



Autumn 2006

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letters

From the editor

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the *Sydney Alumni Magazine*, replacing the University of Sydney's *Gazette*.

Underpinning this edition is the concept of survival in the 21st century. The idea took shape after I read this edition's feature article on Bio³, which looks at developments in the field of biotechnology and bioengineering. Soon we'll be able to rewire our worn-out circuitry, replace old hearts with laboratory-grown new ones and send cancer-seeking stealth bombers into our bodies in lieu of old-fashioned chemotherapy. It gives a whole new spin to survival in the 21st century.

Speaking of survivors, Germaine Greer is still making characteristically strong statements about body and mind. Dr Greer received an honorary doctorate here last year and used her occasional address to urge graduating students not to lose the intellectual rigour they had been exposed to in their years at the university. She called on graduates to stay with the "fellowship" that is the academic body.

"It's not one-way traffic," she said. "It's not that you're expending all this energy and getting nothing back, because every time you strengthen your mind you achieve a little bit more freedom. Freedom only exists in so far as you are prepared to exercise it."

Dr Greer is a public thinker who has survived the vicissitudes of late 20th and early 21st century debates on feminism, ageing and sexuality, perhaps because she runs with the big idea rather than the detail.

Frank Furedi, also in this edition, pursues other big ideas: what is the purpose of politics; who are we as a society; and what defines our humanity? These questions fit within the survival framework: if biotechnology extends life, should we not also consider what we'll do with this extra time and how to make it worthwhile?

I'd like to thank just a few of the many people who don't get a credit elsewhere in these pages for their assistance with this inaugural edition. Don Wilson, Marian Theobald and Michelle Shepherd helped in different ways to crystallise the *Sydney Alumni Magazine*. Thanks also to the alumni volunteers who told us through focus groups what they thought of various masthead names and designs; we decided accordingly.

The *Sydney Alumni Magazine* now comes to you every quarter, along with an online version at www.usyd.edu.au/alumni. The magazine provides plenty of opportunity for alumni to contribute, and I hope you feel inspired to send in news for grapevine, letters to the editor, and more.

Dominic O'Grady

Insensitive cover

I recently received the November 2005 issue of the *Gazette*, and I must say that on seeing the cover my initial



response was simply to throw it in the bin unread. I am at a loss to understand why that particular image was chosen for the cover, particularly the inclusion of the PLA soldier. Many of the most dramatic events of June 1989 took place not far from the Great Hall of the People, during the course of which PLA soldiers broke up a peaceful student demonstration causing much loss of life and subsequent imprisonment and exile for hundreds of law-abiding Chinese citizens. Memorial services for the Chinese students and other protesting citizens were held all over Australia at the time, including one at the University of Sydney attended by many ordinary people and dignitaries including the then Premier, Nick Greiner.

For the University of Sydney, or any university, to use such a cover with the prominent image of the PLA badge, not only seems to glorify military activity in itself, but displays an unbelievable insensitivity to those people who lost friends and loved ones in the suppression of the Tiananmen demonstrations, and to those like myself whose lives were

Letters to the editor are welcome and should include a contact phone number, degree and year of graduation if applicable. Please address letters to: The Editor, *Sydney Alumni Magazine* C/- Publications A14, The University of Sydney NSW 2006. Letters may also be sent by email to: dogrady@publications.usyd.edu.au

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

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

affected, though to a lesser extent, by the events of that month. It is particularly ironic given that the other main story, judging from the contents page, was one concerning human rights law.

I would suggest that the appropriate response would be to include some explanation in the next *Gazette* of how that cover image came to be chosen. Otherwise I suspect many alumni like myself, who continue to have extensive informal contacts with the University, would prefer to disassociate themselves hitherto from an institution which displays such a lack of understanding of recent history and of the values of truth and humanity which lie at the core of any university's mission.

(Dr) Edward McDonald (BA '88)
Annandale, NSW

I selected the image referred to because it encapsulates some of the complexities inherent in the West's relationship with China. The visual impact is immediate, and ambiguous. Does it glorify military activity and disregard the tragedy of Tiananmen Square? I don't believe the image, in the context in which it was used, contains enough evidence to support such a definitive reading.

— Editor

Expensive links

According to the November 2005 issue of the *Gazette*, the magazine will be relaunched in a new format this year. This has impelled us to forward a letter expressing the chagrin and dismay we felt on reading in the April 2005 issue of the *Gazette*, on page 32, suitably bordered in black, that our life membership cards for the Sydney University Union, as we graduates had known them, were no longer valid.

After spending years paying our dues, we now face an additional yearly fee of \$163 should we wish to continue enjoying any direct Sydney University Union benefits.

This notice, tucked away on the final page in very small print, appeared apparently without preamble or previous discussion.

Needless to say, we have been contributing to university scholarship and building appeals, though hardly on a monthly basis. As stated on page 18 of the August 2005 edition of the *Gazette*, we were encouraged to maintain our



Easy reading

Looking forward with pleasure to the new *Sydney Alumni Magazine*. Hope you will continue to try to keep the pernicious disease of editorial type on coloured backgrounds at bay; it truly is a juvenile gimmick with no sensible purpose. Pity our sore eyes!

Incidentally, on the subject of change for the sake of change (not your purpose, of course), do you know that John Betjeman, on being asked why he always smoked a certain brand of cheap cigarettes, said: "Because it hasn't changed its label for 50 years."

Tess d'Alpuget (BA '44) Narrabeen, NSW

alumni links as a "stepping stone in a lifetime relationship rather than the end of an era".

Not all of us graduates are fortunate enough to be in full-time employment. V. Cavell (BA '88) and A. Cavell (BA '91) South Hurstville, NSW

Early warning signs

Thank you for the little quote from me on page 7 of the November 2005 issue of the *Gazette*. I had not remembered writing to the *High Bulletin*, but the quote is exactly what I would have said.

However, I wish to complain about being known as Emeritus. I am far from retired. I am actually getting nervous here. I was asked to referee a grant application a few weeks ago about incontinence pads. I started my report by saying that this is a subject that I hope to have no practical knowledge about for at least 30 years.

Professor H. E. Huppert, Institute of Theoretical Geophysics, University of Cambridge

Award alert

As a graduate and a former staff member (professor emeritus), allow me to indicate two recent awards in connection

with my work in the history of economic thought. In April 2005, the History of Economics Society (North America) made me one of its distinguished fellows in the history of economics; in June 2005, the European Society of the History of Economics Thought announced it had made me one of its honorary members for services to the subject. It is rare that a person is given both awards in the one year, Peter Groenewegen (B Ec '61, M Ec '63) Department of Economics, University of Sydney

Corrections

□ "The article entitled "Trim, Tort and Terrific" published in the November 2005 *Gazette* misspelt Professor Peter Cane's last name. We apologise for the error. And in the same edition's *grapevine*, information regarding Dr Jeremy Evans and his wife Helen Evans was incorrect. Dr Evans would like to advise readers that Helen is working with the Global Fund to Fight Aids while he looks after the house and learns French.



The Janus Report

By Professor Gavin Brown AO

The New Year period is traditionally a time for reflective assessment and refreshed commitment. The University of Sydney can look back with pride at achievements in 2005 but we are acutely aware of the challenges that 2006 brings.

This is a research university with a belief that a spirit of open enquiry is a significant defining characteristic. Students learn from those who are uncovering new knowledge at the frontiers. There is encouragement to challenge ideas - on the basis of substance rather than polemic - and we create cultural, social and economic benefit from our work.

It is important, therefore, that the various indicators of performance show that we are second to none in Australia. In the latest round of competitive Australian Research Council (ARC) grants we won some \$50 million for new projects, more than any other

university and well ahead of our friendly rival Melbourne at \$30 million. In the ARC Discovery scheme, our researchers gained more than those from all the other Sydney universities added together and our Science Faculty outperformed Monash University as a whole. Over the last reporting period, 2001—2004, our research publication output has increased by 63 per cent and publication output relative to academic staff numbers increased by 58 per cent.

This brings challenges because we must continue to recruit both research leaders in new areas and promising young staff to ensure a fountain of renewal. Moreover research projects in Australia do not bring 'overheads' which pay for the infrastructure, especially buildings, which support the work. We must constantly find additional resources and efficiency gains which will allow investment to match and further the success.

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The University of Sydney

Much of our research depends upon international networks and, while this has a multiplier effect, we have to invest time, energy and resources in exploring new relationships. In fact we will designate 2006 a year of special international priority because we attach so much importance to these developments.

This year again I have been invited as the sole Australian representative to the UN Secretary-General's Global Colloquium of University Presidents where the theme is evaluation of the benefits of research universities. My paper emphasises the international role of these universities, observing that this transcends immediate national research priorities but is of great secondary benefit to our own countries.

The implicit hint that the University may argue a broader view than government, appertains also to the student experience. I am dismayed that legislation, passed just before Christmas, will make it illegal to charge compulsory fees for any activity not strictly inside the classroom. In particular this rules out a community approach to sports grounds, debating and musical or artistic pursuits.

Our current approach is working well according to many measures. The percentage of applicants choosing the University of Sydney has climbed yet again and we have further consolidated our position as institution of first

**We must continue to recruit
both research leaders in new
areas and promising young staff
to ensure a fountain of renewal**

preference in our catchment area. We were ranked in the first tier for national learning and teaching outcomes and our staff continue to win awards for teaching excellence. We were praised as an international teaching benchmark by our colleagues in Oxford and our students won international awards for debating excellence. Last year we had individual students who were open world champions in Kayak and in Yachting and our cricket and rugby teams won State first grade championships, again in open competition.

Our graduates are highly employable but this is in no small measure due to the fact that we seek to develop more than immediate job skills. The University

must remain true to its generalist philosophy, but from 2007 we will face a loss of guaranteed support of approximately \$14 million per year. We are told that voluntary purchase of specific amenities will be a fairer substitute, but an enormous challenge looms - and previous experience in Western Australia suggests that participation will be very low.

I am confident that we will cope with the new challenges and that there will be outstanding achievements in 2006. Our financial accounts are stronger than other universities but our ambition, fired by achievement, outstrips our current capacity. Rest assured we are working on it.



The University of Sydney

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Graduates elect Senate members

University of Sydney graduates elected five alumni to the University of Sydney Senate late last year. They were Dr Michael Copeman, Dr Robin Fitzsimons, Ms Irene Moss, Emeritus Professor Ann Sefton and Mr Adam Spencer. The alumni representatives commenced office on 1 December 2005, along with Ms Rose Jackson who was elected to Senate by undergraduate students; Mr Jack Clegg, who was elected by post-graduate students; Dr Roslyn Bohringer, Professor Margaret Harris, Associate Professor Anthony Masters and Associate Professor Iqbal Ramzan who were elected by academic staff; and Ms Kim Wilson, who was elected by non-academic staff.

Graduate wins Rhodes Scholarship

The winner of the 2006 NSW Rhodes Scholarship is Jonathan Bonnitcha, a University of Sydney graduate in economics and law.

Jonathan, aged 24, will use his Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford to undertake postgraduate study in law. One of his special interests is International Labour Rights and he hopes to work at the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Jonathan is a keen competitive windsurfer and sailor, and in 2003 was a member of the national Olympic squad for windsurfing. In 2004 he was named in the Shadow Olympic windsurfing team, and has his sights set on winning selection for the Australian Olympic Team to Beijing in 2008.

In 2005 Jonathan was awarded the University Medal and in 2005 he was awarded the University of Sydney's Convocation Medal for outstanding academic achievement and significant contribution to the life of the University by an undergraduate student. While

studying he has worked as a volunteer at the Marrickville Legal Centre. He also has a university 'blue' in sailing.



photo: Ted Sealy

Jonathan Bonnitcha ... Rhodes scholar



photo: Adam Gaensler

Professor Bryan Gaensler with son Finn ... outstanding achievement.

US award for young astronomer

A young University of Sydney graduate, Bryan Gaensler, Professor of Astronomy at Harvard University, has been awarded the 2006 Pierce Prize in Astronomy.

The prize is awarded annually by the American Astronomical Society to an astronomer under the age of 36 who demonstrates outstanding achievement in observational astronomical research.

A pulsar/supernova specialist, Professor Gaensler is the Project Scientist for the SKA or Square Kilometre Array, a Western Australian project to build the world's biggest radio telescope.

