Last December I had the immense pleasure of travelling to Cambodia.

The occasion was the 10th anniversary celebration of the University’s significant work at the ancient city of Angkor. As well as this wonderful event, my trip was a real eye-opener, as it brought home to me the extent of our involvement in Cambodia across a wide range of projects and disciplines. We have much to be proud of and it was obvious to me that the work and commitment of the University of Sydney was well-known and appreciated.

The University of Sydney has been engaged with Cambodia for 30 years, starting with the work of our current Chancellor, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, who as a psychiatrist in the 1980s, established support services for Cambodian child refugees and assisted with family reunions.

Another eminent alumnus, Justice Michael Kirby, was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN for Human Rights in Cambodia 1994–1996. We also have a long engagement with the Mekong River Authority and currently run a major AusAID project on water use, a five-year program run in conjunction with the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) and the Royal University of Phnom Penh to increase agricultural production and sustainable use of natural resources. The project currently has five Cambodian graduate students.

As well as our involvement in areas as diverse as sociology and social policy, law and government, the University is extending its medical training and support programs in Cambodia. The Children’s Hospital at Westmead and the Coppleson Committee for Continuing Medical Education have been working with the Swiss Children’s Hospital in Siem Reap to teach our Diploma in Child Health since 2006. The program meets the demands of the medical community and resident hospital staff for a course in primary care paediatrics and has proved to be a valuable resource for postgraduate paediatric education.

But the real focus of this visit was to celebrate 10 years research in Angkor by the University of Sydney and to thank our Cambodian and international collaborators.

In recognition of Australians’ contribution to the heritage of Cambodia, the anniversary dinner was held under the royal patronage of the King, HRH Norodom Sihamoni. It was a truly glittering occasion in the most glorious...
of settings. Thanks to permission from the Deputy Prime Minister and from APSARA, the Cambodian agency that manages Angkor, the dinner was held adjacent to the Bayon, the great Angkorian temple in the centre of Angkor Thom. It’s hard to imagine a more magical backdrop.

Our guests included HRH Samdech Norodom Sirivudh, representing the King; the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Sok An; and the Australian Ambassador, Margaret Adamson. Among the 100 others attending were ministers of the Cambodian government, senior staff of APSARA and UNESCO, representatives of the diplomatic service, senior Cambodian academics and heritage managers, eminent international scholars, and senior staff of the University of Sydney.

The University’s research at Angkor is conducted in collaboration with the Cambodian agency APSASA, and the French research organisation Ecole Française d’Extrême Orient (EFEO) which began working at Angkor in the 19th century. This multi-disciplinary research project has been funded by grants of more than $1.2m from the Australian Research Council since 2002 and is co-ordinated by the University departments of Archaeology and Geosciences.

A driving force in our involvement has been Dr Roland Fletcher, Professor of Theoretical and World Archaeology and Director of the Greater Angkor Project (GAP). Together with other Australian and international colleagues he is credited as solving one of archaeology’s great mysteries – why the great medieval city of Angkor collapsed. Their work featured as the cover article of The National Geographic magazine in July 2009.

At its height from the 12th to 14th centuries, the elaborate city of Angkor had a population of about 750,000 and was the most extensive, low-density urban development of the pre-industrial world. Yet by the 17th century, the city was in ruins and abandoned.

The research projects have redefined the nature of Angkor and have also provided the basis for a new approach to the region as a cultural heritage landscape, along with a methodology for managing one of the greatest World Heritage sites, well-known as the location of the largest single religious monument – Angkor Wat – and the largest single collection of religious monuments on the planet.

GAP has transformed the world’s understanding of Angkor, redefining it as a giant city which covered approximately 1000 sq km. It is now known to have been the most extensive pre-industrial city in the world, possessing the largest single urban water management system prior to the late 19th century. GAP has identified its extent, mapped its water control network and identified the nature and chronology of its collapse.

According to the team, Angkor was abandoned due to the combined effects of climate change, the vast extent of the city, the extensive clearing of the forests and the massive scale of its complicated water system.

A decade of research studying the decline of urbanism in the area has also been combined with new tree-ring-dating evidence that uses long-lived species in the region such as the 900-year-old po mu tree. Evidence of extreme fluctuations between drought and heavy monsoons between the 1350s and about 1500 was found in the annual growth rings of the tree.

In the National Geographic article Professor Fletcher said, ‘Angkor really had no fat to burn. The city was more exposed to the threat of drought than at any other time in its history. Prolonged and severe droughts, punctuated by torrential downpours, would have ruined the water system.’

The findings have important lessons for contemporary readings of climate change. As experts debate the effects of human-made climate change, the tree rings of the po mu tree around Angkor reveal that even natural variations in weather can bring about catastrophe.

Another fascinating program which grew out of GAP is the ‘Living with Heritage’ (LWH) project. Established in 2005, again with funding of more than $1m from the Australian Research Council, it involves the expertise of the University’s Archaeological Computing Laboratory (ACL) and the interest of UNESCO in information management systems for World Heritage sites.

This project deals with the conflicting demands of preservation, economic development and social equity. Using most sophisticated computer mapping, LWH brings together the basic spatial and temporal data on Angkor to develop an information management system for monitoring changing conditions in the World Heritage Park and throughout Greater Angkor by assessing the relationship between the heritage site and the people who currently live within its boundary.

LWH has developed a comprehensive regional map of Angkor covering 3000 sq km, and has created an information management system to assist with the maintenance of the site by APSARA.

As well as these considerable research achievements I am delighted that our involvement in Cambodia is having an impact in many other ways. Our people are making a real difference.

Michael Spence at the 10th anniversary celebrations
Profile:
Baroness (Trixie) Gardner of Parkes
BDS ’54, Hon Fellow ’07
(Honorary President, USUKAA)

by Dr Robin Fitzsimons

Trixie Gardner, now Baroness Gardner of Parkes, a Sydney dentistry graduate and Conservative Life Peeress in the House of Lords, was born in Australia for the Bicentenary celebrations in 1988. Her husband, Kevin, then Lord Mayor of Westminster and also a Sydney dentistry graduate, was guest of the City of Sydney. Would she come to tea at Sydney University? Yes. Then, would she help found and organize a UK Sydney Alumni Association? Well, of course.

The rest, as they say, is history. Her wisdom, constant enthusiasm and energy ensured that our Association is the flourishing organisation it is today. It is with enormous pleasure therefore that the Association now welcomes Baroness Gardner as its inaugural President.

