

Study shows clear water fluoridation benefits

The addition of fluoride to mains water in Australian cities has markedly reduced the prevalence of dental disease in children, according to ongoing research in the Faculty of Dentistry.

The research by the Dental Statistics and Research Unit (DSRU) also shows that the poorest in society benefit most from water fluoridation.

The DSRU — an external unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare located in Dentistry — aims to improve the range and quality of dental statistics in Australia.

As part of this task, the Unit has undertaken a Child Fluoride Study over the past five years to measure the effectiveness of water fluoridation in reducing the prevalence and incidence of dental caries in children.

The study, encompassing several grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council, includes more than 23,000 children in South Australia, the ACT and Queensland.

The study includes children with differing exposures to fluoridation, and examines other factors such as

exposure to other fluorides and socio-economic status.

Mr Michael Davies, an epidemiologist who is carrying out the work with DSRU Director Professor John Spencer, said the study showed water fluoridation significantly reduced the prevalence of dental decay by 34% in permanent teeth and 44% in infant teeth in contemporary Australian children.

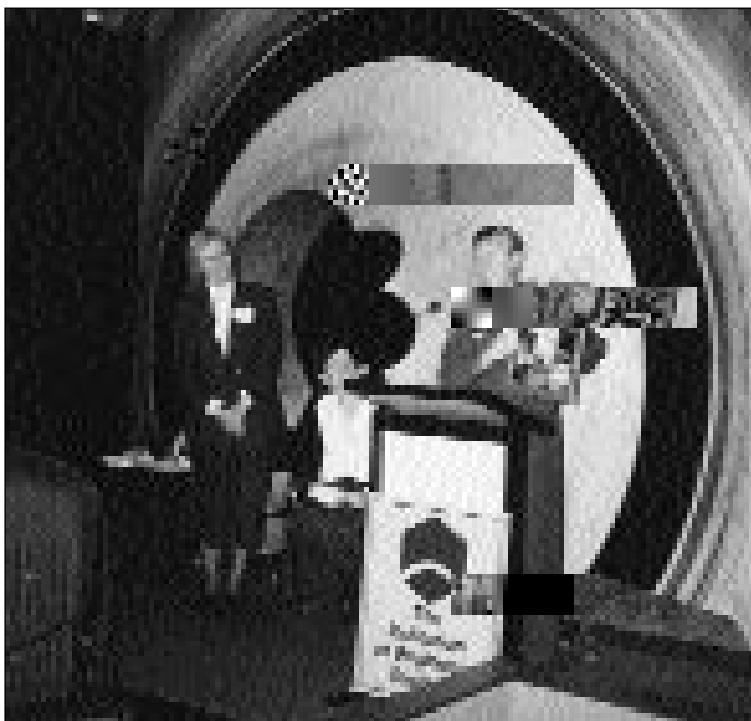
"In the 1960s, the rate of dental decay in Australian population was amongst the highest in the world," Mr Davies said.

"Health authorities responded by implementing water fluoridation, adding fluoride to toothpastes, and creating the Australian School Dental Scheme for providing free care to school children.

"Today approximately two thirds of Australians receive reticulated water with adjusted fluoride levels, 98% of tooth brushing involves a toothpaste with fluoride, and school children across Australia receive care from a network of State dental services.

Continued on Page 5

Andrew Thomas: a day in the life



Adelaide-born NASA astronaut Dr Andrew Thomas has been formally recognised as one of the University of Adelaide's "Distinguished Alumni".

In May this year the 44-year-old Mechanical Engineering graduate became the first Australian astronaut to play a key role on board a space shuttle. He was the payload commander and mission specialist for the shuttle Endeavour.

Dr Thomas was presented with his Award — in recognition of his "unique pioneering role as an astronaut, and for his inspiring of our school children in the engineering sciences" — at an event held on 24 September by the Chapman (Engineering) Chapter of the Alumni Association.

At the function Dr Thomas gave a slide and video presentation of his shuttle mission, and was interviewed by the University's Professor of Natural Philosophy, Paul Davies, about the aerospace industry.

Dr Thomas then presented the Faculty of Engineering with a signed plaque, which contained a patch worn by the NASA astronauts, a small Australian flag, and photos of the shuttle Endeavour and its crew.