Bryan Gaensler has been offered an ARC Federation Fellowship to return to the University of Sydney in 2006.

Professor Gaensler graduated from the University of Sydney in 1995 with First Class Honours in Physics and the University Medal in Physics.

Selected as Young Australian of the Year in 1999, the year he completed his doctoral thesis, he completed postgraduate work at the University of Sydney and at CSIRO's Australia Telescope National Facility.

Later he took up a Hubble Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, where he worked on the remains of exploding stars.

His interests include radio, X-ray, infrared and optical observations of magnetic fields, neutron stars, supernova remnants and the interstellar medium.

Sydney remains the university of first choice

Once again, the University of Sydney has increased its lead in the competition for New South Wales first preference applications, according to Universities Admissions Centre figures.



University of Sydney's first preferences have increased by 5.8 per cent with the University attracting 19 per cent of all first preference applications lodged in the state, significantly more than our closest competitor.

Sydney has also attracted the largest share of first preferences for recent school leavers with 20.4 per cent, which is up from 19 per cent last year. This represents an 8.4 per cent increase in the number of recent school leavers' first preferences.

The quality of undergraduate students attracted to the University of Sydney continues to grow. The University of Sydney attracted nearly 50 per cent of the students who had achieved a University Admissions Index (UAI) of 98 or over in the 2005 HSC and over one third of the students admitted to the University's undergraduate courses had UAIs of 95 or over.

Increased demand has been experienced across all disciplines, with places in traditional areas such as law, veterinary science, pharmacy, science and media and communication highly sought after. Sydney University has also seen continuing strong demand for combined courses such as the Bachelor of Liberal Studies, which combines humanities and science.

Demand for degrees in the Faculty of Economics and Business has been especially strong. Student preferences increased markedly from last year, and UAI cut-offs for 2006 have risen in all programs. "This is a reflection of the major advances the Faculty has made in recent years in developing the range of programs on offer, delivering an innovative curriculum, and enlivening the student experience" said Professor David Grant, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Studies).

Breast cancer study: radiation assists survival

A new analysis has found that an optimal dose of radiation therapy for women with breast cancer is associated with better survival, measured at 10 years after treatment with surgery.

The study findings, reported in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, help resolve controversy over whether radiation therapy improves survival in women with operable breast cancer.

Past studies have concluded that radiation therapy reduces the risk of recurrence of breast cancer, but does not improve overall survival rates,

However, in some clinical trials, radiation therapy was given in inadequate or excessive doses or did not target an appropriate amount of tissue, including the chest wall and lymph nodes.

Associate Professor Val Gebski, of the National Health and Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Sydney, and colleagues reanalysed results from 36 clinical trials in which the use of radiation therapy was the sole difference between the treatments given to breast cancer patients.

They found that after ten years, patients who had received optimal radiation doses delivered to an appropriate amount of tissue had a 6.4 per cent higher survival rate than patients who received an inadequate or excessive dose, or those who had received radiation therapy to an inadequate amount of tissue.

Associate Professor Gebski and colleagues conclude that optimal radiation therapy improves patient survival, and recommend that post-mastectomy



Medical radiation ... improves survival rates.

radiation therapy be considered for all patients at high risk.

"The evidence suggests that the survival of these patients with breast cancer would be increased with radiation therapy, although the amount of the increase would depend on the risk profile of the patient," the authors write.

Nominations sought for honorary degrees

Members of the University of Sydney are invited to submit nominations for honorary degrees and honorary fellows for 2007. Details at www.usyd.edu.au/senate/committees/advisory.shtml

Minds, Bodies, Machines

Hybrid life-forms – when they emerge – can claim a colourful cultural and literary history articulated by University of Sydney researchers.

A collaborative research project between an Enlightenment enthusiast and a pair of software developers poses a very 21st century question: What forms of life are emerging from new entanglements of organic and informatic matter?

That's one of many questions driving a three-year research project exploring the cultural and literary histories which shape our perception and understanding of technology.

The University of Sydney's Associate Professor Deirdre Coleman has attracted almost \$341,000 in Australian Research Council (ARC) funds for the project, which is called *Minds, Bodies, Machines: a cultural and intellectual history of the 21st century*.

The project's collaborative partners are two University of Sydney alumni, Dr Paul Hyland and Ms Pamela Marshall, who are managing directors of the software development company Constraint Technologies International (CTI). Dr Hyland and Ms Marshall have a keen interest in the speed at which new technologies are developed, outstripping our ability to understand and critique their sometimes dehumanising implications. Professor Coleman's current research on social insect writing in the Enlightenment provided a lead into the partnership with CTI because software developers often look to insects when modelling optimised systems.

The project adopted the broad aim of bringing literary, cultural and historical understandings of eighteenth century technologies into a new and productive relationship with the contemporary world of computer technologies and the emerging fields of robotics and artificial intelligence.

The questions posed by the project are ambitious and important ones: what is life, what is mind, can machines think and be self-aware, what does the human imagination bring to hard science? These questions have their antecedents in the Enlightenment's clockwork

of the human will'. The ingenious inventor, Jacques de Vaucanson, appears to have been the first to think of building an artificial man in order to unlock the key to human longevity. Dubbed by Voltaire as a rival to Prometheus, Vaucanson began designing a moving anatomy which would mechanically simulate bodily processes such as respiration, circulation, digestion, excretion, and even the movement of muscles, tendons, and nerves. This impossible ambition was later dreamed about by Alan Turing in the 1940s – “to take a man as a whole and try to

The future promises different life or energy sources that switch freely between human and computational systems. These developments raise important questions in the evolution of social life.

universe of living machines, best seen in the period's proliferation of life-like automata, philosophical toys which prompted many writers to speculate on the boundaries between humans and machines.

It is commonly said of the Enlightenment that its utopian ambition was to gain total sovereignty over nature, a quest which involved what one critic has described as a 'technical expansion

replace all the parts of him by machinery”.

Vaucanson became famous for his spectacular automata, which included a defecating duck and a flute player. He moved from these highly technical toys to the forefront of industrialisation, designing new mechanical looms which replaced workers. The utopian (and troubling) aspects of Enlightenment technology are most famously captured in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818),



photo: Andrew Richardson

Research partners Paul Hyland, Deirdre Coleman and Pamela Marshall ... applying old ideas in novel ways.

a novel in which the noble aim of banishing disease and death topples over into a mad desire to restore life to dead matter. Frankenstein's project ends of course in human catastrophe.

Minds, Bodies, Machines aims to re-situate such aspirations within the new fields of robotics and artificial intelligence. This innovative approach to intellectual and cultural history will enable old ideas to be applied in novel ways. For instance, the future promises different life or energy sources that switch freely between human and computational systems. These developments raise important questions in the evolution of social life. What forms of life are emerging from new entanglements of organic and informatic matter, and how will the conventional human be positioned in relation to them? What possibilities for being are raised by the upcoming generation of technically conferred life-forms? What position is held in the social order by new inventions, by scientifically manufactured life forms, for instance? This is the question raised in *I, Robot* – can a machine be charged with wilful murder? Indeed, contemporary film and popular culture are preoccupied with such questions, so the designers of *Minds,*

Bodies, Machines have no doubt about the popular audience for their work.

At the heart of the *Minds, Bodies, Machines* project are two APAI (Industry) scholarships. Both APAI postgraduates will be working with Professor Deirdre Coleman. One of these scholars, who will be working on Romantic science and literature, starts this June; the other scholar is to be appointed soon. These industry scholarships are a new departure for Faculty of Arts postgraduates, offering them industry experience and training during their candidature, with a view

to enhancing their employment prospects after graduation.

Public events are still to be organised for this year, but an agreement is in place for a two-day international conference at Senate House in London in June 2007. This *Minds, Bodies, Machines* conference will be held in conjunction with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Nineteenth Century Studies at Birkbeck College, University of London. The event will host key researchers in the field, and will provide opportunities for the Faculty's postgraduates to present their work in progress.

University tops 2006 ARC funding

University of Sydney researchers have been awarded a total of \$51.4 million for new research projects commencing in 2006. The Australian Research Council (ARC) funding is the largest amount awarded to any university in Australia in 2006.

Highlights of the University's success include 115 Discovery grants worth \$40.3 million,

14 Linkage grants worth \$3.7 million, 9 Linkage Equipment and Facilities grants worth \$7.25 million and three International Linkage grants worth \$67,000.

As well, the University of Sydney won 30 new ARC Fellowships including seven out of a total of 25 prestigious Australian Professorial Fellowships.

21ST CENTURY SURVIVORS

With their brand new hearts and bionic limbs, the future belongs to a generation sustained by advanced bio-engineering. Meet Generation B: the biotech boomers.

Judy Skatssoon

In the cult 1970s TV series *The Six Million Dollar Man*, scientists use advanced technology to rebuild crippled astronaut Colonel Steve Austin and turn him into the world's first bionic man. This principle underlies a bold and futuristic-sounding research initiative at the University of Sydney, known as Bio³.

Mobility restoration such as that enjoyed by the fictional Steve Austin uses implanted electrodes to restore movement to people paralysed by spinal cord injury, brain trauma or nerve damage. In TV-land, the post-operative Steve Austin was "better, stronger, faster" than ever before. But in reality, gains in mobility restoration – at least initially – are expected to be more modest.

"The goal behind the project is to restore some basic mobility to people who are paraplegics," says Professor Tony Weiss, of the University of Sydney's School of Molecular and Microbial Biosciences.

"The way to do that is to put electrical stimuli directly into paralysed muscles through implanted electrodes [and] an intelligent wire delivery system.

"It's saying if there's a breakdown in circuitry, why not just rewire the circuitry?"

It may be a bit like the bionic man, "but of course it wouldn't be quite a case of running at a million miles an hour – it's pretty basic functions in the first instance."

The implanted electrodes would be connected to a chip that bypasses the brain and stimulates muscles directly using a distributed network that is interconnected via a local wireless network. Much of the required sequence of electrical stimulating signals will be generated autonomously, once the trigger for a specific type of movement, such as a step forward, is initiated.

Bio³ is a multi-disciplinary project led by a University of Sydney biophysicist and bioengineer, Professor Hans Coster. According to Professor Coster, much of the science behind the project is well established; what is needed now is a process which brings it all together. The technology is being developed by researchers from the University of Sydney together with groups in Britain and the US, and Professor Coster says the interdisciplinary nature of the research, which involves

quadriplegia experts, biophysicists, physiotherapists and biomedical engineers, makes it ideally suited to the Bio³ vision.

Welcome to the brave new world of biotechnology. One day in the not too distant future, it may be possible to replace a worn-out heart with a brand-new one built or grown in a lab. Implantable gadgets will give movement to people incapacitated by age, illness or disability, and armies of tiny stealth bombers will seek and destroy cancer cells in our bodies.

Although relatively slow to jump on the biotech bandwagon, the University of Sydney is establishing a Bio³ research and teaching facility that its architects hope will give the university pole position in the revolution. The centre will develop and commercialise replacement body parts, electronic health surveillance systems and new forms of drug delivery. It's scheduled to begin operating some time this year and will have initial funding of about \$1.5 million a year.