As Council Members have come and gone (often enough back to Australia) Baroness Gardner has remained a constant, keeping a wise eye on Association finances and noticing every important detail. She has discovered Sydney graduates who could provide remarkable venues for alumni gatherings. And of course, we now have the splendid combination of Trixie Gardner as President with Pauline Lyle-Smith as Chair. This year Baroness Gardner herself will sponsor the Annual Reception when we return to the House of Lords on 1st July.

Sydney University is in her blood. Her mother was a teacher and graduated in 1912, having come down from Queensland where there was as yet no university. Baroness Trixie Gardner (as she now is), a Sancta student, was born in Parkes, the eighth of nine McGirr children who progressively attended Sydney University – as have many of her family’s children and grandchildren.

So when in 1981 she was appointed to Britain’s House of Lords it seemed natural that the place name appended to her title would be ‘Parkes’, named after Sir Henry Parkes – a Premier of New South Wales (as was her own uncle, James McGirr) and a founding father of our Australian Federation. Sir Henry Parkes was also a fervent advocate of the right of women to a tertiary education who supported the foundation of The Women’s College within the University – against some recalcitrant opposition. How wonderful then that his furniture now adorns the office of the present Governor of New South Wales – our own Chancellor, Professor Marie Bashir. So ‘Baroness Gardner of Parkes’ is an apt title indeed.

USUKAA was delighted when Baroness Gardner accepted an Honorary Fellowship of the University in 2007 for her work in founding and developing our UK Alumni Association.

But in focusing on Baroness Gardner’s contribution to Sydney University, we should not forget her other magnificent contributions to public life, in Britain and internationally.

After seeing the appalling state of children’s teeth in Britain after she arrived here in the 1950s, she became a formidable advocate for dental prevention and fluoridation.

She has been a marvellous supporter of women taking a full role in the global economy, particularly in developing countries. She chaired ‘Plan International UK’ for twelve years to help some of the poorest children in the world in a way that circumvents endemic corruption. This charity empowers women in Africa and South America by providing start-up loans for them to start their own small businesses, and – most importantly – by educating girls. ‘Financial independence empowers women’. She has been the UK Representative on the UN Commission for the Status of Women. She has chaired and been a member of numerous British health authorities, hospitals and trusts.

Baroness Gardner brings together her life and experience in two countries – Australia and Britain – in ways which bring them closer together when other forces might be pushing them apart. She is a living rebuttal to those in Britain who still believe everyone should retire at 65. She is a role model for everyone in public life who believes in the ongoing importance of work and contribution for so long as one is able, and of continuing to integrate life experiences for their community in ways which just get better and more active the longer that experience accumulates.

And you’ve only to read her recent incisive questions and contributions on a vast array of issues in the House of Lords to realise how well Question Time in a real House of Review can be used to make sure unforeseen adverse effects of legislation are picked up before it’s too late. On the recent Australia Day she was busy at Westminster asking questions about bureaucratic sidelining of important London Traffic questions. And at other times delving into issues of credit insurance for small business during the global financial crisis, or mobile phone signals and motorway planning, or the importance of maintaining a list of non-practising dentists, or reminding the Lords that it was during her tenure as the British representative on the UN Commission on the Status of Women that Britain became the first country publicly to acknowledge violence against women.
Autumn Lecture:
Jon Snow, Guest Speaker, Christ Church, Oxford, October 2009

Jon Snow confesses a dangerous ignorance of Australia, but says at least he’s been to Sydney – when Australia was voting on the question of becoming a republic in 1999. He’s anchored the UK’s Channel 4 News since 1989, reported from Zanzibar to Afghanistan, and been a correspondent in Nairobi, Rome and Washington. He’s won assorted journalism awards and last year was voted the Royal Society of Television’s Presenter of the year for the third time. He’s been a Trustee of Britain’s Tate and national galleries. He’s still not sure what he’ll do when he grows up.

(The above is the introduction Jon gave us for his most entertaining and interesting speech.)

He is a noted and excellent journalist, greatly admired for his highly professional, firm, persistent, fair and empathetic interviewing skills.

Jon spoke about how he gradually leaned towards the media and reporting and felt that he was better at describing events than accomplishing matters. TV news reporting was very primitive when he began as a journalist as compared to modern digital reporting. The TV journalist and cameraman were not always well synchronised and the journalist could just hope that the cameraman was filming the exact piece of the same news item on which he was reporting. The films in the early days were large, bulky and carried in large rolls. Now they are all digitised.

Jon spoke about how he reported Margaret Thatcher’s speech when she was first elected in 1979. People wondered how her memory was so good, especially when she quoted from a prayer by St. Francis of Assisi. Jon noticed, that from where he was standing (diagonally behind her), she had a mnemonic in the palm of her hand to assist her with her speech.

ITV asked Jon to go to Uganda when Idi Amin was in power, (he had previously been there as a reporter). Shortly after he arrived, he received an invitation from Idi Amin to accompany him on a plane trip. The dictator liked to dress up in a different costume each week and on this occasion had chosen to appear as a Texan cowboy complete with a Stetson hat and large boots. Having sat down beside Jon, Idi immediately fell asleep and as he leant forward his belt appeared, to which was attached a holster with a revolver which was possibly loaded. Jon entertained us with his description of feeling tempted to take out the revolver and shoot him but did not succumb to the temptation as ‘I probably would not be here now as I could have missed and it would have gone into the side of the plane and we would all have been sucked out.’

During President Carter’s term, Jon was one of the few reporters to reach the site in the Iranian desert where the American attempt to rescue the hostages in Teheran failed. His first impression of Iran’s government was that there was no overall coherent authority. The Iranian security forces were furious and nearly detained him, he was however congratulated by the Iranian foreign office.

He stated that it was now known for certain that the Taliban received more money from private donations in Saudi Arabia than they did from the trade in opium.

Book Bursaries
Pauline Lyle-Smith
Chairman

The USUKAA Council agreed to give six book bursaries of £100 to University of Sydney graduates coming to study in the UK.

It was initially decided to give five bursaries, however due to the extremely high standard of the entries another bursary was awarded.


I would like to congratulate the winners and thank Ian Henderson, Peg Belson, Dolores Ditner and Melissa Hardee for their work in this respect.

Each winner received a certificate of appreciation and recognition.

2010 Book Bursaries

The USUKAA Council has just agreed to give similar book bursaries for the year 2010. Applications will be received up to the close of business on Friday 21 May 2010.

For full details and an application form, please visit, sydney.edu.au/alumni/usukaa
Inspired by Nature:
Lyn Woodger Grant

Continuing to spread the message of conservation via her art, award-winning artist Lyn Woodger Grant, a Sydney University alumnus (BA, 1974 and MA, 1980) brought two major public exhibitions to London in 1998 and 1999. These were ‘Spirit of the Rainforest’ at Imperial College, South Kensington campus and ‘Fragile Beauty – From the Rainforest to the Coral Reef’, at the Royal Geographical Society Kensington Gore. Lyn has had a long-standing passion for anthropology, ecology and painting which she brought together in these shows. The Royal Geographical Society elected Lyn as a Fellow for her contribution towards environmental awareness.

