth of expertise. As a program leader in the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment & Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE), Prof Fowler is responsible for the development and implementation of research projects related to the legal, policy, social and economic aspects of site contamination. He is also a co-founder of the new Centre for Environmental Management and Compliance (CEMAC) at UniSA which designs and delivers training courses for government officers and the private sector in relation to environmental management and

compliance.

### **New chaplain at City West**

Libby Hentschke has recently joined the team of chaplains across UniSA campuses.

She is currently studying a Bachelor of Theology at the Australian Lutheran and will be available at the City West campus four mornings a week as follows:

Tuesday – 8.30am to 10.15am in Y4-14  
Wednesday – 11.30am to 12.45pm in Y1-42  
Thursday – 8.30am to 10.15am in Y1-42  
Friday – 11.30am to 12.45pm in Y1-42

"I'll be saying hello and hope that you will say hello back in whatever way you do that and I hope that you will enjoy our interaction together," Libby says.



### **Elite directorship for forensic computing expert**

Associate Research Professor Jill Slay in UniSA's Defence and Systems Institute has been appointed a director of US-based ISC<sup>2</sup>, the non-profit global leader in educating and certifying information security professionals through their careers.

Leader of the Systems for Safeguarding Australia Research Centre and the Forensic Computing Lab, Prof Slay's research expertise is in forensic computing, critical infrastructure protection, IT security, information warfare and cyberterrorism.

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## 2007 Vice Chancellor's Awards for Professional Staff Excellence

The 2007 Vice Chancellor's Awards for Professional Staff Excellence were presented at a ceremony in the Bradley Forum in December.

Almost 80 staff were nominated, and 28 received awards in the individual or team categories.

Master of ceremonies, Pro Vice Chancellor of International and Development, Dr Anna Ciccarelli noted the "interesting mixture of recipients".



"This year's awardees are from all levels and areas of the University," Dr Ciccarelli said.

"Some are from very prominent positions or contributing to significant projects and others who are less prominent but who are making a significant difference to the smooth and successful functioning of UniSA.

"One thing they do have in common is they all deserve to be showcased as role models of professional staff excellence."

The recipients were:

- Julie Hockey, Manager, Academic Library Services, Division of Business for "Providing Quality Service"
- Rongyu Li, Business Development Manager, Division of Health Sciences for "Providing Quality Service"
- Dr Sally Nimon, Business Analyst: Market Research, Planning and Assurance Services for "Providing Quality Service"
- Jackie Cornell, Academic Support Officer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Division of Health Sciences for "Working Smarter/Getting Results"
- David Cox, EQUIS Project Director, Division of Business for "Leading Change"
- The Law School Establishment Team - Leanne Steele, Tania Kanellos, Cindy Schofield, Dawn Le Cornu, Annabel Mansfield and Louise Seaman - for "Providing Quality Service"
- The RQF Support Team - Sally Carpenter, Michael Crisp, Jemma Turner, Clare Cobb, Emma Stoddart, Kylie Aston and Darren Townsend - for "Working Across Boundaries"
- The ISTS Workforce Development Team - Susan Loveday, Kate Dyson-Smith, Anne Petrie, Anna Assiotis, Helen Goode and Jo Tonkin - for "Working Smarter/Getting Results"
- The School of Nursing and Midwifery Program Administration Officer Team - Jessica Lepore, Anna Van Gasteren, Tim Brooke-Smith and Zoe Blackman - for "Working Smarter/Getting Results"

Attending the awards for the first time, Vice Chancellor Prof Peter Høj congratulated the recipients and presented them with certificates of recognition.

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# O TO U in change of events

by **Linda Hein**

*U Week* is replacing *O Week* as the social side of orientation.

UniSA's student association, UniLife has introduced the *U Week Roadshow* to this year's orientation calendar, along with a number of other events to help ease students into university.

Academic orientation sessions will continue in the first week of the year but, according to UniLife events manager, Liam Carter the plan was to separate the academic orientation from the "fun stuff" and that meant having a new name and a new week.

The *U Week Roadshow* will travel to all UniSA metro campuses between March 3 and 6 with the new Party Transformer in tow - a purpose-built BBQ wok trailer complete with marquee, umbrella, food, drinks and music to relieve the pre-study jitters.