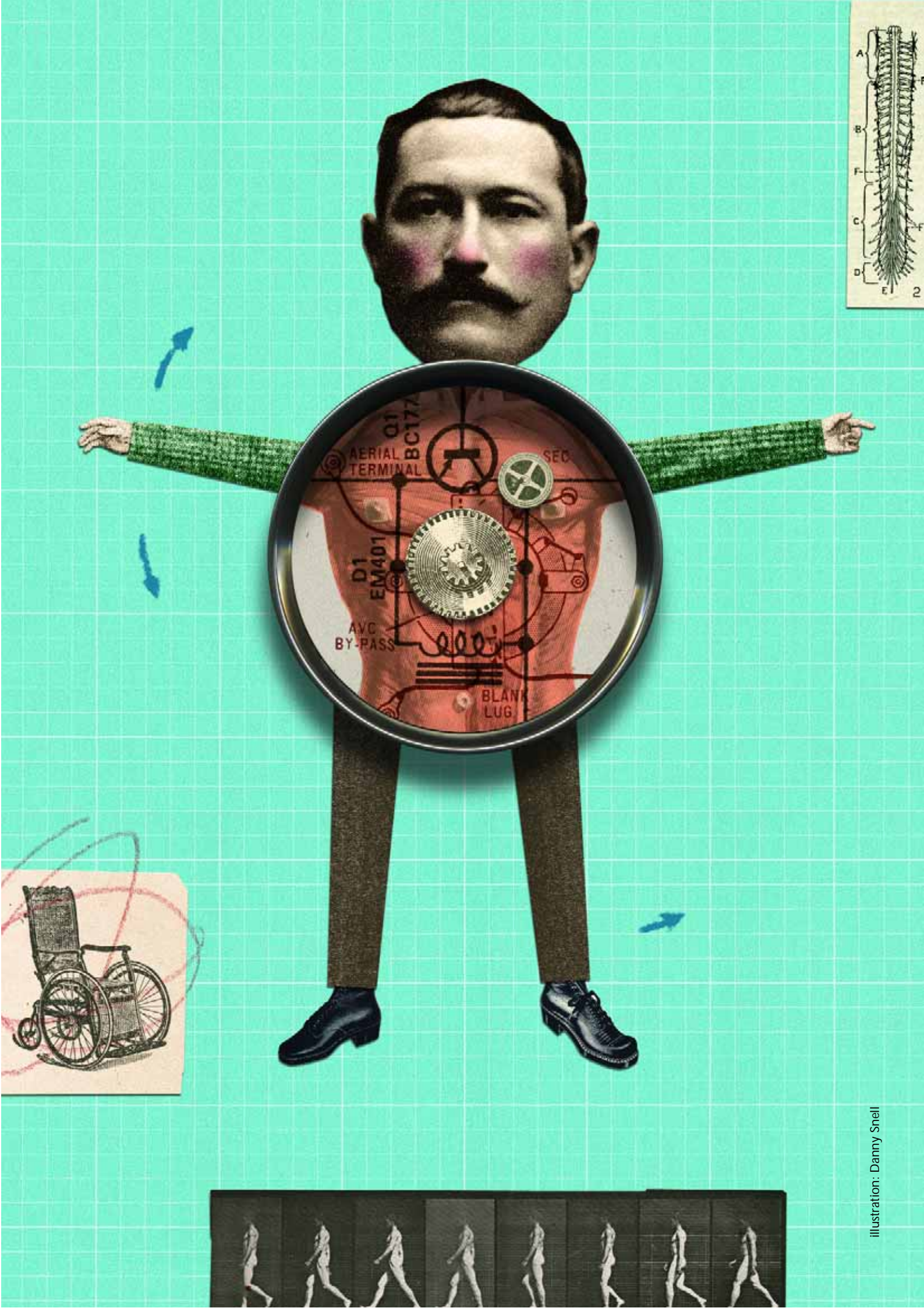
The ambitious project is the joint brainchild of Professors Richmond Jeremy, associate dean, infrastructure and finance, in the faculty of medicine, Hans Coster and Tony Weiss.

The plan had its origins at a cafeteria lunch, when a discussion about research synergies led to speculation about the future of medicine. The group agreed that as the population aged and fewer babies were born, medical research would need to find ways to keep people healthy and productive for longer.

"Looking at what the needs would be 20 years or more in the future is the ability to have artificial organs and artificial bits and pieces that you can either grow or make and implant," Jeremy says.

Bio³ will foster a unique interaction between the physical and life sciences, says the dean of medicine, Professor Andrew Coats. "You can invest heavily in biotechnology as a discipline, but [Bio³ is about] taking advances in physics, chemistry and engineering and applying them to medicine ... very few universities in the world are doing that," he says.

Whether by designing artificial eyes and blood vessels, coming up with new materials for joint replacements or improving robotic surgery, Coats says Bio³ will be a big step forward in treating diseases of the 21st century.





Richmond Jeremy and Tony Weiss ... 'if there's a breakdown in circuitry, why not re-wire it?' photo: Karl Schwerdtfeger

The Bio³ network

Bio³ is envisaged as a "research motel": a place where biological researchers, clinicians, scientists, chemists, engineers and mathematicians can come together to exchange ideas and research in shared labs.

Some activities will begin early this year, including creating a network of Bio³ labs around the university. The committee is identifying a long-term home for the centre and has two potential sites, one on the Darlington campus and the other in the Blackburn precinct. Building is hoped to take two to three years.

Bio³ will employ extra staff to help kick the venture off and will also be recruiting talent locally and overseas.

The project, which will initially be paid for by existing research funds, hopes to win international funding through the US National Institutes of Health and US military bodies.

Jeremy says the NSW Government is enthusiastic about the venture but has not yet made a financial commitment, and the Federal Government is yet to be approached. Nevertheless, Bio³ will have a strong commercial focus and it's hoped the initiative will reap significant financial returns. He says Bio³ will function as a brains-for-hire for governments and the private sector and will seek commercial partnerships.

The biotech revolution is changing the way universities operate, says the editor of *Australian Biotechnology News*, Iain Scott.

"It's had a fairly big impact on the way academia regards the private sector and commercialisation isn't such a dirty word any more," he says.

But the formerly foreign concept of patenting information rather than automatically publishing has caused substantial debate. "[In the past] patenting just wasn't an option and the idea of providing information to all your peers equally was definitely the main game in academia," he says.



150
The University of Sydney

The University of Sydney's Faculty of Medicine celebrates 150 years this year.

Visit www.medfac.usyd.edu.au for details of events and activities, or phone (02) 9036 3367

Faculty of Medicine 1856-2006
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"There was never an idea of putting a fence around your research."

Jeremy says a more commercial approach does not represent a major philosophical shift for the university.

"Many faculties within the College of Sciences and Technology perform consultancies for industry and for government in engineering, chemistry ... all we would be doing is another form of consultancy or contract," he says.

By the time Bio³ is fully established and operational, which will be around 2015 to 2020, it will require an annual budget of about \$20 million to \$30 million. It's hoped the venture will return at least that amount in revenue.

Jeremy admits that the University of Sydney is a late starter in the biotech field, but says this could work to its advantage. He says some universities plunged in at the beginning of the biotech revolution, when people were primarily "manipulating yeast in Petri dishes" and "growing molecular things in tanks". He doesn't diminish the importance of this kind of work, but says Bio³ will have a broader perspective.

"What we've done is been able to stand back from that and look at a much bigger picture which has, I think, greater potential and reward for the University than the more traditional established things that a lot of universities have poured a lot of dosh into.

"In a sense, by having waited a bit and looked over the horizon, we're making an investment which will take us over the horizon. We're starting something which is the next generation."

Iain Scott says Bio³ will probably have a lengthy gestation period and may look "fairly nascent" against other established centres, but he says the venture is the way forward for biotechnology.

"I think people will be looking to universities and this kind of creative model much more in the future to make biotech work," he says.

Andrew Coates ... describes Bio³ as a unique interaction.



Principal Biotech Research Areas

Bio-engineering

Pacemakers, hip replacements and the cochlear implant are all examples of basic bioengineering, which according to Professor Richmond Jeremy is based on the principle that "human beings are extraordinarily adaptable to having bits of hardware inside them". Bio³ plans to take the concept further by creating artificial organs and replacement parts, such as hands, organs, limbs, eyes and joint replacements.

Tissue engineering

This is an emerging technology where the aim is to grow a new organ or body part from human cells, sidestepping the problem of organ donor shortages. One way of doing this involves encouraging stem cells to grow around carbon microfibre structures, replicating the architecture of an organ and the network of blood vessels that feed it.

Bio-sensing

Bio-sensing is a way of remotely monitoring a patient's health status and transmitting data back to a doctor. For example, an implanted device could detect whether cancer cells are returning after a course of treatment. Bio-sensing may also have applications for vets and farmers. A device that monitors proteins in blood, for example, or worm loading, could tell farmers that it's time to treat stock.

Biological nanotechnology

Nanotechnology could create tiny "machines" to deliver drugs to a specific site. For example, high doses of drugs could be cased in miniature "submarines" and sent like guided missiles to cancer cells. The same principle could be used to deliver a poison pill directly to worms or larvae in parasitic infections.





“Her whole working life
has been based on
the pursuit of ideas.”

photo: Getty Images

She was a formidable student who became one of the Western world's most influential contemporary thinkers.

Claire O'Rourke profiles Germaine Greer.

Germaine Greer has never been one to mince words. Journalist and author Mungo MacCallum says many anecdotes that spring from her time at the University of Sydney in the early 1960s are unprintable, but there is one he recalls with particular fondness. A philosophical discussion between the members of the anarchistic Sydney Push was abruptly interrupted by the then postgraduate student and tutor. "God doesn't exist, and if he did he'd be a fascist ----," Greer said. That was it - end of conversation.

MacCallum says Greer was a significant figure on campus, "an ornament to the idea of students being ratbags".

"In the early 1960s, although a lot of people were quite liberated ... women were still generally hangers on to the male stars," he says.

"Germaine burst on the scene in a spectacular way, partly because she was the only one there who was extraordinarily confident and outspoken."

Well-known feminist and self-described ratbag Eva Cox had dropped out of the University of Sydney by the time Greer arrived but came to know her through the "non-utopian anarchists" that formed the Sydney Push.

Cox describes Greer as a flamboyant, upfront and often infuriating character. "She certainly stood out, even in those days," she says. A testament to Greer's anarchist background, Cox says of Greer's academic work, is her skill at identifying problems but not often solutions to those problems.

"[Greer's book] *The Female Eunuch* was a major achievement and it really sort of established a lot of feminist thinking," she says.

Greer has written at least a dozen texts since *The Female Eunuch*. She has considered a range of issues, including the commercialisation of sexuality, fertility and family in *Sex and Destiny: the Politics of Human Fertility* (1984), her relationship with her father in *Daddy, We Hardly Knew You* (1989) and menopause in *The Change: Women, Aging and the Menopause* (1993). Her scholarship in art history and English literature has also produced work on Shakespeare and, in 1979, *The Obstacle Race: the Fortunes of Women Painters and Their Work*. Recently she has moved further afield to concentrate on Australian indigenous rights and the aesthetic appeal of the male form.

Defying what would be expected of an erudite university academic, she appeared in the British version of the reality

television program *Big Brother* last year before abruptly quitting, reportedly criticising the show's bullying of her fellow celebrity housemates. Other high-profile clashes with the media abound.

Greer made a spirited contribution to campus life at the University of Sydney, where she graduated with a Master of Arts degree in 1963 and was a tutor in the department of English. She had a good singing voice and performed in student revues and other productions, playing the lead role in Bertold Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*. She dressed in second-hand clothes from the op shops along King Street, Newtown, and did a bit of journalism on the side.

She was described by fellow students and friends as a striking character who made life more interesting on and off campus.

Her contemporaries include humourist Clive James, art critic Robert Hughes, journalist, author and scriptwriter Bob Ellis and the founder of the Bell Shakespeare Company, John Bell.

Was she terribly intimidating? Les Murray, poet and former student, was not game to take her on. "[Greer was] a woman so formidable and interested in winning every conversation - not just every argument but every conversation," he says. "She was terrifying ... I don't think I was the only one who stayed away from such a formidable character."

High Court Judge Michael Kirby, who was the University's Student Representative Council president in 1961-62, says Greer "realised early in her life that ideas are the most powerful engines of change and she has always been a person of ideas," he says.

"There are too many boring people around - and she's not one of them."

The last word, of course, goes to Professor Greer, whose long career of rigorous scholarship and candour was recognised by the University in November last year when it awarded her the degree Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Professor Greer urged graduates not to lose the intellectual rigour they had been exposed to in their three, four or more years at the University. She called for them to stay with the "fellowship" that is the academic body.

"And it's not a one-way traffic - it's not that you're expending all this energy and getting nothing back, because every time you strengthen your mind you achieve a little bit more freedom," she said. "Freedom only exists in so far as you are prepared to exercise it."



IN SEARCH OF meaning

Frank Furedi

How do we make sense of the community conflict witnessed on the streets of Paris and on the beaches of Sydney? In this inaugural set of *Sydney Alumni Magazine* essays, UK sociologist **Professor Frank Furedi** and Australian commentator **Dr Clifton Evers** argue that public violence is about more than race and class.

The outbreak of riots in Sydney last year not only caught the police unaware - it highlighted the incapacity of Australia's public figures to make sense of events today.

Politics and the media struggle to understand or explain the big issues of the twenty-first century. Many public figures seem unable to make sense of a situation where relatively small groups of young men can expose the ambivalence of Australian culture and the uncertainties of Australia's political elite.