A small selection of works from the London exhibitions are shown here, together with the original explanatory captions which seem even more concerning today than they did 12 years ago.

In 1998 the Imperial College had invited Lyn to participate in a year-long programme which would showcase a selection of university graduates who had successfully bridged disciplines. Lyn met the strict criteria, being a former National Art School teacher and graduate (ASTC, 1965) as well as a qualified art historian with a major in Anthropology. She staged an exhibition which primarily focused on endangered forests of Australia and other regions including New Guinea and Borneo.

‘Spirit of the Rainforest’ was launched by Professor Julian Evans OBE (Professor of Tropical Forestry) at the Central Libraries, Imperial College. Professor Evans delivered an up-to-date, informative lecture – ‘Rainforests: Diversity, Deforestation & their Defence’. The display, which spanned a selection of works over a thirty-eight year period, continued for one month. It included early pen and ink anthropological sketches as a young art student in 1962 to studies of temperate old growth forests painted in Tasmania in 1998. The exhibition, displayed on three levels of the library included a display cabinet of Lyn’s art/philosophy book, ‘Alchemical Gold’ published in 1986 (and now in the rare book section of Harvard and Bodleian Library, Oxford) and interested visitors, students and staff alike. Many expressed the desire to visit some of the unique places recorded through the artist’s eyes. They were inspired by the sheer beauty of the diverse ecosystems on display but were also concerned at the ecological vulnerability of these fragile places. Exhibited works included the sub-tropical rainforests of Lamington National Park, the Daintree, the haunting beauty of the Blue Mountains temperate eucalyptus forests, and the strangely beautiful and lesser-known mangroves, which are in serious decline worldwide.

As a result of the interest shown in the Imperial College Exhibition, the Royal Geographical Society invited Lyn to stage a similar exhibition the following year at the historic RGS Lecture Theatre. The show was to also include coral reefs, an area of particular interest to the research and mapping being carried out by the RGS at that time.

Paintings of three inter-related and ecologically linked environments – rainforests, mangroves and coral reefs – wrapped around the semi-circular exhibition space which is usually reserved for photographic displays of expeditions and scientific research. This was an RGS first as a special soundtrack by the artist’s composer daughter Alicia Grant (DPhil, Oxon)
Biography:
Nicholas Street
LLM(Cantab.), LLB (Syd.), MInstD, MILT

Nicholas Street graduated in law from the University of Sydney in 1985, having attended Shore School, North Sydney. Oxbridge beckoned and Jesus College, Cambridge, offered Nicholas the opportunity for further legal study and to experience student life in Europe.

During his tertiary studies Nicholas had brief internships at Freehill Hollingdale & Page in Sydney, courtesy of the late Kim Santow and 1 Brick Court, Inner Temple & 24 Old Buildings Lincoln's Inn in London, the former courtesy of the then Australian shadow attorney-general, John Spencer QC. 1 Brick Court was at the time headed by Robert Alexander QC, Chairman of the English Bar.

After graduating from Sydney University and prior to departing Australian shores to attend Jesus College, Nicholas was a contributor as a researcher for Practice and Procedure of the High Court and Federal Court of Australia (published by Butterworths and edited by Brian J Camilleri).

Whilst at Jesus College, Cambridge, Nicholas would travel down to London to stay with the family of Gordon Barton, a Sydney University Alumnus, in Thurloe Sq South Kensington. The townhouse, opposite the Victoria & Albert Museum and a short walk from Harrods, was owned by the widow of Kenneth Tynan – a celebrated though somewhat controversial theatre critic. In keeping with the owner and its tenant, the house hosted many colourful guests from all walks of life and from almost all corners of the globe and everywhere in between. It was a privilege to be included and a wonderful educational and social supplement to Cambridge.

Returning from the UK Nicholas commenced his career at the NSW Bar in Wentworth Chambers, his pupil masters being Brian J Camilleri and Bret Walker. Nicholas continued, when time permitted, to contribute to the Practice & Procedure
of the High Court & Federal Court of Australia as well as being invited to edit Federal Court reports for Methuen.

After commencing at the Bar he continued to travel and returned to the UK on numerous occasions. European business opportunities were always a subject of discussion on those travels and no more so than with Gordon Barton and his son, Geoffrey.

Drawn to the corporate world, Nicholas left the Bar to work in Rothschild Australia’s Corporate Finance department on what was planned as additional experience before returning to the Bar.

Discussion, on a short visit to Sydney by the Barton’s, turned to business opportunities in Europe. It was proposed Geoffrey and Nicholas fund and establish a new transport and distribution business in Europe. They took up the initiative with a strategy to utilise established ground networks in each principal European country and build a hybrid cross-border distribution business taking advantage of the Common Market and the differentials in local costs and exchange rates, in effect arbitraging the variables then apparent in Europe.

The seeds grew and Nicholas resigned from Rothschild to take up residence in Europe, based in London, and IMX was born. There followed a hectic 24 months of travel throughout Europe and North America. Partner-ships were rapidly established from late 1989 and early 1990 in the UK, Spain, Gibraltar and Germany. In 1992 IMX opened in Italy, followed by France. Once again, plans were to establish the network and a solid platform leaving Nicholas to return to the Bar and Geoffrey to attend university. As time-consuming was the Bar, so business can be even more consuming especially when managing systems in different countries, with different languages, different work practices and ethics and a changing political landscape.

Considerable consolidation in the transport industry then followed, facilitated by European liberalisation, the enlarged homogeneous European market and single currency. IMX today remains one of the few private independent European multi-national cross-border companies specialising in the distribution of magazines, books, catalogues, mail order products, statements and reports. The industry is now facing its next challenge brought on by the global financial crisis restricting companies’ access to capital and reigning in capital expenditure plans ensuring the next phase of development will be through ingenuity, luck, compromise and grinding hard work.

IMX, despite the many challenges in Europe for antipodeans has achieved many ‘firsts’: including the first UK company to establish an extra-territorial-office-of-exchange (that is, a foreign post office in another country); one of the first to break the dominance of Royal Mail’s international services; one of the first private companies to have observer status at UPU meetings; one of the first to establish third-party postal contracts with foreign post offices; one of the first to pioneer ‘direct-entry’ services in Europe and one of the first private companies accessing services in former Eastern bloc countries. IMX continues to explore opportunities in other countries as well as seeking to introduce technological solutions to enhance accountability of its services.