Students in Whyalla and Mt Gambier won't miss out either, with the Roadshow visiting them the week before, on February 26 and 28 respectively, complete with bar and street performers.

The week of festivities will wind up with the *U Party* – the new take on the orientation ball – on Friday March 7 at Rapture nightclub on North Terrace where around 400 students will enjoy bands and DJs.

Once the year kicks in, UniLife will also hold *U Thursdays* every Thursday during study periods, with activities ranging from on campus events, to a night of lawn bowls or even a few quiet drinks at a local.

All other services offered by UniLife will continue throughout the year, including a range of sporting clubs, advocacy and advice services designed to make uni life easier and more fulfilling.

Campus Central will still be the place to go for study questions, advice on enrolments and timetables, student cards and reading material, while Learning Connection will continue to provide support services such as language and learning development, counselling, careers, disability and international student services.

For more information about *U Week* or other UniLife activities, phone Liam Carter on (08) 8302 2878 or visit the [UniLife website](#).

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## Sharing SA's groundwater expertise

Overuse, rising salinity, falling water tables – it seems water management is an issue the world over

Last month, a delegation of 10 high level academics and senior government officials from Bangladesh, India, China, Pakistan and Nepal visited South Australia to see the State's groundwater management policies at work.

They were here as part of an International Water Management Institute (IWMI) exchange program that took in the Coorong, farms in the State's South East and market gardens at Virginia.

Director of UniSA's Centre for Comparative Water Policies and Laws, Professor Jennifer McKay said the aim of the visit was to share information about current groundwater law policy and practice in South Australia which is advanced by international standards.

"South Australia not only has the most coherent approach to water management in Australia," Prof McKay said, "we also lead the way globally when it comes to groundwater management."

The two-week visit included presentations by leading UniSA water experts, representatives from the SA Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation and farmers in the South East who totally rely on groundwater.

Director of the IWMI in Delhi, Dr Bharat Sharma said the exchange program hopes to build water management capacity in regions which source the crucial Indo-Gangetic and Yellow River Basins.

"The groundwater used for agriculture in these states is worth around US\$20 billion a year," Dr Sharma said, "and sustains an agricultural output of between US\$50-64 billion annually."

"Around 50 per cent of the populations of these basin countries directly benefit from this output and with proper targeting, groundwater offers big opportunities for poverty reduction in many areas."

Dr Shakeel Ahmed, Deputy Director of the National Geophysical Research Institute at Hyderabad's Indo-French Centre for Groundwater Research, said the scale of problems in India was very different from Australia.

"India, of course, has a much greater population. The land holdings per farmer are much bigger here," he said. "And the geological formation is also very different – limestone is predominant in SA's South East, whereas two thirds of India is covered in hard rock, which makes it geologically more complex."

"Nevertheless, I was very impressed to see how groundwater is managed, and takes into account stakeholder input and scientific input."

"In India, we need of the scientific modelling that is done here."

Professor Fengxin Kang, Deputy Director of the Hydrogeology Division of Shandong Provincial Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources said with many sources of surface water polluted beyond use, China will increasingly rely on groundwater.

"Water law in China relates to surface water only," he said. "We need government-managed law for sustainable use of groundwater. In northern China, the aquifer is similar to that in South Australia's South East."



This is the second time delegates from developing Asian countries have sought expertise from South Australia's experience, following a successful first visit by delegates from India and Pakistan in late 2006.

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### UniSA wins support for a new generation of health research

Three young UniSA health researchers have won support from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to continue to investigate some of the most significant problems facing populations in Australia today.

Dr Janna Morrison was awarded an NHMRC Career Development Award of \$370,000 over the next four years to continue to lead research into the relationship between low birth weight and cardiovascular disease in adult life.

Dr Morrison has been a highly successful researcher, receiving nine fellowships in the past seven years and helping to nurture a strong research base at UniSA in the early origins of adult cardiovascular disease.

Her research examines what factors in the womb may impact on the development of the adult heart.