During his "return home" visit to Adelaide (which was sponsored by the Institution of Engineers Australia) Dr Thomas was also handed the key to the city of Adelaide by the Lord Mayor, Mr Henry Ninio, and spoke to hundreds of school children at the Investigator Science & Technology Centre at Wayville.

—David Ellis



Top left: Andrew Thomas with the plaque which he presented to the Investigator Science and Technology Centre. Top right: making an impression of his hands in cement at the Investigator. Above: Alumni Association Chair Dr Harry Medlin presents Dr Thomas with his Distinguished Alumni Award. Photos: David Ellis

I recently went to a meeting of the Women's Professional Development Network. The WPDN had sponsored a talk on Working Women and Menopause.

Almost the first question the presenter asked was, "How many of you told your colleagues that you were going to a talk about menopause?" Some of us rather sheepishly put up our hands, and we all laughed. Most of us had not felt this was a proper subject to mention to colleagues or supervisors.

The talk set us straight on the importance of bringing out into the open something that all women go through in some form or other, but few people feel able to speak freely about, particularly in the workplace. The session was about empowering women to take control of their own working lives in relation to the changes brought about by menopause.

Empowerment is essentially what the WPDN is about. It was established in 1995 as a result of a training needs analysis of women general staff of HEO 5 and above. A Steering Committee was then formed by a group of women to focus on issues affecting the professional and personal development needs of women general staff of HEO 5 level and above.

It has initiated a number of activities for the benefit of women staff. These include:

- lunchtime networking forums, where guests are invited to speak on topics of interest. Recent guests have included Janine Haines, Adelaide University Council member and patron of the WPDN, Vini Ciccarello, Mayor of Kensington and Norwood, and Frank O'Neill, who spoke about skills, experiences and people that had helped him in his career. There are also networking meetings involving small group discussions around topics of interest.
- a mentoring scheme for women general staff of HEO 5 level and above. This scheme has recently got under way for eighteen pairs of mentors and mentorees, with a half day training session for each group on the benefits and issues of concern and the skills and expectations of both groups. The mentors include both females and males, and members of both the academic and general staff. It will run for four months, with regular evaluation, and may be extended if it proves successful.
- establishment of a computer list server to which interested individuals can subscribe and receive information about the Network electronically
- review of University policies and proce-

dures that affect women general staff. So far this has involved looking at the University's recruiting and appointment policies, which are currently under review by Personnel Services Branch.

While these activities are specifically directed to women at HEO 5 level and above, all staff, particularly women from HEO 2 to 4, are welcome to attend the lunchtime networking forums. The Steering Committee is now preparing a questionnaire through which it hopes to find out if it is meeting the needs of women general staff, and in what other areas women would like it to be active.

In its short history it has attracted plenty of comment, both good and bad. Members of WPDN have been intrigued to hear disparaging comments directed at the Network. But we have also had very good feedback from those who have attended the sessions.

Because the Network directs its energies particularly to the needs of women, some of these adverse comments are not unexpected, as there is still some resistance in the University about recognising that women general staff may have particular professional development needs.

WPDN strives not only to meet the needs of those women who support it, but also to challenge the attitudes of those who minimise the aspirations of women general staff.

Our vision statement is that by the year 2000, the WPDN will be actively promoting change within the University, so that women general staff are empowered and enabled to achieve their personal and professional potential.

At present, women are 47% of all staff at HEO 5 level, 44% of those at HEO 6, 35% at HEO 7, 32% at HEO 8, 30% at HEO 9, and 17% of the level 10 and Chief Officer classifications. These figures have changed little over the last ten years.

It is of benefit to women and to the University that there should be greater representation of women at the more senior levels of the general staff, and there will need to be changes in the organisational culture of the University if WPDN is to reach its goals.

But enough of the heavy issues. WPDN is interesting, and it's fun. We don't plot the overthrow of patriarchy, and we don't paint our nails — we get together to hear interesting people

Landmark Indonesian training agreement for AITEC

The Australian Information Technology Engineering Centre (AITEC) has signed a landmark joint venture agreement with the Indonesian human resources company PT Bina Mitratel Nusantara to provide training to Indonesian telecommunications company PT Telkom and emerging telecommunications carriers including PT Pramindo.

It is the third major international education contract won by AITEC in the past twelve months.

The training program is part of a Masters course in Telecommunications Systems Management (TSM) which also provides for a number of graduate certificates and

diplomas and allows multiple entry and exit points.