Evasion and dissemblance dominated the response to the Sydney crisis. Some sought refuge in localised explanations. Prime Minister John Howard's statement 'I do not accept there



is underlying racism in this country' was offered as a political truth, a way to make sense of the rampage by avoiding analysis of its underlying causes.

Unfortunately, the outburst of confused violence cannot be simply understood through the idiom of race, surf culture, or economics. We need to take into account other influences shaping current events. A diagnosis of the Cronulla violence as racist, or as a failure of law and order, is simplistic. The question these youths are really asking - and which our political elites are failing to answer - is who are we; and where do we belong?

A predictable explanation for the violence in Sydney or last year's riots in Paris is to argue that dominant western cultures have done a very bad job of integrating various immigrant communities. Commentators wedded to the policy of multiculturalism find it incomprehensible that a modern nation could still believe in the ideal of assimilation. The historically progressive ideal that says a nation should treat its people as citizens rather than as members of an estate, a religious, ethnic or cultural group is today described as scandalous by those who think the politics of identity should dominate. So France is

indicted for its failure to embrace and institutionalise multiculturalism and give due respect to different ethnic groups, and Australia - having embraced multiculturalism over the past four decades - wonders where it's gone wrong.

There is little doubt that the version of assimilation practised in France is not faithful to its principles of true universalism. It also clearly isn't working. But the multiculturalist critics of France should reflect on the state of the rest of Europe, and perhaps now should also look to Australia. The torching of cars in Berlin and Brussels, or churches in Sydney, is symptomatic of an under-the-surface tension. An editorial late last year in the UK *Guardian* lectured the French about their need to learn from the experience of America in the 1960s and Britain in the 1980s, and to draw the appropriate multiculturalist conclusions. The editorial failed to mention the inner-city riots that broke out in England in 2001, after many years of trying and testing multiculturalist policies. Then there was rioting in the multicultural strongholds of Bradford, Burnley and Oldham, suggesting that multiculturalism is a no more effective policy than current French attempts at assimilation.

Diversity is a statement of fact - and to turn a fact into an ideal is to avoid having real ideals altogether.

The riots in England in 2001 provided two important lessons for policymakers. First, they showed that riots could not be reduced to the problem of economic deprivation. The Asian youth involved in the unrest - like the white youth involved in Cronulla's violence - tended to come from communities that were middle class. Second, the riots showed that the politics of inclusion did not bring communities closer together. All the evidence suggested that the younger generations of ethnic minorities felt more distant and estranged from the dominant culture than did their elders. Paradoxically, it seems that the very different policies pursued by the elites in Australia, France and Britain have led to very similar outcomes.

Politics without meaning

The most significant thing about recent events in Australia is not the behaviour of the mob, but the reaction of the political class and official authority. One of the clearest manifestations of today's sense of political exhaustion is our elites' desperate desire to avoid discussing uncomfortable problems.

The current state of political exhaustion shows that public life lacks a sense of purpose, perspective and meaning. Most government policies try to get around this problem by avoiding it. The celebration of diversity is probably the clearest example of such an evasive strategy. Celebrating the many is a meaningless act that simply recognises the reality that we are not all the same. It is as vacuous as the worship of one or a few. Diversity is a statement of fact - and to turn a fact into an ideal is to avoid having real ideals altogether. More specifically, it spares the authorities from spelling out what defines their society. That is why the French policy of assimilation and the British and Australian pursuit of multiculturalism have such similar outcomes: these policies are about avoiding the hard task of saying what it means to be Australian, British or French, and therefore implicitly raise the question of meaning in an acute form. Indeed, many Australians find it easier to say what is 'un-Australian'; a negative definition that has gained unsurprising currency in an environment characterised by political exhaustion.

Power means very little without purpose. Power and authority gain definition through a sense of direction. And the more this powerlessness becomes exposed, the more it encourages a generalised sense of insecurity. This is not simply a case of official incompetence, but rather points to the existence of an elite that no longer believes in the legitimacy of its own authority and way of life.

Since the end of the Cold War, the process of political exhaustion has dominated public life in the West. With the disintegration of class politics over the past two decades, the traditional distinctions in public life have lost meaning. These changes have taken their toll on left-wing and working-class movements in particular. Class politics today exists only in a caricatured populist form and no longer serves as a focus for unity for the

masses. Although tensions between Anglo-Australian and immigrant workers have a long history, such conflicts were tempered through the institutions of the labour movement. The decline of this movement has contributed to a situation where ethnic, cultural and racial differences are consolidated.

The marginalisation of the labour movement is paralleled by the decline of coherence within the Australian elite. Since the end of the Second World War, Australia's rulers have been ambivalent about their global and regional role. Some looked to the USA as a dependable ally in an uncertain world; others sought to play a leadership role in Asia-Pacific. Neither approach has been entirely successful.

Somewhere between the glory days of Gallipoli and the silent, spineless and confused politics of today, Australia has lost its identity. It is difficult to point to any values that are distinctly Australian; much easier instead to label an action or event as un-Australian. It is not surprising that the young white Cronulla rioters draped themselves in Australian flags; it cloaked their uncertainty with a symbol of lost meanings.

The cumulative effect of the loss of meaning in Australia and the undermining of the elite's authority, is the intensification of conflicts and divisions. To put it bluntly: there are no Australian values to share. In the absence of a common web of meaning, even small differences can turn into a major conflict. In such circumstances, there is every incentive to inflate suspicion and magnify difference. That is the politics of today, and probably of tomorrow.

The solution lies not in dreaming up clever ways of managing community conflict, but in demanding that societies stop evading the fundamental questions posed in our times: what is the purpose of politics; who are we as a society; and what defines our humanity?

Professor Frank Furedi delivers the inaugural **Sydney Ideas** lecture at the Seymour Centre in Sydney at 6.30pm on 3 April 2006. Cost: \$20/\$15 concession, Bookings: Phone (02) 9351 7940.

Professor Furedi is a sociologist and commentator on fear and risk in contemporary society, and Professor of Sociology at the University of Kent, UK. His books include *Where have all the Intellectuals Gone?*, *Therapy Culture*, *The Culture of Fear*, and *Paranoid Parenting*. His latest book is *The Politics of Fear: Beyond Left and Right*.

Sydney Ideas is a University of Sydney initiative. The series of public lectures and forums, focussing on ideas that make a difference, will feature prominent international and University of Sydney academics.

More details at www.usyd.edu.au/sydneyideas



Striking out in fear

Recent violence on Sydney's beaches was sparked not so much by genuine ethnic grievances as by a generalised sense of unease.

Clifton Evers

We now seem to fear just about everything. Sociologist Frank Furedi suggests that fear has become a cultural idiom that signals “a sense of unease about our place in the world”. This fear tends to be racialised in Australia.

Recent events such as both Gulf Wars, the terrorist attacks of 2001 in the US, the Tampa affair, the bombings in Madrid, London and Bali, the moral panic over “ethnic gang rapes” in western Sydney, new sedition laws and increased police powers

have all fuelled the unease to the point of explosion. Some of the media, the public and the political elite have fostered the racialising of fear emerging from these events.

Racialised fear has nothing to do with biology, because race doesn't exist in a biological sense. It's a way of seeing and stereotyping what others do, or could do, to “our Australian way of life”. At the moment, the racialising of fear takes the form of being wary of those of “Middle Eastern appearance” or demonising their cultural practices and traditions. “Middle

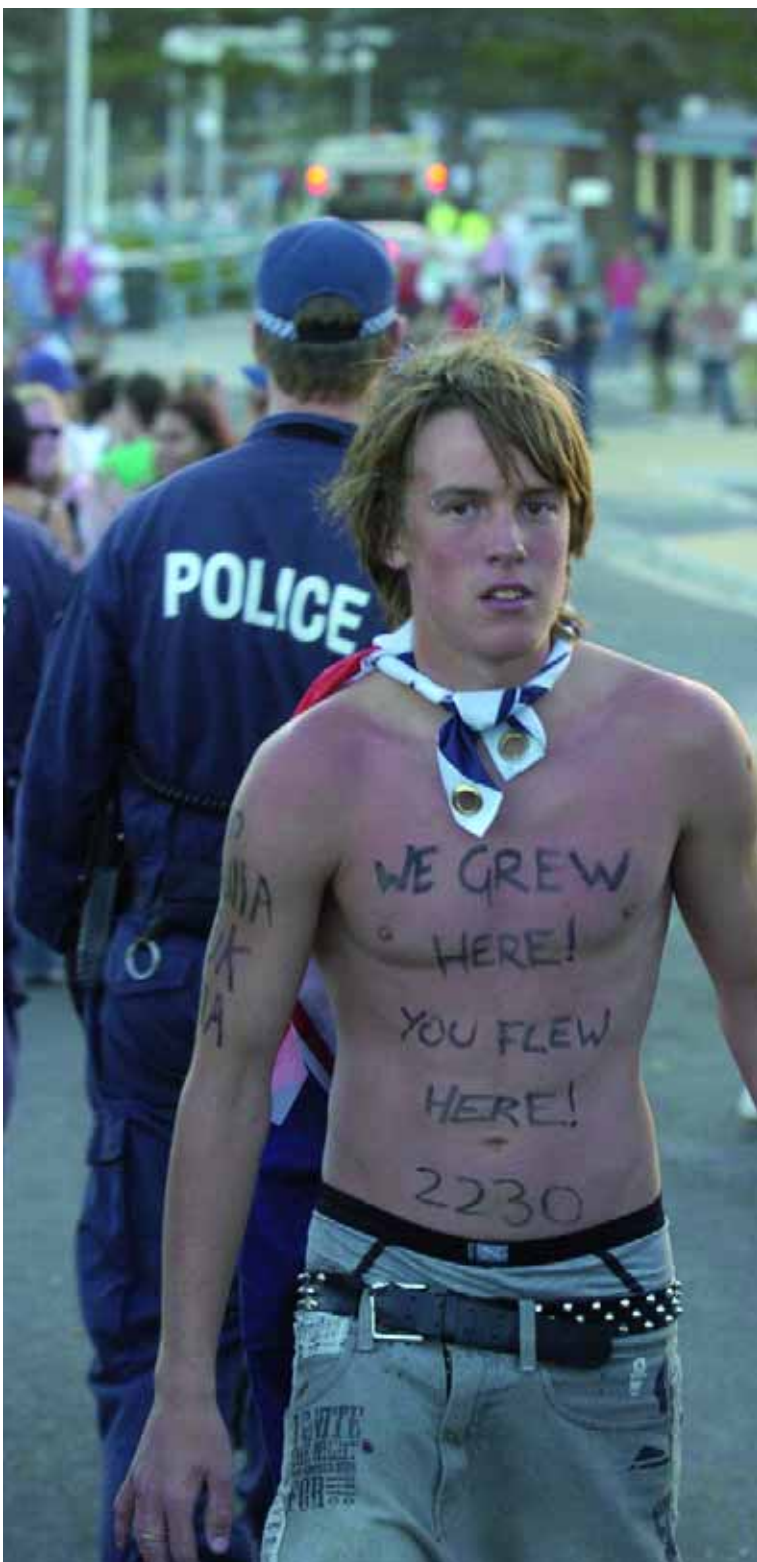


photo: NewsPix

'Under attack' ... Shire boyz stake their claim.

Eastern appearance" is an invented term that categorises difference from Anglo-Australian bodies and conventions into one amorphous "un-Australian" lump.

People have been encouraged by political parties such as One Nation to use this method of categorising "the other" as a way of rationalising the changes happening around the world and in our own backyards. The racism that emerges is not necessarily intentional but is a product of misinformed assumptions. In his book *White Nation: Fantasies of White Supremacy in a Multicultural Society*, Ghassan Hage, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Sydney, points

out that Australian society has reached the point where we assume there are borders within the nation. These must be patrolled against outsiders, such as non-Christians and those who look "Third World".

The most recent patrolling of a border against outsiders occurred in the Sydney beachside suburb of Cronulla. On Sunday, December 11, up to 5000 people gathered to protest against the bashing of two lifesavers by some "westies", as locals call those who live in the inland suburbs. Tension between locals and others has always been present in Cronulla and tit-for-tat verbal aggressions are commonplace. Such "localism" is a strict convention of the surfing culture. Many who took part in the riot draped themselves in the Australian flag, sang *Waltzing Matilda* and shouted "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, Oi, Oi, Oi". The Australian tradition of mateship became a rallying cry for all involved. Many hated the "others" just because their mates did.