"My main hypothesis is that a chronic shortage of oxygen reaching the tissues when a baby is in the womb (restricting a baby's growth) may result in certain vascular and heart adaptations in the fetus to allow it to survive in that environment. My theory is that those same adaptations may lead to an increased risk of heart disease when the baby grows to adulthood."

Two other grants announced this week include an NHMRC Public Health training fellowship which was won by Whyalla-based researcher in population health or epidemiology, Dr Matt Haren.

Dr Haren is engaged in a project to investigate the factors impacting on respiratory and metabolic health in Whyalla families in comparison to those in Adelaide's North West suburbs.

"There are a lot of issues to contend with when you look at respiratory and metabolic health – biology and genetics, family-patterned behaviours including smoking, physical activity and food choices and environmental factors such as social disadvantage, stress and pollution – all of them can have an impact " Dr Haren said.

"What I'll be doing is building a picture of how all of these factors interact to impact on the health outcomes of the Whyalla population, there may be important differences between the city and regional SA."

NHMRC support for Dr Haren totals \$274,000 over four years.

And in an innovative new project, postgraduate researcher at UniSA, Dr Katina D'Onise will be looking at the impact of early childhood education on the risks of the development of diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. Her postgraduate study is being supported with an NHMRC Public Health Scholarship of \$96,000 over three years.

UniSA Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation, Professor Caroline McMillen said the support from the NHMRC was a real indication of the development of new depth at UniSA in areas of medical research of major importance for public health.

"I'm delighted that the hard work and promise of these researchers has been acknowledged," she said.

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## UNAP celebrates

UniSA Northern Adelaide Partnership (UNAP) recently launched the booklet *Working Together for the North* at a special function at the Watershed Sustainability Centre in Salisbury.

The report, which showcases UNAP's achievements and milestones over the past two years, was presented by UNAP Manager Marc Shannon.

More than 40 guests, including representatives from UNAP's major partners across the education, health and government sectors, as well as non-government organisations, local councils and industry organisations, attended the event.



Among the guests were Tony Zappia, Mayor of the City of Salisbury, Chair of UNAP and newly-elected Member for Makin; Lea Stevens, MP for Little Para; Martin Lindsell, Mayor of the City of Playford; Adair Garrett, general manager, Central Northern Adelaide Health Service; Bernie McSwain, manager, library services, City of Salisbury; and Martin Lippett, manager, Northern Area State Secondary Schools Alliance.

UniSA's Pro Vice Chancellor, Organisational Strategy and Change, Professor Hilary Winchester said the most enjoyable part of her involvement comes when she hears about the things that UNAP is helping to deliver that make a real difference to the lives of people.

"These are often not things that directly benefit the University, but they are things that have immediate impact on people living here," Prof Winchester said.

"There are the programs that UniSA staff and students deliver to children, like Lapsit; the education opportunities made available to young mums through the Pank/Wyatt Scholarships; the UniSA PAL program and scholarships that help adults who wouldn't have ever thought that they could, get to and through university; the TAFE transition scholarships again made possible by the Pank Family and the Wyatt Institute; and the clinics which rely not just on our staff and students but on the collaboration and financial support of the Federal and State Governments and their agencies.

"And all of these programs deliver results, very personal results for people in the first place.

"And the results grow. Positive outcomes for individuals make positive results for their families, which add up positive impacts for the immediate community."

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## Celebrating our teachers

With a strong new focus on teaching and improving teaching outcomes across the University there has also been some real attention given to acknowledging UniSA's great teachers.

For the first time UniSA held a special luncheon to celebrate teaching excellence and honour the winners of Carrick Awards and a new suite of UniSA's own teaching awards and citations.

About 150 attended the luncheon in November which included UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Høj, Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Lee and visiting Emeritus Professor of Higher Education at Oxford Brookes University, Alan Jenkins.

Winners of the eight Carrick citations for UniSA attended and there was a special screening of interviews with them about their approach to teaching and learning.

Prof Høj announced the recipients of the UniSA Awards for Teaching Excellence – David Badenoch (Education), Sue Gilbert-Hunt (Health Sciences) and Dr Ioana Petrescu (Communications).