Nicholas expanded IMX’s UK interests into new media in the mid-1990s with the acquisition of Reactive Media.

In addition to being a director of the IMX Group, he has also been president of Bibliotech and CEO of Response Squared. He also provided strategic consultancy advice to logistics and technology companies including Datix (provides risk management software to the healthcare sector in the UK and Canada) and Responsa (telecommunications voice-activated automated software). He is currently Chairman of the Mail Consolidators Association (MCA) in the UK, which counts as members a number of the leading European postal operators including Royal Mail, Swiss Post, La Poste, De Poste (Belgium) and Swedish Post as well as global integrators such as DHL (Deutsche Post).

Nicholas is a 5th generation Australian. The Street family of Birtley, England, has a well documented history authored by the late Sir Kenneth Street. Nicholas currently resides in Surrey in the UK, is married to Caroline and has two daughters, Amelia and Phoebe. Amelia attends school not far from one of the historical Street family homes in Birtley.

Geoffrey resides on the shores of Lago di Como in Italy managing IMX’s Italian and Swiss companies.

Editor’s note: Nicholas Street’s ancestor, George Edmund Street (1824–1881) the famous architect of the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand in London, is buried in Westminster Abbey. Laurence Street (namesake of Sir Lawrence Street) 1626–1696 bought Birtley House in Bramley, Surrey. John Rendell Street 1832–1891 (namesake of Nicholas’s father), was a MLA (NSW) and the first managing director of the Perpetual. John Street named his house in Elizabeth Bay, Birtley, where he died in 1891. John Street married Susannah Caroline Lawson the daughter of William Lawson, who with Blaxland and Wentworth were the explorers across the Blue Mountains.
A Century of Australians in Britain
by Professor Carl Bridge
BA(Hons) ’73

New demographic research by the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King’s College London, and the Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements, Monash University, has enabled us for the first time to construct an authoritative picture of Australians in Britain since the beginning of the last century. Here are some of the key findings.

In 1901 there were at least 15,295 Australian-born living in England and Wales and about 20,000 in all of the United Kingdom; in 2001 there were 107,871. These figures represent a fairly constant proportion of the total Australian home population, showing that we are just as likely to live in the UK now as we were a century ago.

In 1901 the average age of Australians in Britain was 27; it is now about 30.

In 1901 there were more Australian women than Australian men living in the UK. The ratio was 4 females for every 3 males. Today, there still are more females, with 5 females for every 4 males. This predominance of women is characteristic throughout the twentieth century except during the world wars.

Most Australians live outside London, and have done over the century. Unlike traditional diasporas, Australians do not concentrate in the capital and other cities, but are spread across the whole country, thus repeating domestic British, rather than the classical immigrant, settlement and migration patterns.

Today’s Australian ‘backpackers’ are overwhelmingly highly-skilled professionals and technicians and they are more likely to be employed, and employed in better jobs, than the domestic population. A hundred years ago the pattern, though less pronounced, was similar.

Within London, Australians in 1901 were concentrated in a few boroughs, notably Kensington (nicknamed ‘New South Kensington’), Lambeth and Wandsworth. By the 1950s we had moved slightly west to live in Earl’s Court (‘Kangaroo Valley’), and today we have moved west again to Hammersmith, Fulham and Shepherds Bush.

Australian pubs in London have a long history. ‘The Australian’ pub in Chelsea was a haunt of the Australian Test Cricket Team in 1882, ‘The Church’ opened its doors in Fulham in 1979, and the first of ‘The Walkabout’ chain started in Covent Garden in 1994. The Shepherds Bush Walkabout is known colloquially as the ‘She Bu Walkie’.

Australian short-term visitors (tourists) to the UK number 800,000 a year. These are in addition to the estimated 300,000 longer-term residents who either hold Australian passports or who have lived a substantial part of their lives in Australia and think of themselves as Australian.

No wonder Australia House is the largest single polling booth for Australian federal elections, with some 20,000 votes cast there each election.

The British Australian Rules Football League began in 1990 and has its teams clustered in west London. Its rules state that least half the players in every team must be non-Australians.

<gumtree.com> was developed in March 2000 to help Australians find accommodation, jobs, and much more. It quickly came to be used by all nationalities.

The full findings of the Menzies-Monash project, with essays on women, students, journalists, writers, artists, soldiers and tourists, among others, are to be found in Carl Bridge, Robert Crawford and David Dunstan, eds, Australians in Britain: The Twentieth Century Experience, Monash ePress, 2009, obtainable on paper for AUD $45 and on-line for AUD $29.95 at <www.epress.monash.edu.au>

Carl Bridge is Professor and Head of the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King’s College London. He completed a BA (Hons) in History at the University of Sydney in 1973.

NEWS FLASH: Professor Dame Valerie Beral, A Knight and Dame from the Same Year of Medicine

We were delighted to hear that Professor Valerie Beral FR5 has been made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours. Dame Valerie holds a Chair in Epidemiology at The University of Oxford and is Director of the Cancer Research UK Epidemiology Unit. She headed the ‘Million Women Study’ which showed that hormone replacement therapy increases the risk of breast cancer.

Dame Valerie graduated in Medicine from Sydney University in 1969 – the very same year as another famous epidemiologist, Sir Michael Marmot, who is now at University College London. Sir Michael has made major contributions to our understanding of the causes of cardiovascular disease across the globe and headed the UN Commission on the Social Determinants of Health.
Sun, Skin and Skin Cancer: The Facts

Professor John Hawk BSc MD FRACP
FRCP, Emeritus Professor of Dermatological
Photobiology, King’s College London

Unless we reside in the dark recesses of Darth Vader’s abode, we are virtually certain to be exposed to significant quantities of sunlight during our lives, whether walking down the street, on holiday, playing golf or doing the garden. This sunlight is absolutely essential to us, since it contains two of the essential ingredients to life on earth, infrared radiation producing heat to keep us warm, and visible light enabling us see what we are doing, and for plants to undertake photosynthesis, also vital to our survival. However, sunlight is not noxious enough to destroy us immediately, but acting slowly instead, relentlessly wearing out our skins. It indeed does destroy some of us through causing skin cancer, and would surely do so to the rest of us too if we lived long enough.