Sydney talkback radio "stars" proclaimed that the people of Cronulla should reclaim "their" beach and that the initial fight was un-Australian, even though beach history is littered with tales of surfers bashing lifesavers, rockers bashing surfers and even surfers bashing surfers. These internal differences between Anglo-Australians paled against what was represented, and subsequently practised, as racialised violence.

The media reported, and the local population argued, that the riot was a response to disturbances on the beaches by "gangs of Middle Eastern-looking men" who don't appreciate the "Australian way of life". Cronulla is the easiest beach to get to from the suburbs of south-west Sydney, where many migrants from the Middle East have moved since the 1960s and 1970s. Young men travel from the inland suburbs to Cronulla and hang out. They favour particular cars, food and ways of dressing. What informs their choices are their particular ethnic and class backgrounds, which are not the same as the middle-class and Anglo-Australian "locals". These choices become clear markers of difference on the beach. Many people have begun to ascribe a racialised explanation to the 'westie' because it provides a simple way to separate 'us' from 'them'. Rather than being egalitarian, as Australian mythology supposes, many beaches have traditionally been ethnically exclusive.

Aussie Pride

It would be easy to say the root cause of the riot was racism or the failure of multiculturalism. But what we witnessed was the latest instance of the racialising of fear. The focus on race can divert attention from other domestic fears, such as radical changes to industrial relations laws, an increase in police powers, the potential censoring of the media via sedition laws and ongoing anxiety about possible terrorist attacks. The violent racialised nationalism that was evident in the riots could show how people have become attuned to expressing their fears and defending a way of life they feel is "under attack". The stereotypes and behaviours such nationalism allows enable us to avoid confronting the economic and social issues that are really fuelling our fears.

The Cronulla riots were the latest in a long line of racialised expressions of fear in Australia. Throughout our history the

fear of the indigenous population has been played out by racialising their experiences of, and reactions to, colonisation. Since the 1950s, moral panics over crime have blamed Greek, Italian, Turkish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese and Lebanese “ethnic gangs”. During the Gulf War in 1991 men ripped off Muslim women’s hijabs and attacked residents of Middle Eastern appearance or of Islamic faith. In 2000 and 2001 there was a series of group sexual assaults in south-western Sydney in which the perpetrators were depicted as an “ethnic rape gang”. There has been an ongoing moral panic about immigrants “flooding our shores”, so refugees from Asia and the Middle East are branded as “queue jumpers” or “possible terrorists”. After the attacks on the United States in 2001, some Australians attacked mosques and Islamic schools. The resultant war in Afghanistan and Iraq led to calls by prominent media commentators for us to re-examine multicultural policy or even discard it.

Often we do not reflect on whose interests we are advancing when we participate in racialised representations and expressions of our fears. The people who benefit are the critics of immigration and multiculturalism. Such moral panics construct “others” as having problems and creating problems, making it possible to shore up and perpetuate privileges and avoid confronting social and economic fears that fuel the unease we may be feeling.

After the Cronulla riots many people wrote letters, phoned radio talkback programs, rallied and held community meetings to express their shame at what had occurred. Professor Elspeth Probyn, in her new book *Blush: Faces of Shame*, shows that

“The focus on race can divert attention from other domestic fears, such as radical changes to industrial relations laws, an increase in police powers, and ongoing anxiety about possible terrorist attacks.”

shame is a positive force that compels us to reflect on our behaviours and beliefs. As blood rushes to our cheeks, our bodies demand an ethic of care that is a reflection upon why we are feeling this way and how we may be making others feel. If our political elite and prominent media commentators would pause to reflect as the blood rushes to their faces instead of their heads, perhaps future racialising of fear in the Australian polity could be avoided.

Dr Clifton Evers lectures in the department of gender studies at the University of Sydney. He wrote his PhD on surfing and cultures of masculinity.



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A Rhine-royal costume drama

This year's Paris residency for Mark De Vitis promises first-hand access to portraits of a French princess who wasn't, writes **Louise Maral**.

Foreign brides at the court of Louis XIV had to deal with very similar issues to those dealt with by migrant women in Australia, says the winner of a 2006 Cité Internationale des Arts studio residency, Mark De Vitis.

De Vitis, who is a PhD student at the University of Sydney, has a three-month stint in Paris this year thanks to the annual Power Institute Foundation for Art and Visual Culture award. The residency will allow De Vitis primary

"She is basically reborn as a French princess. Her clothes are taken and she is given new garments to wear, she is called by a French name and a whole series of portraits are commissioned showing her with French clothes seeking to identify her as a French woman."

According to De Vitis, Elisabeth Charlotte was a strong character for the mannered French court, with a Rabelaisian sense of humour. Always regarding herself as a German princess,

She wore her hunting outfit to formal ceremonies ... a transgression possible because of her favour with the king.

access to materials, including 17th century portraits, available only in that city's museums and libraries, and essential for his thesis which looks at how the image framed identity for the foreign brides at the court of Louis XIV.

"Daughters of rulers were often married into other courts as a way of establishing a link between powers," says De Vitis, whose primary focus is Elisabeth Charlotte von der Pfalz, the Princess Palatine of the Rhine, who became Duchesse d'Orleans when she married the brother of Louis XIV.

she refused to buy into French fashion, choosing to wear only two different kinds of garment, her formal court attire and her hunting costume, marking herself as different from the other women of the court.

"She was actually very intelligent and would wear her hunting outfit even to formal court ceremonies, a transgression which was possible only because of her favour with the King, who had taught her to hunt in the first place," De Vitis says.

So just as costume was used to refigure Elisabeth Charlotte as a French



Elisabeth-Charlotte, Duchesse d'Orleans pictured in her favourite portrait (artist: Atelier of Hyacinthe Rigaud, c. 1719) ... reborn as a French princess.

woman, she used clothing herself to publicly demonstrate her close relationship with the King, while displaying resistance by refusing to acknowledge alien modes of dress, De Vitis says.

De Vitis will also focus on the Queen of France, Maria Teresa of Spain; the first Dauphiness, Marie-Anne Christine Victoire of Bavaria; and the Queen of Spain, Marie-Louise d'Orleans.

"These women had to deal with very similar issues to what migrants in Australia are dealing with now: how to retain your cultural background yet gain acceptance as a member of a new community. Often people don't think of it happening within early-modern Europe because it is seen as more culturally homogenous."

Another University of Sydney member won the Power Institute's six-month residency: multi-media artist and writer Adam Geczy, who teaches art theory at Sydney College of the Arts. The residency will allow him to create artworks exploring the underbelly of Paris.

"I want to do film footage of the dock areas, the storage areas, the non-descript, anti-picturesque, built-up outer suburbs, everything that's repressed through the emblematic beauty of the city," says Geczy.



Mark De Vitis ... investigating French fashion and court politics.

The Macleay Museum Jewellers

Using new ways to look at old collections is the theme of a Macleay Museum exhibition, *Sighting the Past: four contemporary jewellers respond to the Macleay Museum collections*.

The exhibition was mounted to coincide with the Jewellers & Metalsmiths Group of Australia's biennial conference held in late January. Four Sydney jewellers, Diane Appleby, Keith Lo Bue, Susanna Strati and Alice Whish have each produced several works for the exhibition, based upon their responses to aspects of the museum's collections. Diane Appleby responded to the museum's collection of Micronesian ceremonial combs, while Keith Lo Bue explored a fascination with Victorian-era natural history museums. Susanna Strati assembled a collection of works in metal, wax, and found objects, and

Alice Whish developed a response to her work with Yolngu communities in north eastern Arnhem Land.

The works reflect a sense of wonder and curiosity in the Macleay Museum collections. As Lo Bue writes in the exhibition catalogue, "I am in the artistic realm, but using history and science as my visual language. So really to me there is a common ground, an overlap, between what I'm doing and what a natural history museum like the Macleay is doing. We're meeting halfway."

Exhibition: Sighting the Past
Venue: Macleay Museum
Date: Until 11 May 2006
10am - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday
Gosper Lane, off Science Road
Contact: (02) 9036 5253



Keith Lo Bue... meeting the museum halfway.

alumni bookshelf



At the Flash and at the Baci

Ken Bolton
 (BA Hons '74)

Wakefield Press, 2006

Collected poems mostly conceived and written at the two establishments which lend the collection its name, the Flash and the Baci, coffee shops in Adelaide.

The changing face of electoral politics in Sri Lanka (1194 - 2004)

Laksiri Jayasuriya (BA '55)
 Marshall Cavendish Academic, 2005

This study recounts a critical decade of electoral politics in Sri Lanka, spanning four general elections and a presidential election. Laksiri Jayasuriya AM is emeritus professor at the University of Western Australia.

A Kimberly story - beyond the legend

Noni Durack (BA '38 Dip Ed '39 MA '50)
 CQU Press, 2005

The saga of the Kimberley is a thought-provoking epitaph to *Kings in Grass Castles*. It is a moving record of a vital turning point in pioneering history of the Kimberly region.

Clinton and Blair: the political economy of the third way

Dr Flavio Romano (BA '92)
 Routledge, 2005

The former President of the United States, Bill Clinton and the current Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Tony Blair have described their style of government as a "Third Way". Flavio Romano identifies and clarifies the economic implications of this particular approach to public governance.

More coch and bull

Chris Rath (BA '69)

The fifth book in a series of comical, dramatic, poetic monologues.

A portrait of the artist as Australian: l'ouvre bizarre Barry Humphries

Dr Paul St Pierre
 (PhD Arts '82)
 McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal, 2004

Dr St Pierre is an associate professor at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, where he teaches Australian literature.

Wizard of the Hempen Square

Ivan Curotta (Mat Med '55)

A biography of the life of Hughie Dwyer, light welter and middleweight boxing champion of Australia during the 1920s.

Contributions to this section are welcome. Please send a brief synopsis along with details of the author, degree and year of graduation, title, publisher, release date, and a high res jpeg of the publication's cover to the *Sydney Alumni Magazine* editor.

Government bill cuts sport to the bone

Sydney University Sport faces one of its biggest challenges yet: surviving the impact of voluntary student unionism, writes **Graham Croker**.

The passing of the Federal Government's Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) Bill in December was an unwelcome Christmas present for Sydney University Sport, which had just unwrapped its most successful year on record.

But despite the potential loss of over \$3 million a year - from student sports fees - Sydney University Sport is confident that with the support of the university and the sporting alumni, the organisation will continue to provide first-rate facilities, coaching and sporting scholarships to its members, athletes, clubs and the broader community.

While sport continued to flourish during the year, Sydney University Sport executive director Greg Harris was playing a significant role off the field. In March 2005, Mr Harris convened a meeting of other senior university sport representatives to discuss strategies to garner support to either block the VSU legislation or secure amendments that would cover the funding shortfall to university sport.

At this meeting Mr Harris was elected chairman of the Australian University Sport VSU Lobby Group.

"Our first priority was to produce an impact statement to raise public awareness of the draconian and hypocritical outcomes of the legislation on university and Australian sport," Mr Harris said.

"We then engaged the support of a who's who of the corporate and sporting communities to assist in our lobbying.

"Given the impact the legislation would have on regional universities, it was a windfall, after extensive lobbying, to gain support from the National Party

at its National, NSW, Victorian and Queensland conferences. Unfortunately, at the final vote only Senator Barnaby Joyce (from Queensland) supported our amendments and crossed the floor to vote against the legislation."

Although Senator Joyce supported an end to compulsory student unionism, he proposed giving universities the power to collect a fee to be used for non-political purposes.

"A cabal of people are driving this issue out of some sort of political nirvana that they want to achieve rather than out of the impacts that this will have on the ground," Senator Joyce said of the VSU legislation. "We could have got rid of compulsory student unionism, we could have made sure that the funding mechanisms for political purposes had been stopped and we could have also preserved what a university is."

Mr Harris said he was grateful for the support the AUS Lobby Group received from the independent members of the Lower House, particularly the member for New England, Mr Tony Windsor, and from Australian Olympic Committee chairman, John Coates, and David Clarke, chairman of Macquarie Bank and chairman of the Sydney University Football Club Foundation.