From Health Sciences, Dr Sara Jones, Helen Banwell and Ryan Causby received the UniSA Enhancing Learning Award and 13 academics from all four divisions were given UniSA citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning.

A further 53 UniSA Quality Teaching Awards were presented.

The winners received between \$1500 and \$5000 to spend on activities designed to further enhance their development as great teachers.

Congratulating the winners, Vice Chancellor Prof Høj said he believed good teaching was at the heart of every successful University.

"It is our teachers who are responsible for developing high quality professionals with integrity, vision and the drive to contribute to society in a positive and creative way," he said.

"Good quality undergraduate teaching is also the engine room of a successful research culture."



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## Conference hopeful

by Vincent Ciccarello

Sara Ahmed, who was raised in Adelaide but is now Professor in Race and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths University of London, sensed a "moment of political hope" during her recent visit home.

She was a keynote speaker at the Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association (ACRAWSA) conference convened by all three SA universities and hosted by UniSA in December, only weeks after the election of the Rudd Labor Government.

"There is optimism about some of the topics around asylum and detention centres, and recognition of Indigenous sovereignty," Prof Ahmed said.

"But I've also picked up an expectation or need for caution about what exactly is going to be opened up."

The ACRAWSA conference, *Transforming Bodies, Nations and Knowledges* was an excellent opportunity, she said, to be "critical of the present, and what it throws up, and to be responsive".

"It's very rare to go to a conference where there's been a real sense of energetic aliveness to try to understand and even describe what's going on in the present," Prof Ahmed said.

"Because sometimes even description is very hard. I know from my own work on racism that it's very hard to speak about racism and the ways in which it goes on without getting noticed. And the very act of bearing witness to that is complicated and hard."

Her keynote address, *The Politics of Good Feeling*, reflected her current study into notions of happiness through a critique of the film, *Bend It Like Beckham*.

"I've always been interested in how happiness as an idea circulates in our culture as a way of making something good - *happy* marriages, the *happy* family - certain social forms become seen as what promises happiness."

Conference committee member, Dr Kathleen Connellan from UniSA's South Australian School of Art said Prof Ahmed's address "epitomised seriousness and fun".

"Delegates seemed to hang on Sara's every word as she manoeuvred her way through a presentation with movie clips and captivating visuals, all balanced with deep and reflective research on a subject that is at once personal and political," Dr Connellan said.

The conference attracted more than 100 delegates from as far afield as Canada, Europe and the UK, as well as from all over Australia.

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# Cultural understanding key to language learning

by Lisa McDonald

A fresh approach to learning is benefitting language students across Australia

A \$2.2million Federal Government languages project, developed and managed by Associate Professor Angela Scarino and Professor Tony Liddicoat from UniSA Research Centre for Languages and Cultures - and the largest to be funded in Australia - is currently being rolled out in classrooms nationally.

The Intercultural Language Teaching and Learning in Practice (ILTLP) project extends primary and secondary teachers' understanding of and engagement with intercultural language learning by exploring the relationship between languages and culture. This is a move away from the traditional focus on words, text and structure in language teaching, to more student-centred teaching.



Professor Tony Liddicoat said intercultural language teaching explores the personal meanings that students attach to what is being taught.

"From this, they form their own understanding and judgement," he said.

"Language can be seen as the tool, but the cultural meanings behind the language also need to be explored."

Providing teachers with knowledge and understanding of intercultural language learning has been shown to directly enhance student engagement with language learning.

The project, which has brought together language teachers from all education sectors, is part of a wider government strategy to increase language teaching and learning across Australian schools.

The ILTLP project commenced with school-based research throughout Australia, with a review of current practices and assessment methods.

It then developed programming and assessment processes encompassing intercultural language learning.

Professional learning resources and processes were then established to support the program.

"The ILTLP program will turn on its head the way that languages are being taught and learnt in our schools," Prof Liddicoat said.

"It will create vastly improved learning experiences for Australian language students. In addition to over 400 teachers directly participating in the program, many others are independently applying its learning resources."

It is envisaged that in the future, the principles of ILTLP will be firmly grounded in classroom practice across Australia.

The two-year project was commissioned and funded by the Australian Government Quality Teacher

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