The initial 13-month pilot program begins on 8 October and will provide Indonesian employees with a high level of skill in the technologies, business practices and strategies needed by world class telecommunications organisations.

AITEC's Managing Director, Mr Peter Hamilton, said the pilot project was the vanguard of a significant opportunity for AITEC, for its shareholder institutions, and for South Australia.

"This is a high value-added contract which represents a major business opportunity for AITEC, indicat-

ing a possible income of \$10 million," he said.

Mr Hamilton said with the steady move to the liberalisation and privatisation of the telecommunications markets in the Asia-Pacific region, the growth of business opportunities for AITEC was "quite dramatic".

"This contract has enormous significance not only for AITEC, but in positioning South Australia as a centre for excellence for IT&T education," he said.

AITEC is jointly owned by the SA Department of Employment, Technical and Further Education (DETAFE) and the three South Australian universities.

Roseworthy Open Day provides plenty of 'Food for Thought'

If you've always wanted to pat an alpaca or taste a Cabernet, munch on pulses or even eat an emu, then the forthcoming Roseworthy Open Day is for you.

For the first time in several years the Roseworthy Campus will open its doors to the general public from 11.00am to 5.00pm on Sunday 27 October, with the aim of showing country and city people alike the enormous range of research and education which takes place at Australia's oldest agricultural training institution — and how food production and management in particular are changing rapidly.

"The Open Day will show that agricultural science is indeed a 'growing career' with lots of employment options for young people and investment opportunities for agribusiness," said the Chair of the Open Day Committee, Mr Peter Fuller.

Visitors will be able to follow the "Food for Thought Super Highway", checking out alternative crops such as coriander and fenugreek and diversified animal enterprises such as deer and ostriches. A special attraction will be a "Food for the Future"

outdoor restaurant where guests can try venison and emu — washed down by some of SA's top wines.

They can also test their palates in the Wine Marketing Taste Tunnel, which will explore the sensory differences between major wine varieties.

• For further information contact Mrs Margaret Hague on (08) 8303 7892.

Adelaide Show Blitz

The Roseworthy Dairy Team enjoyed great success at this year's Royal Adelaide Show, taking home nine ribbons including Senior Champion Holstein Fresian and Champion Holstein Bull.

Nine student volunteers attended the Show and were responsible for preparing the stock in the weeks leading up to the Show, and then for the preparation and showing of the cattle during Show Week. They were also involved in the running of the Royal Adelaide Show Dairy, undertaking routine dairy work including the

The News IN BRIEF

CHOREOGRAPHER IN ADELAIDE

The leading United States dancer, director and choreographer, Llory Wilson, has joined the University's Department of Dance as artist in residence until November 1996.

Ms Wilson will conduct classes with BA (Dance) students in all three years as well as the Ronin dance company, and will help oversee the 1996 graduation dance performance.

She will also work with former Head of Drama, Mr Frank Ford, and the Elder Conservatorium's Mr Grahame Dudley with a view to involving dancers, actors and musicians in interdisciplinary classes — an area in which she has strong interests.

During her long performance career Llory Wilson danced for many major US choreographers. She has won nine National Endowment for the Arts Choreographic Fellowships and many grants for specific dance projects. For the past two and a half years she has been a member of the dance faculty at the University of Texas in Austin.

NEW ACADEMY FELLOW

Professor Jonathan Pincus from the Department of Economics is one of twenty new Fellows recently elected to the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

Fellowship is based on a distinguished and internationally recognised contribution to one or more of the social sciences. Professor Pincus is considered one of Australia's most eminent economic historians, and his book *Pressure Groups and Politics in Antebellum Tariffs* has been described as a "pioneering work in the political economy of tariff policy and in empirical public choice".

His jointly authored works on the economic history of the public sector in Australia in the 20th century, on economic theory of regulation, and on the economic theory of federalism are also highly regarded.

JAZZ GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

History's Professor Trevor Wilson will bring a longstanding passion for jazz and his work as a historian together in a seminar on "Jazz goes to Hollywood" at the University of Adelaide later this month.

Jazz presented Hollywood with severe problems, because of the people who performed the music, and because of the music they performed.

"Many of the greatest artists were black, and this was a difficulty for movie moguls," Trevor Wilson said. "How were coloured actors and musicians to be made acceptable to predominantly white audiences? And there was a strange dichotomy in the music itself, a challenging mixture of vulgarity and high art — and Hollywood was ill at ease with both."