Any minute energetic particle, or photon, of UVR striking our skin may impinge on its enclosed deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), a computer programme managing skin structure, function and growth, particularly its normal, lizard-like, monthly self-replacement with a new one, as the old one wears out through normal use. By adverse circumstance, however, this UVR is readily absorbed by the DNA, distorting it and so scrambling the skin replacement programme that we undergo inefficient (ageing) or more rarely uncontrolled (cancerous) re-growth instead. Fortunately, we counteract this somewhat by having a DNA damage repair system which springs immediately into action, stopping us from dissolving on the spot, but it does still leave scattered residual defects to accumulate over the years, leading towards skin ageing and cancer. In brown or black skin, however, the contained tanning pigment, melanin, absorbs UVR to release it again as minor quantities of heat, significantly lessening any DNA damage, such skin tending just to age without progressing to cancer; fair-skinned subjects, on the other hand, particularly those living in areas of high UVR intensity at lower latitudes, may even develop cancer in fairly early adult life, and almost certainly later, if not very careful in the sun. However, the development of cancer is always gradual, such that any malignancy goes through slow, easily visible, harmless changes first, consisting of growing larger, changing shape (and getting darker if a mole), over many months.

The first, well-recognised, visible (if severe enough) sign of UVR-induced skin DNA damage is sunburn, a repair process directed at removing this and other less important UVR-induced damage elsewhere in the skin, the redness caused by blood vessels dilating to transport the repair materials to the affected site. In addition, the skin may tan if able to, even a little immediately, while its dead surface layers also thicken, both responses being a direct response to the DNA damage, the new melanin pigment and bulkier dead layers then protecting it a little against further harm; however, deliberate tanning for later protection is totally ill-advised in fairer skins as the initial DNA damage far outweighs any minor gain later; in racially dark skin, this is probably not the case, but such skins are generally dark enough for their owners not to want to tan more in any case. Finally, UVR exposure even in minimal amounts leads to skin vitamin D production, apparently the only useful UVR effect, with the vitamin D precursor perhaps even acting as a minor sunscreen, if soon overwhelmed by further exposure, with little more vitamin D then being made either.

As residual skin DNA damage builds up from multiple exposures, gradually progressive changes towards skin ageing and cancer develop. The deadliest cancer is malignant melanoma (Figure 1), a tumour of the tanning cells, whether in a pre-existing mole or normal skin. Mostly it affects fair-skinned adults of any age, frequently on normally clothed areas intermittently exposed and recurrently sunburnt over the years. It is usually an irregularly shaped, asymmetrically darkening and slowly growing spot, then area, of pigment over many months, eventually looking like a very unusual mole. It is of little concern until about a quarter of an inch or so in size, and usually totally curable if removed by then. It may however be neglected by its owner because symptom-free, and public health campaigns have been invaluable in alerting the population to its dangers. If long ignored, however, it becomes virtually incurable in due course because of spread to other body sites. Other skin cancers are much less aggressive, and consist of pre-cancers, or actinic keratoses (Figure 2), rough, red or brownish, slightly tender, persistent patches on exposed skin, particularly in the elderly, easily curable by a number of non-surgical approaches. A few if left untreated may slowly progress to squamous cell cancers, raised, red tender, steadily growing areas over weeks to months, needing excision for almost certain final cure, though
Sun, Skin and Skin Cancer: The Facts (cont’d)

if completely ignored able eventually to spread elsewhere and become incurable. The final skin cancer of note is the skin-coloured, pain-free basal cell cancer, or rodent ulcer, generally again affecting older people, which enlarges over years just locally and never spreads elsewhere, though later breaking down and scabbing; it is fully curable by excision.

Skin cancer rates are rising in fair-skinned subjects throughout the world, although perhaps levelling off somewhat in Australia, as a result of excessive sun exposure enabled by increasing wealth and leisure time, and achieved finally by the widespread desire of fair-, though not low-risk racially dark-skinned, subjects to acquire a tan, implying that they indeed have that wealth and leisure time, particularly amongst the headstrong young. Further, the advent around three decades ago of sunbeds, which emit UVR at an intensity similar to summer Mediterranean or Australian sunlight, but always used without sun cream protection, has markedly facilitated such exposure and magnified its consequences. Sunbed use does not even provide the advantages of outdoor activities, and those desperate to be seen as brown should best use a fake tanning preparation instead.

Beyond these obvious risk factors for increasing skin cancer rates, another very interesting potential one may be that UVR very possibly acts through causing reflex eye discomfort to make exposed subjects seek shade, and sun glasses, invented at about the same time as skin cancer rates began to rise, may abolish this response.1 Sun exposer should therefore be aware that this UVR avoidance reflex may be lost, though sunglasses should still be worn to protect the also susceptible eyes from excessive UVR and visible light exposure. A final reason why skin cancer rates are seen to be rising may be spurious, in that better medical diagnosis and improved data collection have almost certainly meant that fewer cases are missed, while greater public skin cancer awareness has also without doubt led to more patients seeking medical attention.

A further factor firmly but incorrectly considered by many to contribute to apparently increased sunburning episodes and the definitely increased skin cancer rate is ozone layer depletion, noted first during the late 1970s. However, this in fact occurs mostly in polar areas in spring, with the population exposed therefore being minimal. The depleted area has indeed enlarged more recently towards southern Chile and Argentina, Australia and New Zealand, but any increases in UVR reaching the ground there are at most minimal and hugely swamped by other causes of UVR intensity variations, such as during the day and year, travel from the tropics to temperate areas, cloud cover and personal variations in the time spent exposed or shaded. Further, since skin cancers take decades to develop, any depletion would only just now be starting to increase incidence rates, and these have been increasing for very many decades already. In any case, the ozone layer is now slowly beginning to recover as a result of international compliance with 1987 Montreal Protocol, so any potential skin cancer risk has fortunately almost certainly been averted.2

A further factor which does increase skin cancer development, however, and is generally overlooked, is exposure to high temperatures at the same time as UVR, amounting in fact to a significant 3–7% increase in UVR effect for each increased degree Celsius.3 Thus global warming if continued will almost certainly increase skin cancer incidence, and it is probably best in theory also to avoid saunas and hot baths for 24 hours after any significant personal sun or sunbed exposure.4

A new and on this occasion adverse development in the fight against the increasing incidence of skin cancer is a recent major campaign by particularly commercial interests, but also by some medical personnel, to encourage sun and sunbed exposure to maintain adequate bodily vitamin D levels and thereby improve bone and general health. Adequate vitamin D is absolutely essential to prevent the bone disorders of rickets, osteomalacia and osteoporosis, while much circumstantial evidence suggests that vitamin D lack may somewhat increase the likelihood of some internal cancers, autoimmune disorders such as multiple sclerosis, diabetes, heart disease and other internal disorders. However, although this might be so, optimal blood vitamin D levels to prevent such problems are in fact not precisely known, while major sun exposer and tropical dwellers, as well as those living in polar regions, all tend to have similar vitamin D levels because of an inbuilt regulatory mechanism preventing potentially harmful excesses or depletions. As a result,
Since excessive UVR exposure is generally individuals on poor diets and confined indoors, such as in some elderly, particularly those with dark skins. Further, the incidence of rickets and osteomalacia, directly induced by vitamin D lack, has not apparently increased significantly in recent years. Again, only a few minutes’ sun exposure to the hands and face is needed weekly anyway, while in cases of doubt, vitamin D is readily and relatively cheaply available in dietary fish oils and oral vitamin supplements, and people at risk of deficiency or who wish to ensure they maintain highish normal vitamin D levels for total safety should therefore take such supplementation. UVR exposure should never therefore be increased to ensure adequate vitamin D levels.5