However, he was disappointed with the Nationals senators who failed to support Senator Joyce.

"We were also disappointed with Family First Senator Stephen Fielding," he said. "We had met him in May, but then for four months prior to the vote on the legislation he wouldn't meet with us.



"One of Mr Fielding's electoral platforms was that Family First would not support legislation without an impact statement. Well, the Government has not produced an impact statement for VSU - they will be doing that 18 months after its implementation. Indeed, the only impact statement on sport and VSU was produced by our lobby group."

Net loss of \$32 million

University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor Professor Gavin Brown was also scathing of the passage of the laws.

"The majority of Student Union funds went towards providing amenities on campus as well as assisting extra - curricular activities, including debating and sport," he said. "It is entirely reasonable to ask all people to make a contribution. The passing of the VSU



Bill is a temporary victory for the red-necked philistines that will damage Australia's reputation internationally."

The lobby group's impact statement shows student fees raise approximately \$40 million per annum for sporting facilities and services across the university sport's sector in Australia. At best, it is expected that only 20 per cent will be recoverable by voluntary payment of sports fees and increasing user-pays charges. The impact statement argues that this will result in a net loss of over \$32 million annually in investment in sporting facilities and services to both the University and broader community.

Mr Harris said the loss of funding at the University of Sydney could result in staffing cuts, a halt to capital works programs, a reduction in club funding and sporting scholarships and the

number of general sporting programs and services that SUS provides.

"It also casts real doubts on our capacity to provide any support for our team at the annual Australian University Games," he said.

However, SUS President, Mr Bruce Ross is confident about the sporting prospects at the University of Sydney despite the legislation. "We were very buoyed by our initial discussions with the Vice-Chancellor, who has been a great supporter of sport during his tenure," Mr Ross said. "We are optimistic that the University will provide alternative funding arrangements which will minimise our problems."

Mr Ross said SU Sport was fortunate to also have strong support from the University Senate.

continued page 36

A triumphant University of Sydney rugby team celebrates its 2005 premiership win ... creating history alongside fellow 2005 title-holders, the First XI Sydney Grade Cricket premiers.

alumni updates

News and events from alumni associations and faculties

Architecture Alumni Association

Each year the Architecture Alumni Association organises a Careers Market Day for graduating students to meet potential employers on campus. In 2005, 14 firms paid to participate in this event, and over 250 students attended. A sponsor, Bloomfield Tremayne, has already signed up for 2006. The association is asking its 4,000 alumni to supply their email address, and 750 contacts have so far joined this database. 2006 highlight: The first annual exhibition of the work of recent graduates in all faculty disciplines is planned for March. This exhibition is designed to showcase graduates' achievements to their professions.

Arts Association

In 2006 the Arts Association will continue its lecture program, with at least two interesting lectures per semester offered

to alumni. Additional alumni functions will be held throughout the year; see www.usyd.edu.au/alumni for details. 2005 highlight: The alumni Christmas party festivities on 8 December 2005.

China Alumni Network

The China Alumni Network committee launched an international student send-off program in Beijing and Shanghai in January. This pilot program successfully assisted incoming students to prepare for life in Sydney, and included informative and entertaining addresses by alumni, advising students about the changes in lifestyle they can expect. The China Alumni Network is also planning a series of other events in 2006, see www.usyd.edu.au/alumni for details.

2005 highlight: The inaugural alumni reception held at the Beijing Hotel, attended by over 400 alumni.



Beijing's alumni reception ... further alumni events are planned for 2006.



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For an information pack:

Phone: +61 2 9351 0351 or +61 2 9351 0361 or +61 2 9351 0267

Email: pg@law.usyd.edu.au

www.law.usyd.edu.au/postgrad



Chinese Studies Alumni Association

The Chinese Studies Alumni Association held several social events throughout 2005, including Chinese New Year and Moon Festival celebrations. The association also produces a twice-yearly newsletter. 2006 highlight: Upcoming celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the commencement of teaching Chinese Studies. See www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/chinese/societies.htm for more details.

Economics and Business

A series of alumni drinks and business forums will be held in Sydney throughout 2006; while academic colleagues will host a series of international alumni lunches and dinners. See www.usyd.edu.au/alumni for further details. 2006 highlight: The launch of an alumni economics and business e-newsletter.

Health Sciences Graduates' Association

The Health Sciences Graduates' Association helps organise alumni reunions and offers annual postgraduate study grants. Membership of the association is lifelong (for a fee of \$50), and the association newsletter is sent to members twice yearly. The Faculty of Health Sciences Study Grant is also awarded annually. Jessica Witherow won this grant in 2005. Jessica received her BAppSc Medical Radiation Sciences (Hons) in 2004, and is now enrolled in a PhD, working to find a

vaccine for glioma, an aggressive type of brain tumour. Visit www.fhs.usyd.edu.au/alumni for further information. 2005 highlight: The Cumberland Foundation Scholarship Award Winner, Bredge McCarren, received her PhD in Physiotherapy in December. She is pictured below with Helga Pettitt, an executive member of the Standing Committee of Convocation.

IT Alumni Association

Four alumni talks will be held in 2006 and the popular online Google Talk event (which attracted over 300 alumni participants in 2005) will continue. The Information Technologies Alumni Association produces two newsletters each year: one print and one email. 2006 highlight: 'Open House' events planned for the new IT building. Visit www.it.usyd.edu.au/about/alumni/events.shtml

Law School Graduates' Association

An alumni community newsletter is distributed in April and October each year, keeping members up-to-date with events and activities. A range of campus functions and alumni reunions are scheduled for 2006. See www.law.usyd.edu.au/alumni/ for further information. 2005 highlight: The 150th sesquicentenary dinner was highly successful. Over 450 people attended the event, and the *Chaser* team produced a video of the occasion.

Medical Graduates' Association

Alumni reunions are held each year for 5-10 year graduating classes, with support from the Faculty of Medicine. The Medical Graduates' Association works closely with the faculty to build student-alumni linkages, develop scholarships for current students and produce the *Radius* newsletter twice yearly. Visit www.mga.usyd.edu.au for further information. 2006 highlight: The 150th anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine will be held in 2006, with a major events program in place. Visit www.medfac.usyd.edu.au/150years for further information.

Pharmacy Alumni Association

A primary focus of the Pharmacy Alumni Association is to promote a lifelong relationship and friendship with members and to encourage them to support the faculty. Activities include a 'Women for Pharmacy' mentoring program. 2006 highlight: The major event for 2006 will be the Pharmacy Ball to be held at Darling Harbour on Saturday 17 June.

Physics Alumni Association

The Physics Alumni Association distributes a twice yearly *Alumni News*, keeping alumni up-to-date with school and alumni activities. Members can also receive a monthly email newsletter by contacting Chris Stewart at c.stewart@physics.usyd.edu.au. Physics alumni are building strong links with PhysSoc, ensuring that value is brought to current students through alumni linkages. 2006 highlight: Annual Physics Dinner on 30 March 2006 – catch up with old friends and make new ones. Contact Alison Thorn at a.thorn@physics.usyd.edu.au or tel +61 2 9036 5194.

Residential Colleges

All of the residential colleges have active alumni programs and activities, with many distributing alumni magazines and offering scholarships. There are links to each college at www.usyd.edu.au/fstudent/postgrad/life/ssm/college.shtml 2005 highlight: The Wesley College tables at the Graduate Connections Breakfast, where alumni had the opportunity to catch up with old friends.



Helga Pettitt with scholarship winner Bredge McCassen, Health Sciences.

Science Alumni

The popular Science Forum lectures will continue in 2006 and alumni are encouraged to attend. The Jump Start Career program is held four times per year, and the involvement of alumni who come back to the campus to present to students is greatly appreciated. Schools such as Chemistry offer a range of alumni events and distribute newsletters. To receive these updates, visit the alumni web community at www.usyd.edu.au/alumni. 2006 highlight: Additional alumni support for our 'Jump Start' program. Volunteers are very welcome. Please contact info@science.usyd.edu.au or phone (61 2) 93515397

Standing Committee of Convocation

In 2005 the Standing Committee of Convocation (SCC) made representation to the Senate to take on the role of the peak alumni body of the University, in order to align itself more closely to the needs of the University and its stakeholders. Senate endorsed this position and agreed the SCC should facilitate communication and cooperation among alumni and the many alumni

associations and chapters across campus and throughout the world. To do this effectively, the SCC has increased by nine members, giving associations and chapters the opportunity to nominate alumni they believe will best represent their interests. For further information please contact the Alumni Relations Office on 61 2 9036 9222 or email alumniadmin@usyd.edu.au.

SUGUNA

The highly successful Sydney University Graduates Union of North America annual conference was held in Champaign, Illinois in 2005, and the 2006 annual conference is scheduled for Berkeley, California from 3 to 6 August. SUGUNA plans to expand operations in 2006, in cooperation with the University of Sydney, to establish east and west coast chapters. The expansion follows recent events held in New York City, which have attracted many alumni. 2006 highlight: The launch of a re-designed newsletter, THE SUGUNA. Visit www.usyd.edu.au/alumni/suguna to see this newsletter online and find out more about the organisation.

Sydney University Sport

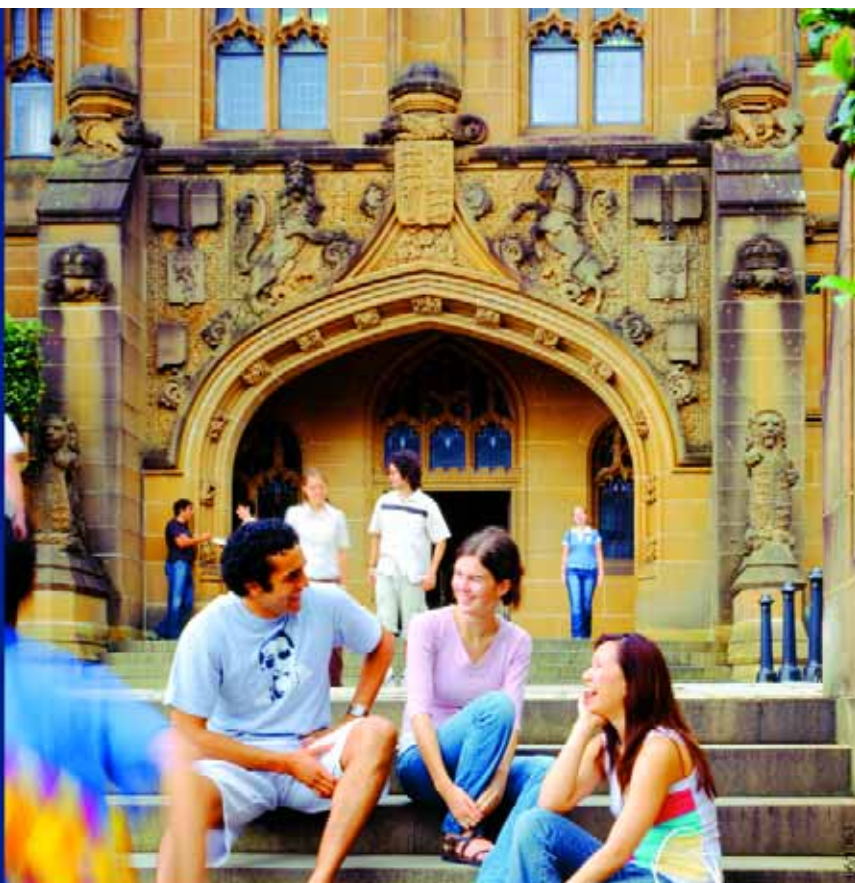
Sporting alumni are encouraged to support their old clubs by attending fixtures and assisting with administration and fundraising. Activities such as the Blue & Gold sporting functions, Blues Association events and Club Award nights also engage alumni in the sporting life of the university. Sydney University Sport operates a strong mentoring program for sport scholarship holders, providing student-alumni links for some 220 elite athletes. See www.susport.com for upcoming activities and further information.

2005 Alumni Awards

These awards recognise the outstanding personal contributions made by graduates to the enrichment of our society through innovation, dedication, perseverance and creativity in community service. The University of Sydney warmly congratulates the recipients of the 2005 Awards: Dr Joe Canalese (MBBS '73), and Dr Veronica Lambert (BDS '82), and the Standing Committee of Convocation medallist for 2005, James Cowling (BCST '05).