Yet Hollywood could not ignore jazz because it was too much a talisman of its time, both in the "jazz" age of the 1930s and the "swing era" of the 1930s and 1940s.

Trevor Wilson's talk, in Room 420 of the Napier Building at 1.10pm on 21 October, will use video clips from rare movies to help show how Hollywood rose — and failed to rise — to the challenge which jazz presented.

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NEWS

A conversation at a University Women's Club function has resulted in a program celebrating the music of Wales which will be a highlight of 5UV Fine Music in October.

Katherine Burgess and Cynthia Griffin will present a program including male voice choirs, the Welsh harp played by Osian Ellis and Robin Huw Bowen, the voice of Bryn Terfel and the "Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Rhymes" by Grace Williams.

Producer Elizabeth Bull says the script for the program is sure to delight listeners. Katherine, Cynthia and Elizabeth have connections with Electrical Engineering, Geography and Mechanical Engineering respectively.

The celebration of the Music of Wales can be heard on 5UV on 29 October at 12 noon.

The Department of Education's Professor Jerzy Smolicz AM has been honoured with election to a Fellowship of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Her Excellency Dr Agnieszka Morawinska, the Ambassador of Poland to Australia, officially present-



Study shows benefits of water fluoridation

From Page 1

"Declines in tooth decay have been dramatic. In 1954 only one per cent of 12-year-old children had no caries experience (defined as decayed, missing or filled teeth due to caries), which increased to 54% by 1993. Children in SA, for instance, now enjoy dental health that is amongst the best in the world."

The study also found that exposure to multiple sources of fluoride — from toothpaste, fluoridated water, and professional fluoride treatments — had an additional benefit.

Water fluoridation also significantly reduced the gap in dental health between children from families of different income levels. Children from socially disadvantaged families experienced

greater benefits from fluoridated water.

Together, the findings of the Child Fluoride Study showed the interactive roles of environmental, social and individual factors in the prevention of dental decay.

"With more sophisticated preventive care, increasingly smaller percentages of the child population account for the majority of dental decay experience," Mr Davies said. "Providing appropriate and well-targeted preventive and therapeutic care requires continued study of these interacting factors."

Research to complete the project will take a further two years.

—David Washington

Bowel cancer screening call

From Page 1

The overall cost benefit has now been shown to be about the same as for breast cancer screening.

"The trend of all the evidence is to show that screening works," Professor Young said.

"Questions about how well it works and how much it costs could take a further five to 15 years to answer. But bowel cancer is killing so many people that I believe it's time to act — we shouldn't wait any longer."

Screening could include several options. Firstly, it could involve testing a person's faeces once a year for microscopic amounts of blood (an indication of the early stages of the disease). If this blood was present a colonoscopy would be carried out.

The second approach would be to carry out an endoscopic examination of the bowel every five years, combined with regular testing of the faeces.

Those targeted for such screening would include people aged 50 years and over, and those people in a high-risk group. People in this high-risk group would include those with a family history of the disease or related bowel disease.

—David Washington

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“SMG Update” will appear regularly in the Adelaidean to provide an overview of business coming before the Senior Management Group. It is not intended to be an exhaustive listing. Further information may be obtained from the Director, SMG, Ms Susan Graebner or from Heads of Divisions.

▲ 1997 BUDGET

SMG continues to work on the University's budget for 1997, bearing in mind the cuts to Operating Grant and load that are to be implemented by the Federal Government. The working parties have been busy, grappling with the issues in an innovative and comprehensive way. Their reports are due at the end of November, and will feed into budget planning for the 1997-99 triennium.

▲ UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

SMG is developing an idea that has come out of the HECS and Fees Working Party, and is exploring the establishment of some undergraduate scholarships, in addition to the 20 Equity scholarships to be funded by the Commonwealth, so that the University can maintain its ability to attract good students in an increasingly competitive tertiary environment. It is hoped these will complement the initiative already shown by the Division of Science in establishing its “Science Scholars” program. SMG will then focus its attention on promoting the whole scholarships program (including postgraduate scholarships) in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion, and will be seeking input from the University community, including students, staff and management.

▲ POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

SMG has approved the establishment of two new University-Industry awards, to be offered under similar terms and conditions to the APA (Industry) Awards; and one Special Circumstances scholarship for students who are disadvantaged during their undergraduate years by circumstances beyond their control. Both scholarships will be administered by the Scholarships Registrar through the Board of Graduate Studies.