Since excessive UVR exposure is therefore clearly harmful, and only minimal exposure is needed to produce adequate vitamin D, also available in other ways, how should the skin be protected against it? First and easiest, the UVR intensity at the ends of the day, say before 10am and after 4pm in countries with summer time, even if the weather is still warm, and in winter, is reduced several times compared with midday summer sun exposure, even on cloudy or cool days, so if activities outside are undertaken just at those times, other measures are unnecessary except perhaps in the fairest skins. Next, close-weave, non-skin-hugging clothing gives many times’ protection, while broad-brimmed hats reduce facial exposure by about five times. Sunscreens, if less convenient and more expensive, are also very effective if used properly. They work by absorbing UVR and then releasing it as harmless quantities of heat, or else by reflecting it back into the environment. Their efficacy has been fully confirmed by careful studies in animals, but few humans take such good care. Thus, the sun protection factor (SPF) of a sunscreen is the number of times it reduces immediate UVR damage when applied liberally every couple of hours or so, or after exercise or swimming, but most people use only enough to provide a third of that protection, while failure to reapply leads steadily to the loss of all protection thereafter. For long-term cancer protection, however, one should instead assume the product offers only a tenth of the marked SPF, probably again because of inefficient use. For safety, therefore, high SPF sunscreens, preferably of a minimum 20 (leading to two times’ cancer protection, just enough for a normal lifetime) but better 50 or so, should be applied liberally and often. In addition, use of a product also offering high UVA protection is advisable, as indicated on the container, particularly to minimise sun-induced ageing changes.

In summary, therefore, to minimise UVR damage to your skin, be outside if possible just early or late in the day in summer or the tropics, or at any time in winter, even if the weather is hot and sunny, because the UVR intensity is then relatively low, but if one must be outside at other times, wear close-weave loose-fitting clothing over as much skin as conveniently or fashionably possible, which is very protective, and use liberal sunscreen frequently on the exposed areas, which works very well if done correctly, and finally, avoid sunbeds completely.

In conclusion, it should also be pointed out that sunlight exposure may cause about thirty different disorders, usually very itchy and often disabling skin rashes, called photodermatoses, affecting in total some 5–20% of the population, more commonly in temperate regions.6 Fortunately, the causes of most are now fairly well understood, while they are also generally fairly well treatable by specialists in the field, of whom there are now a significant and growing number worldwide.

References:
Teaching Australian Literature in London
by Dr Ian Henderson BA ‘97, PhD ‘01

‘Life is largely composed of such uneventful days; and these are therefore most worthy of careful analysis.’ I read this line, from Joseph Furphy’s Such Is Life (1903), while on the bus, snatching a few commuter minutes for the preparation of this morning’s seminar. A handful of my postgraduate students will be discussing Furphy’s masterpiece alongside Miles Franklin’s equally unsettling and, at times, equally hilarious My Brilliant Career (1901). In my pocket is a ticket to hear Peter Carey speak about Oscar and Lucinda (1988) this evening. I think about yesterday, when around 30 undergraduates explored Carey’s True History of the Kelly Gang (2000), contemplating such notions as ‘historical sense’ and the significance of narrative style as they compared it with Kate Grenville’s The Secret River (2005). Once at work I answer the phone and agree to join a public forum on Australian cinema. I check if a lecture I wrote a few months ago is in any way worthy of its beautiful subject, Gail Jones’s novel Sorry (2007). I prepare some notes on Alexis Wright’s Carpentaria (2006), I dig out the collection of Australian poems I read with a hundred first-year students; their favourites, as ever, are Michael Dransfield’s Flying (1970) and Judith Beveridge’s ‘The Shark’ (2004), while mine is J. S. Harry’s ‘Lapin on the Loose’ (1995). I help organise a reading—to be accompanied by original live music—of Katherine Gallagher’s After Kandinsky (2005), and try to get my act together on the programming of a conference on Patrick White. So far, so ‘uneventful’, and not so unusual for a present-day lecturer in Australian Studies, except for the fact that all these events take place in central London.

King’s College London, where I work, lies between the Strand and the Thames, beside Somerset House, a short stroll from Trafalgar Square. Out my office window I can just spot a segment of the London Eye, the equivalent of a Sydney real-estate ‘Harbour glimpse’. Rival students from the neighbouring London School of Economics used to call us the ‘Strand Tech’ but, founded in 1829, King’s College London has been around a lot longer than the LSE. Australian Studies has been a part of the College’s School of Humanities since 1999, when the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, established in 1982, moved from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at Russell Square. The changed enabled a more effective integration of the Centre’s teaching and research with the wider academic community at King’s: Australian material is now offered to undergraduates and postgraduates in the departments of History, English, Comparative Literature and Film Studies.

I hardly expected to find myself here when I began studying at the University of Sydney in 1994. At that point I thought I would focus on Italian, and I did happily complete a major in that language, but the unforeseen appeal of the literature of my own country was kindled and intensified over the years by inspired teaching from the 1990s Aus Lit team in the English Department, Professor Elizabeth Webby, Dr Ivor Indyk, Dr David Brooks, Dr Penny van Toorn, and Dr Noel Rowe. When I emerged with a Phd in Australian Literature seven years later. I neither expected nor even desired to move to what I thought was miserable old London. I had bad memories of snooty British sneering at the back of my mind: if English eyes read over my shoulder, they do so out of genuine interest and respect (or at least with a view to their upcoming exam!).

The study of Australian literature outside Australia has always been challenged by the issue of resources. This also is changing, if not as fast as I wish it might. Bring on all-out online publishing, I say, when it comes to making historic or contemporary Australian writing reliably available to students: so much for the romance of the book. In fact, the problem is less those novels and collections currently, but too briefly, in print, rather those that were in print three or four years ago, brushed across the bookshop shelves, enticing lecturers to set them on courses that will run in a year’s time, only to find they have disappeared when students go to buy them. Contemporary writing, not only Australian, is too seldom allowed to accumulate.