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Email: g.thomson@vcc.usyd.edu.au



Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore (BA '69) presents Dr Veronica Lambert (BDS '82) with her alumni award at the 2005 annual Graduate Dinner.

UK Alumni Association

The UK Alumni Association has an active membership which includes graduates from a variety of disciplines. The association holds two main functions each year: a summer reception, normally at a place of significant historic or other interest; and an autumn lecture,

usually in an Oxford or Cambridge college, and given by a distinguished speaker (recent speakers have been Lord May, president of the Royal Society; Professor Sir David Williams, ex-vice chancellor of the University of Cambridge and legal academic, and

Dr David Starkey, broadcaster and historian). 2005 highlight: Geoffrey Robertson QC (BA '67, LLB '70) was the guest speaker at the association's sell-out winter lecture in October at Westminster Town Hall, overlooking Buckingham Palace.



Update your contact details

The *Sydney Alumni Magazine* is delivered to you each quarter by Australia Post, PMP Distribution, and Direct Link.

If your address details are incorrect, please ring the PMP toll free number: 1800 803 551 FREE CALL.

Alternatively, send your updated contact details to:

Sydney Alumni Magazine Mailing List
Advancement Services G12

The University of Sydney NSW 2006

Fax: +61 2 9351 5688

Email: alumni@vcc.usyd.edu.au

or visit www.usyd.edu.au/alumni



The University of Sydney

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2000s

Margaret (Maggie) Churchward (M Nurs '00) has retired to Tasmania. She is the president of the Devonport Community House and is a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association.

David Coulon (BCST '00) married Catrin Whittaker in March 2005.

Benjamin Mitchell (B Design Arch '04) has started his own design company, Studio Mitchell, specialising in architecture, interiors and urban spaces. Contact: studio_mitchell@yahoo.com.au.

Robert Scheer (M Teach '01) moved to Darwin where he is Head of Arts at St John's College. This year he was awarded a National Excellence in Teaching Award for his work with indigenous and international drama students.

Inger-Marie Vilcins (B Sc '00 MIPH '04) is studying her PhD, looking at the role Ectoparasites play in disease transmission in Australian animals.

Geniene Zachariah (B Occ Thpy '04) completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) in 2004. She started a new job last November in the Community Mental Health team in Blacktown.

1990s

Maree Joseph Gittany (BA '95 LLB '98) has commenced her new job as a lawyer in Dubai & Abu Dhabi with a leading English firm, Clyde and Co.

Traceylee Gunn (Dipl Horse Mgt '94) lives on the Central Coast with two children and has a successful business with the Body Shop @ Home. Traceylee recently met Dame

Anita Roddick (founder of the Body Shop) and reports it was an inspiring occasion.

Ashok Kumar (LLM '98) is a barrister practising in commercial tax and criminal litigations at the NSW Bar.

Doreen Lyon (B Mus St '91) is a volunteer exhibitions curator for a rural museum at The Oaks. Museum curators have been working with the Estonian community in Thirlmere, assisted by the Powerhouse Museum, the Migration Heritage Centre and the Wollondilly Shire Council to open a major exhibition, *From Estonia To Thirlmere - Stories From A Unique Community*.

Dr Philip Norrie (M Sc '93) gained a PhD in '05 with the thesis on history of wine as a medicine for the past 5,000 years. The thesis will be released this year as a book, *A Guide To Wine & Health*. Dr Norrie is making a TV documentary called *Uncorked - The History of Wine* with Dr Phil Norrie, The Wine Doctor and this year launches the world's first resveratrol (anti oxidant) enhanced wine. He continues to work as a GP in Elanora.

Dr Flavio Romano (BA '92) has published *Clinton and Blair: The Political Economy of the Third Way* through Routledge, 2005.

Dr Matthew Landos (B V Sc '95), as a first for the veterinary degree, was asked to write and deliver

an informative and amusing lecture on fish health to 4th year Veterinary students at the University of Sydney. An expansion of attention in aquaculture means Sydney vet graduates will leave with more fish knowledge than ever before. Dr Landos has also commenced a private consulting business - Future Fisheries Veterinary Services.

Linda Smith (B Agr Ec '92 M Com '04), based on her community involvement, carried the baton in the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay in Randwick on Australia Day in 2006.

Emma Yim (BA '94 LLB '94) worked at Clayton Utz and Allens Arthur Robinson specialising in finance law but is currently taking a few years off to look after her two young sons.

1980s

Dr Mark Alexander (BDS '88, BSc (Dent) '88) is a full-time dentist at the AHM Dental Centre at Parramatta. Mark has enjoyed a successful sporting career in lawn bowls, having represented NSW, and was a member of the Harbord BC team that won the prestigious 2005 Premier League competition.

James Barahanos (B Sc '87) helped win an award for Australia at the recent Akira Kurasawa Film Competition in

SHARE YOUR NEWS

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

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

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

You can also update your details and search for classmates online by visiting the alumni website at www.usyd.edu.au/alumni



Tokyo Japan. The award was presented by Hiao Kurosawa, son of the famous director, Akira Kurosawa, to the makers of the film, *The Kitchen*. James shot the film in one continuous take.

Dr John Hardy (MB, BS '88) works as locum GP in rural Western Australia. He recently participated in the second Avon Valley Spring Chamber Music Festival, playing harpsichord along with wife, Dr (in Music) Emily Gunson, a professional flautist.

Dr Safuan Hasic (BDS '82) has been a dental surgeon in Mortdale for 24 years. He does charity work for the Bosnian community and the Croatian community and is married with two children.

Andrew Kite (BE '84) and **Patricia Higgins** (BE '84) have moved from London to Perth to continue their careers in education and the resources industry.

Dr Paul St Pierre (PhD Arts '82) is the author of *A Portrait Of The Artist As Australian: L'Oeuvre Bizarre Barry Humphries* (McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal, 2004). Dr St Pierre is an associate professor at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, where he teaches Australian literature.

David Russell (B Ed '87) is working in Canberra at Lyneham High School as a physical education and outdoor education teacher. He recently completed a Certificate IV in outdoor recreation, and would like to know if any other '87 PE people are intending to have a 20 year get-together.

Keeping the dream alive

It was inevitable that I would go to the University of Sydney. It was my dream as I read Louisa M. Alcott and helped muster sheep and cattle on my father's property in northern New South Wales.

My grandmother, Isabel Mary MacInnes, was one the first women undergraduates at the University, before women were accepted into Oxford and Cambridge. She was the only daughter of the first Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Australia, a remarkable woman who won the medals for German and for Geology in her final year in Arts. One of her brothers, Ian, was killed at Gallipoli; the other brother, Angus, became a doctor and practised in Sydney most of his life.

I was sent to Sydney to be educated, but after the Japanese bombardment of Sydney Harbour I was evacuated to a country high school where academic life was far from rigorous. There was no French teacher, only itinerant teachers of English, Maths and Latin. But there was a history teacher who was passionate about modern European history and so we went to the Leaving Certificate exam armed with parrot knowledge of Stephen Roberts' *Modern European History*. That was a good standby for History 1 in the new Wallace Theatre, where Professor Roberts, fully robed in academic gown, lectured to us. It was very dark and stuffy in there, and often hot.

I remember the atmosphere in the Wallace Theatre: boy looked at girl and vice versa with great interest. The Wallace was a new building with lots of stairs and dim lights where a rigid formality was observed for 55 minutes of lecture time. There was time, too, for a full observation of the other sex. The girls wore pleated English Goray skirts and cashmere jumpers with pearls.



Isabel Herron ... delighted to be back on campus.

My main memories of 1947 are of Women's College where I lived. It was a marvellous, vibrant place with formal dinners, guest speakers, maids to clean the rooms, and midnight sessions where many problems that we would never have dared to raise at home were aired and sometimes solved. Miss Betty Archdale, a renowned English cricketer and our principal, taught us to abide by the rules of the playing field. We had some leeway but not a great deal, tutors to help in some subjects, and companionship with other girls that in many cases has lasted all our lives. My joy in discovering and exploring new ideas began there in 1947.

I have been both a student and a tutor at universities in Queensland, Melbourne and Sydney. I love the vibrancy of the classes and the dedication and enthusiasm of the students. Always I am delighted and surprised by the acceptance given to older students by lecturers and students, and how the opinions of these older students are valued by those less experienced. Older students have much to give.

Isabel Herron (BA '50, Dip Lang Studs '05) is a 76-year-old student of French at the University of Sydney.

Peter Colquhoun (B Sc Arch '86 B Arch '89) has produced and presented a television program that features great Australian coastal architecture called *The Great Australian Sandcastle*, screened on Foxtel. Peter is also looking for architects, engineers and builders who may have been involved in great coastal houses to potentially feature in the third series.

1970s

Ken Bolton (BA Hons '74) launched a major collection of his poetry at the 2006 Adelaide Festival Writers' Week. The collection is called *At The Flash and At The Baci* from Wakefield Press.

John Hill (BA '72) retired four years ago as a primary deputy principal and recently filled in as a casual teacher for a few weeks. He has come to admire the way teachers today cope with such an intensified curriculum and regulatory restrictions. He says their dedication deserves far more positive recognition (as Catherine Lumby's article suggested in the November 2005 edition of the *Gazette*).

Jennifer Lang (née Sinclair) (B Ed '73) taught in primary schools in Tempe before moving to the ACT to teach in 1974. In 1977, Jennifer trained as a school counsellor and has worked as a senior school counsellor since 1991 in Canberra.

Maree Lloyd (BA '76, Dip Ed '77), after years as the founding head of the senior school at Saint

Stephen's College (Gold Coast) has relocated to the Sunshine Coast (Queensland) with her husband. She says she is very content to relax until the bank manager advises otherwise.

Vincent Okunor (Dip TEFL '76 MA '77) has retired as director of the Ghana Institute of Languages and is now a practising lawyer, mainly concerned with the development of the Ga language (the language of the indigenous people of Accra), including the translation of the Ga bible and other publications.

1960s

Hamid Ahmad (M Agr '68) has been hired by the Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) for their project, *Investigating Procedures To Improve The Efficiency Of Overseas Halal Slaughter Of Australian Cattle And Sheep*. Mr Ahmad will be visiting Australia in July 2006.

Fran Bentley (née Fallins) (BA '65, Dip Ed '66), after 20 years primary teaching and raising a family, dabbling in archaeology and Japanese, has now retired in the Blue Mountains to enjoy further postgraduate courses, explore family history, go bushwalking and amuse the grandchildren.

Ingrid Cranfield (née Briar) (BA '66) has been and still is a writer and editor since settling in the UK in 1966. Three years ago she was headhunted to teach, and was recently

awarded a postgraduate certificate of education by the Institute of Education, University of London. The presentation ceremony marks exactly 40 years since she graduated from the University of Sydney.

Dr Neville Exon (B Sc Hons '63) has retired from Geoscience Australia after 42 years. He started as a field geologist and finished as a marine geologist, and during this time participated in 45 marine expeditions, many as chief scientist. He is now a visiting fellow at ANU's Department of Earth and Marine Sciences.

Dr Alan McLeay (MBBS '66) has invented new techniques in cancer detection, allergy identification and electrical muscle testing in humans and horses.

Warren Pengilley (BA '60, LLB '63) was awarded an Erskine Fellowship at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and taught there in second semester 2005. The Law Society of NSW also recently conferred life membership on him in recognition of his 'long and meritorious period of practice and service to the profession'.

Dr Warren Shipton (B Sc Agr '61 PhD Agr '65), after retiring as associate professor at James Cook University, has accepted the position as president of Mission College in Thailand. This tertiary institution has the Princess as Patron and received an educational export award from the Thai government in 2005.

Chris Rath (BA '69) published the fifth book in a series of comical, dramatic, poetic monologues entitled *More Coch and Bull*.

Professor Leslie Roy (B Sc Med '62, MBBS '64, MD '05) was awarded Doctor of Medicine (MD) in November 2005. His thesis was entitled *Studies related to diseases affecting kidney and urinary tract in children and their management*. He was honoured to be able to wear academic dress worn by the late Sir Lorimer Dods.

1950s

Ivan Curotta (Mat Med '55) recently presented his third book *Wizard of the Hempen Square* - a biography of the life of Hughie Dwyer, light welter and middleweight boxing champion of Australia during the 1920s - to his alma mater, the University of Sydney. This book joins his previously published books, *Up There With The Best* and *With Wings On Their Feet*.

Tony Frost (B Ec '83 LLB '85) writes of the passing of his father, **Maurice Frost AM** (B Sc '56 BE Aero '58 ME '60) who was acknowledged as having considerable influence on the structure of Australia's defence forces, particularly its naval destroyers. Maurice Frost had a strong love for the University and enjoyed University rugby and rowing.

Dr Clive Mathews (BE '59) has retired after spending 30 years at the engineering faculty of NSWIT/UTS and

obtaining a Master of Science and a PhD from UNSW. He is nevertheless teaching at the Workers' Education Association in science and technology.

Dr Richard Bull (MBBS '51) has written a book of poems *Wonder With A Sting - A Book Of Poems To Tell A Story*.

Warren Spence (BSc '50) and his wife have moved from Swansea in NSW to Doncaster East in Melbourne to be closer to their children and their families.

1930s

Noni Durack (BA '38 Dip Ed '39 MA '50) has published her second novel, *A Kimberly Story - Beyond The Legend*. The novel is based on the decision to dam the Ord River to create Lake Argyle.

Dr Rex Fortescue (BDS '48, MDS '54) became president of the Academy of Dentistry International on 1 November 2005. The ADI is committed to dental education in under-privileged areas worldwide.

Benn Selby (B Sc '36) received one of two icon awards, granted by Science Industry Australia, in recognition of his role in the management of the former H.B. Selby Australia Ltd. and as chairman of Trustees of the Continuing Selby Scientific Foundation.

photo: Brett Faulkner



Three of a kind: From left, doctors John Roger, 90, Alan Hazelton, 90, and Keith Jones, 94, gather for the reunion in Sydney.

When the class of 1939 gathered for their graduation photograph at the medical school of the University of Sydney, none of them could have predicted what lay ahead.

Within 12 months, most of the men and women were in the armed forces, serving everywhere from New Guinea to Nova Scotia.

And after publishing that fading graduation photo on their magazine's cover and asking "where are they now?", the New South Wales branch of the Australian Medical Association found out. Twenty-four men and two women, the youngest in their late 80s and the eldest in their mid-90s, gathered for an AMA-hosted lunch in Sydney late last year.

"I remember you. You were a couple of years below me at uni but I was your GP at Manly," said Keith Jones, 94, a former federal president of the AMA, as he spotted the bemedalled Alan Hazelton, 90.

"Ah yes, you worked with my wife," Dr Hazelton replied.

In 1938, Dr Hazelton was aware war was coming. He recalled that he "got in early" and joined the 2nd Div Engineers at Sydney's Paddington Barracks.

"Later on, I left Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney and went up to Orange as a senior resident and changed over to the 6th Light Horse regiment," he said. "They were a good local crowd - and that's when I joined the AIF."

Dr Hazelton said that when France fell to the Germans in 1939, the whole unit

volunteered to join the regular army. He served in Malaya and Singapore and was captured when Britain's "impregnable island fortress" fell to the Japanese.

"I spent 3½ years on the Burma railway," he said. "They were pretty desperate sort of camps with no medical supplies. The Japanese rationed all our supplies, including the food, and we were lucky to get out alive."

After the war he established a practice in the NSW city of Goulburn.

Sir Keith joined the army in December 1940 and served in north Queensland before being posted to Papua New Guinea.

After serving in the Lae campaign, he was sent back to Australia in 1944 when his wife was injured in an accident.

"I never even thought of having a reunion like this, to be quite honest," he said. "When I heard about it, I thought 'there won't be many there' but I was quite surprised to see the roll-up."

John Roger joined the army in 1941 and was posted to the Middle East before being sent to Ceylon (Sri Lanka), PNG and Borneo. "I didn't really see much fighting until I got to Borneo," he said.

Dr Roger served until 1946 and on discharge "joined my father-in-law in a practice up in Taree".

First published in *The Australian*, 30 November 2005. Reprinted courtesy of News Limited and the author, D.D. McNicoll.

diary

Until April 13

Fortuna: recent gifts and loans

Noon – 4pm, Tuesday – Friday,
at the University Art Gallery
Located in the War Memorial Art
Gallery, northern end of the Quadrangle
Contact: (02) 9351 4004



Under construction ...
Sydney Harbour Bridge

Until June 30

Bradfield's bridge

An exhibition of drawings, plans,
photographs and papers relating
to the construction of the Sydney
Harbour Bridge.

9am-5pm, Monday to Friday,
at the Rare Books Library,
level 2, Fisher Library.
Contact: (02) 9351 2992.

March 13 (runs through to November 13)
Piano Series

6pm at the Sydney Conservatorium
of Music
www.music.usyd.edu.au

March 15

**Central West alumni reception and
guest lecture by Dr Robyn Williams
AM (DSc '88)**

School of Rural Health, Dubbo,
6.30pm – 8.30pm
Contact: Yvette Zuidema (02) 9036 6458
Email: alumniadmin@usyd.edu.au



Rita Orsini ... French teacher extraordinaire

March 18

Pause Café French conversation
class with Rita Orsini
9.30am – 12.30pm, 8 meetings
Contact the Centre for Continuing
Education (02) 9036 4789
E: info@cce.usyd.edu.au or visit
www.cce.usyd.edu.au

March 25

Womens College Alumnae

Armidale reunion. Contact: Liz Roan
(02) 6773 3383

March 29

Graduate Connections Breakfast
Guest speaker: Magistrate Patricia
O'Shane AM (LLM '86)
7.15am – 8.45 am The Tearoom, QVB
Contact: Alumni Relations Office
(02) 9351 2673
www.usyd.edu.au/alumni

March 30 (through to April 30)

**Putting It Together -
a musical celebration of Sondheim**
At the Seymour Centre
Contact: (02) 9351 7940

April 5

Alumni Drinks Reception,
Faculty of Economics and Business
CBD venue to be confirmed, 6pm – 8pm
Contact: Veronica Pardey
Phone: 61 2 9036 6271
Email: alumni@econ.usyd.edu.au

April 5

Sydney Science Forum:
Great Moments in Science
Presented by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki
5.30pm at the Eastern Ave Auditorium
Bookings essential.
Contact: (02) 9351 3021 or email
info@science.usyd.edu.au

March 29 (runs throughout the year)

Egypt: 'The Black Land'

The Nicholson Museum unveils
its re-imagining of the Egyptian
display in a new exhibition
Egypt: 'The Black Land'.

The Nicholson Museum
possesses the largest
collection of ancient
Egyptian antiquities in
Australia, and this
exhibition presents the
chance to view some
of the collection's
highlights.

Official opening is
March 29 at 6.30pm
(\$18 entry, \$12 for
Friends of the Nicholson
Museum).
Contact: (02) 9351 2812.



April 7 (through to June 3)

Conductors' Series

6pm at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music www.music.usyd.edu.au

April 11 (through to May 27)

Art Space Germany

An exhibition of work by fourteen contemporary visual artists who have lived and worked in Germany over the past 30 years.
At SCA Galleries, Sydney College of the Arts, Balmain Road, Rozelle
Contact: (02) 9351 1008 or www.usyd.edu.au/sca

April 15

Veterinary Science, class of 1986: 20-year reunion

Blue Mountains

Contact: Matt Playford (03) 5439 4525

Email: alumniadmin@usyd.edu.au

April 20

Official opening of the *Unearthed Tales II: Treasures of the Nicholson Museum*. 6.30pm in the Nicholson Museum, cost is \$18 entry and refreshments, \$12 for members of the Friends of the Nicholson Museum. For bookings and more details phone (02) 9351 2812

April 21

Blue & Gold Club Barassi Cup Luncheon

12.30pm at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Contact: Sydney University Sport,

(02) 9351 4960 or email

d.mcintyre@susport.usyd.edu.au

April 21 (through to June 30)

Leslie Wilkinson: architectural drawings in Europe

Noon-4pm, Tuesday-Friday,

at the University Art Gallery

Located in the War Memorial Art Gallery, northern end of the Quadrangle

Contact: (02) 9351 4004

May 2 (through to May 20)

Romeo & Juliet

by William Shakespeare

At the Seymour Centre

Contact: (02) 9351 7940

photo: Chris Carter



Spanish art ... Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao

May 5

Graduating Year of 1946 Faculty of Medicine Reunion

11.30am at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron Kirribilli

Contact: Dr Jack Blackman

Phone: (02) 9958 0537

May 17

Sydney Science Forum: Mathematics & Sex

Presented by Dr Clio Cresswell,

5.30pm at the Eastern Ave Auditorium
Bookings essential.

Contact: (02) 9351 3021 or email info@science.usyd.edu.au.

May 25 (through to June 18)

Study tour: Art and archaeology of Spain

The Centre for Continuing Education
www.cce.usyd.edu.au

May 25

Public lecture by Dr Alistair Blanchard of Ancient History to celebrate National Archaeology Week 2006.

6.30pm, in the Nicholson Museum, \$18 entry and refreshments, \$12 for members of the Friends of the Nicholson Museum and The Australian Museum Society. For bookings and more details on this lecture and other NAW events phone (02) 9351 2812

May 26

Blue & Gold Club Annual Sports Luncheon

Contact: Sydney University Sport, (02) 9351 4960 or email d.mcintyre@susport.usyd.edu.au

May 27 (runs through to July 2)

Capricornia

by Louis Nowra

At the Seymour Centre

Contact: (02) 9351 7940

Capricornia ... playing at the Seymour Centre



VSU cuts to sport

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"They have been right behind us since this legislation was first mooted and I'm sure that support will continue," he said. "We have also received overwhelming support from our sporting alumni and that will need to continue if we are to maintain services and remain as viable and competitive as we have been."

Indeed, Sydney University's sporting alumni had been revelling in a series of outstanding team and individual efforts during 2005. These include world championships to sailor Jacqui Bonniticha

Loss of funding could result in staffing cuts, a halt to capital works programs, and a reduction in club funding and sporting scholarships.

and canoeist Robin Bell, the cricket and rugby union clubs securing their respective club championships and first grade premierships for the first time in the same year, the men's water polo team claiming the National League title and first division club championship, and the Sydney University Flames finishing runners-up in the 2004-05 women's national basketball league.

Mr Ross said the knee-capping of the current funding mechanism was a slap in the face for the thousands of volunteers and supporters of university sport.

"Here at the University of Sydney, the boat club, cricket club and football club have foundations established to assist them to compete at an elite level," he said. "That funding might now be eaten away in just merely keeping the clubs afloat - and that will be a disgrace in itself," he said.

"The future of sport at the University of Sydney is in the hands of the University and our sporting alumni. We are dependent upon this support for the current standards of sporting services and facilities at this University to be maintained."



Blues for world champions

Sailor Jacqui Bonniticha (pictured left, with Kyeema Doyle from the 2004 Olympic rowing eight) and canoeist Robin Bell, who conquered the world last year in their respective sports, are Sydney University's 2005 female and male Blues of the Year.

The awards were announced at the annual Blues Dinner in the University of Sydney's Great Hall, where a gathering of 250 saw Chancellor Justice Kim Santow present 38 athletes with Blues and six administrators with Gold Awards for services to sport.

Bonniticha, a second-year liberal arts student, became the first female to win the World 29er Championship, when she teamed with Euan McNicol to outsail the best in the class in strong winds on San Francisco Bay in July.

Bell, an economics student, became the first Australian to win a white water world championship when he took out the C1 canoe at the 2005 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships at Penrith in September. Both are Sydney University Sport scholarship holders.

The president of Sydney University Sport, Bruce Ross, said the achievements of sportspeople at the University of Sydney in 2005 continued to amaze at local, national and international levels.

"In team competition, we dominated the Sydney grade cricket and rugby union competitions and created our own piece of history," Mr Ross said. "Our First XI won the minor and major premierships and the overall Club Championship in the 2004-05 Sydney Grade Cricket competition. The Football Club also won the minor and major premierships and the overall club championship. It is the first time two of our oldest sporting clubs have held the titles in the one year."

Mr Ross said that as well as two new world champions in Bonniticha and Bell, the University also boasted three new Wallabies in Al Campbell, Al Kanaar and David Fitter, and the 2005 NSW Rhodes Scholar in Jonathan Bonniticha. "We have surpassed ourselves; it is certainly the best year for sport at Sydney University," he said.

— Graham Croker