In London, nonetheless, we are spoiled for...
Australian literary resources, with the indispensable AustLit database available at King’s College London, and the British Library increasingly switched on regarding its Australian collection. The latter is not least made by the combined forces of staff at the Menzies Centre, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies Librarian Dr David Clover (a Kiwi), and the Curator of the British Library’s Australian collection (presently Dr Nicholas Martland), who have set up an network of Europe-based librarians and archivists with responsibility for Australian and New Zealand Collections (ANZLAG). This has enabled such initiatives as the Southern Cross Resource Finder (http://www.scrf.org.uk/), overseen by ANZLAG founder Dr Lara Cain Gray that provides information on the wealth of Australasian research material hiding in European archives. The development of such resources, and an expansion of online literary publication, is vital for sustaining the strong interest in Australian literature in Europe, including Central and Eastern Europe.

The Menzies Centre for Australian Studies will certainly continue to play its part in the promotion of Australian Studies scholarship in London. I, along with colleagues Professor Carl Bridge (Director) and Dr Frank Bongiorno pursue our own research in the trans-national contexts afforded by our involvement with the King’s College London research community. Over the years Menzies Centre seminars and conferences have brought hundreds of academics from around the world to debate Australian and transnational issues in London. Look out for our next big conference, Patrick White: Modernist Impact/Critical Futures at the University of London’s Institute of English Studies 23–25 June 2010. The Centre also hosts many readings and launches a year, with a recent highlight the launch of the international edition of PEN’s and Macquarie’s The Literature of Australia: an Anthology (2009). This involved a public discussion at the Australian High Commission with editor Nicholas Jose, poet Emma Jones, a feisty Clive James and me in front of a large audience. Another tale of the unexpected for me: but by now I should know you never know where Australian literature might take you.

USUKAA SUMMER RECEPTION 2010

The 2010 Summer Reception will take place on The Terrace, The House of Lords, London

Date: Thursday 1st July 2010
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Cost: Members £40/ Non-members £45

We like to feel that our Alumni, their friends and visitors to the UK have the opportunity to enjoy special venues and in this case a unique chance to see this outstanding building (as is our usual practice, for alumni, tickets are available on a non-profit basis).

The House of Lords is the second chamber of the UK Houses of Parliament. Members of the House of Lords (known as ‘Peers’) consist of Lords Spiritual (senior bishops) and Lords Temporal (lay peers). Most members of the House of Lords are appointed as ‘Life Peers’. Historically, they were drawn from the various groups of senior and influential nobility in Britain, who advised the monarch throughout the country’s early history.

For further information/updates, please contact
Admin at USUKAA, Swire House, 59 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AJ
Telephone: + 44 20 7233 9311   Email: alumni.uk@sydney.edu.au
Profile:
Dr Robin Fitzsimons
MBBS ’73, PhD ’82

Robin has just retired from the University of Sydney Senate after 12 momentous years, which have straddled the Vice-Chancellorships of Gavin Brown and Michael Spence. She was first elected by alumni in 1997, and then again in 2001 and 2005.

‘I am very optimistic about the future of the University under the leadership of Marie Bashir and Michael Spence. But constant vigilance and alumni networking will remain essential if we are to promote our international standing.’

While on Senate, Robin was particularly active in international engagement and networking; apart from anything else it fitted in with her professional commitments. Indeed, she was for some years a member of the UK Alumni Committee. She is particularly proud of having initiated a number of major university events in the Great Hall, including a formal discussion dinner with Chris Patten when he received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in 2002, and an equally successful packed-out formal discussion dinner with Justice Michael Kirby when he retired last year.

And when in 2004 the State Government promulgated draft legislation which would have abolished the entrenched rights of alumni to elect Senate Fellows, Robin wrote an influential Opinion piece for the Sydney Morning Herald about the importance of university autonomy and alumni elections; the offending clauses were then withdrawn.

Although Robin has left Senate, there is a faint suspicion that she won’t be idle. She has just been an invited participant in an international workshop in Holland on the management of facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy – a disorder in which she had earlier found a general association with a treatable retinal eye disease. She continues her specialist neurology practice in Sydney, and intends to continue her ‘other occupation’ of international freelance journalism – especially on issues relating to governance and the ‘rule of law’ in Hong Kong.

‘Being on Senate was very special experience. One of the best parts was the friends you make – including, perhaps particularly, those with whom you might not agree on everything.’

‘It’s been a huge privilege to work with Pauline Lyle-Smith and Trixie Gardner. The University owes them and successive USUKAA Councils a huge debt of gratitude.’

USUKAA would like to express its appreciation to Robin for the commitment, dedication and hard work she has given to it for so many years.

Alumni Awards 2010

Take this opportunity to nominate an outstanding alumni for this prestigious awards program.

Last year fellow USUKAA member, Mr Michael Hintze (BSc ’75 BE ’77) won the Alumni Award for International Achievement.

For more information, visit sydney.edu.au/alumni_awards

Nominations close April 30
Captain Cook: Voyager between Worlds
by Professor John Gascoigne BA ‘73

Not another book on Cook — that was a reaction I often encountered when I told people that I was writing a ‘Cook book’. Indeed, my book was published soon after two new major biographies appeared by Anne Salmond and Nicholas Thomas, both anthropologist-historians who brought new perspectives to bear on the subject which had been dominated by the long definitive biography by the great New Zealand editor of Cook’s journals, J.C. Beaglehole. But Cook’s impact on the world was so vast that there is room for many different ways of approaching him and his voyages. As it happens, soon after my book came out yet more books have appeared by figures such as Dan O’Sullivan, Glyn Williams and John Robson (editor of the Cook encyclopaedia), reinforcing still further the message that we have not yet fully plumbed the last fathom of Cook’s influence and significance. At the moment, too, there is one of the largest exhibitions ever of Cook’s artefacts being held in Bonn, drawing on three major collections at Göttingen, Vienna and Berne, ‘James Cook and the Discovery of the South Seas’ , Kunsthalle, Bonn, 28 August 2009 to 28 February 2010; Ethnological Museum, Vienna, 10 May to 13 September, 2010; and Historical Museum, Bern, 7 October 2010 to 13 February 2011.

So what was I trying to do in adding to this ever-mounting pile of books on Cook? I was not trying to write another biography (at least in the conventional sense) since this had been done. My main interest was in contrasting the world from which Cook came with what was, from a European perspective, the new world of the Pacific with its fascinating points of contrast (together with some equally fascinating similarities). Such an approach meant a thematic organisation in order to bring out the ways in which the two worlds of Cook, the Britain (and especially the Yorkshire) from which he came contrasted with the Pacific which he came to know in ever more fascinating detail over the course of his successive three voyages. Inevitably, the book had to begin with some exploration of the world in which Cook grew up. This involved me in some locally-based research in North Yorkshire, together with some very pleasurable trips to key Cook sites: his birth place at Marton (now a suburb of Middlesbrough), Great Ayton, where he went to school, Staithes, where he was apprenticed as a shopkeeper, and Whitby where he trained as a sailor. The first chapter, ‘Worlds’, also provides an account of his early career in the merchant and the Royal navy and an outline of his Pacific voyages. Appropriately, the next chapter, ‘The Sea’ deals with the maritime cultures of England and of the Pacific islanders, bringing out the extent to which traditional European navigation, with its reliance on craft skills and traditional lore, often bore points of comparison with forms of Pacific navigation, even though the two worlds were increasingly diverging with the increased emphasis on scientific navigation, especially in the Royal Navy. This was largely made possible by the ability to find longitude at sea thanks to Harrison’s chronometer, a replica of which Cook took with him on his second voyage. This is one example of the way in which Cook had a foot in both the traditional pre-industrial world and the new world based on science which was to usher in the Industrial Revolution — a major theme of the book.

‘The Sea’ naturally leads to ‘Trade’ and the emphasis in this chapter is the clash between an increasingly commercialised England heading towards the Industrial Revolution and the traditional patterns of gift-giving that prevailed in most Pacific societies (though some remnants could still be found in England and, to a greater extent, in other parts of Europe). The 18th century was an age when trade was closely allied to war, since access to markets was often linked to the use of force, which leads to the next chapter on ‘War’. Cook, after all, was in the service of the British armed forces and all his ships carried armaments which were there primarily to defend himself against other European powers (notably France) but which were used on occasions in the Pacific where the European distinction between warrior and civilian was considered bizarre and somewhat sinister. The increasing professionalisation of the conduct of war reflected the growing size and wealth of the European states, which leads to the chapter on ‘Politics’ and the points of similarity with the Pacific in the retention of power based on birth and hierarchy and contrast with the scale and increasing impersonality of the European states. The distinction between politics and religion in the Pacific was a foreign one as the next chapter on ‘Religion’ makes plain, as was the European view that one could distinguish between the natural and supernatural when, for many Pacific islanders, religion was often largely about dealing with the problems of this world including the maintenance of the existing political and social order.

Wherever humans live, however, their lives are shaped by the essential realities of birth, death and marriage which form the substance of the last two chapters on ‘Sex’ and ‘Death’. In Cook’s time the technological power of Europeans was not nearly as great as it became in the nineteenth century in the age of European domination of the globe.

As a consequence, there was much less in the way of a European superiority complex...
Profile: Patricia Rochford BA, MA ’77

Patricia brings to her role as an adviser, counsellor and coach to senior executives and non-executive directors both a very broad business background, gained over 20 years in international executive search, and her training as a psychologist and counsellor.

At the University of Sydney she completed a BA with a major in Modern History and sub-majors in Music and English, and then went on to gain her MA in Psychology. In other studies she trained as a counsellor. She studied piano with the leading Professor of Piano of the time, Alexander Sverjensky, at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. The harp was her second instrument; she also played the organ.

Early in her career Patricia worked as a counsellor. After completing her MA she joined IBM where she managed a number of projects before moving into the mainframe marketing business. It was then she realised that her real interest lay in helping people develop their potential rather than in designing networks, so she accepted an offer to establish a psychological services group in a leading accountancy firm. But there was a culture clash: IBM had taught her about best practice in client servicing and about business, and the accountancy world had not yet developed this approach.

It was a natural step to establish her boutique firm which, by the mid-1980s, was concentrating on high level executive search. As an independent search consultant, she enjoyed the freedom of being able to choose her clients. As a result, she worked across a very broad range of industries with market leaders.

She was dubbed by the Australian media the ‘Grande Dame’ of search, Patricia has sat on a number of Boards and has always been active in cultural and community activities. She has numerous professional memberships

In 2003, the Australian Government awarded her the Centenary Medal in recognition of ‘her contribution to Australian society in the area of business leadership’.

With this extensive background, Patricia brings to her advisory and development roles a deep understanding and awareness of the heavy demands and pressures on leaders in our changing and unpredictable business environment. Her work has also enabled her to gain insights into some of the key factors critical for sustained success in this environment.

It was in 2007 that Patricia brought together this knowledge, her professional training as a psychologist, and her own philosophies to develop a unique programme designed for leaders and potential leaders in all fields including business, the professions, and academia. The framework for this programme is built around the eight facets which Patricia has identified as crucial to sustained success given the increasingly complex nature of leadership in the 21st century.

She brought this programme to the UK and began working with clients here in 2009. The programme is specially tailored for each client, developing the skills, behaviours and capabilities required to handle the pressures of an increasingly demanding and competitive global market place, and new insights, greater understanding and wisdom – the essential qualities of a highly successful leader.

Captain Cook (cont’d)

towards other peoples and a greater sense of a common humanity. This comes through in the way Cook and his men were anxious to learn about the Pacific societies they encountered and the way they dealt with the basic facts of human existence. The fact that Pacific islanders often did things differently when it came to basic customs such as marriage was, for them, generally a matter of interest rather than condemnation. Pacific islanders also did things differently when it came to death, a matter on which Cook’s men, if not Cook himself, could reflect after he was killed on the big island of Hawaii in February 1779. With his death, Cook in many ways became part of the Pacific, with his bones becoming relics which added to the mana of the embryonic Hawaiian monarchy. The impact of Cook’s voyages continued to be felt in both worlds, European and Pacific, and this recent spate of books on the subject indicates the extent to which are still coming to terms with his legacy.

**Summer Reception | Thursday 1 July 2010**

**Time:** 6.30 to 8.30 pm  
**Venue:** The Terrace, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW  
**Cost:** Members £40/ Non-members £45

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**Autumn Lecture |**

Date and venue to be announced.

**Women’s College Reunion | Sunday 4 July 2010**

**Time:** 12.30 for 1.00 pm  
**Venue:** Susie Flook is again very kindly hosting a lunch at her home at Fern Lodge, London Road, Bracknell RG12 9FR.  
**RSVP:** susieflook@msn.com or 01344 421 926  
**Cost:** £25 for alumnae, partners and friends

Each person to bring a bottle of Rosemount Chardonnay or Merlot. Cheques are to be in her favour and sent to her at Fern Lodge. RSVP’s to her at Fern Lodge (preferably to her email address).

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**Registration form**

I would like to book the following tickets for the (please insert event):  

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For security purposes, please provide the names of your guest/s: ____________________________________________________________

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Alumni Photo Gallery

UK Summer Reception: The Great Hall, Barts, July 2009

Women’s College Reunion, Susie Flook’s in Ascot, July 2009
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Administrator:
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