▲ CONSULTING FUNDS

SMG has discussed some fundamental issues concerning consulting and consulting funds. SMG recognises that consulting is a substantial source of income to the University and provides significant support for the research activities of departments and individual academic staff. However, there are increasing pressures from Governments and auditors for the University to account for expenditure of consulting funds (which often contain income from sources other than consulting); and to be sure that the University is receiving its entitlements in accord with its policy on consulting. SMG has established a working group, reporting to the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), to tease out some of the issues and develop a policy paper for consideration.

▲ INTERNAL AUDITOR

SMG has approved the outsourcing of the Internal Auditor role, for a trial period of 12 months. The procedures for calling for tenders are now being developed.

▲ ENROLMENT/EARLY RE-ENROLMENT

SMG is very much in favour of improving enrolment processes to make them more “student-friendly”, and has encouraged Arts, Dentistry and Law in their participation in a pilot program that will see continuing students enrol at the end of this year rather than in February 1997. SMG has also asked for further examination of the different

Alumni IN BRIEF

AFUW breakfast

The AFUW SA Inc Breakfast Club next meets on Monday 14 October. The speaker will be Professor Kyoko Sheridan, of the Graduate School of Management. She will speak about the status of women in Japan and the participation of Japanese women in business and professional life.

Meetings are held at 7:15am at Queen of Tarts, 178 Hutt Street in the city. \$10 per person, payable to the coordinator at the meeting. Please call Adrienne Eccles 8303 3196 to book.

The last Breakfast Club meeting for the year, on Monday 4 November, will be a general networking meeting.

Buckland Park Field Station visit

Alumni are invited to visit Buckland Park Field Station, near Two Wells, on Sunday 27 October. Staff will conduct a tour of the facility and explain aspects of the University's research work in the field of atmospheric physics and high energy astrophysics carried out at Buckland Park.

A barbecue lunch will be provided. Why not make it a family day out? High school aged children interested in Science are encouraged to come along.

Please call the Alumni Office on 8303 4275 to book and obtain directions for travelling to Buckland Park.

Engineering graduate Mr Moh Hak Serh (BEHons 1966) was awarded the Public Service Medal for Social and Community Service in the Singapore National Day Honours announced in August.

Moh Hak Serh joined Singapore Telecom in 1966 and is presently that organisation's Vice President (National Network). He is responsible for planning, installation and maintenance of the national telecommunications network.

He is the Chairman of two Joint R&D Management Committees which Singapore Telecom operates with the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, and a member of the advisory committee of the Network Technology Research Centre (NTRC).

Mr Moh has been active in community services in Singapore and is currently the Vice Chairman of the Geylang

East Community Centre.

Also honoured on National Day was another Adelaide graduate, Associate Professor Ong Yong Yau (MBBS 1967), who received the Public Administration Medal (Gold).

The Alumni Association held its first gathering of alumni in Brisbane recently. The event was hosted by Alumni Director Geoff Sauer and Activities Coordinator Adrienne Eccles and coincided with professional development meetings. Forty alumni attended and spent time renewing acquaintances and doing some professional networking. Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O'Kane prepared a special message for the alumni and this was read on the occasion by Geoff Sauer. Above (L to R): Ray Specht (DSc 75), Mervyn Neely (MBBS 57), Fred Leditschke (MBBS 57) and Margaret Leditschke (BA 55). Photo courtesy of Geoff Sauer.

University of Adelaide student Mr Josh Francou is this year's winner of the most prestigious award in South Australian football — the Magarey Medal.

A final-year student in the Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, 22-year-old Mr Francou won the medal count by 11 votes on Tuesday, 17 September.

The North Adelaide ruck-rover polled a total of 26 votes, ahead of Port Adelaide's Fabian Francis.

"It's unbelievable... I guess it hasn't really sunk in yet," said Mr Francou, whose name has now joined the list of some of the finest footballers in Australian history.

"The Magarey Medal's not something I really dreamed of. I thought it would have been nice to win, it would have been a great honour, but I never really thought I would win," he said.

Josh Francou's rise to the top of the South Australian National Football League has taken only a few short years.

It began at Pulteney Grammar, although at school he was nowhere near as tall as the other players and "wasn't really that good at football", he said.

But his height, and his skills, improved. After play-

ing a year of under-19s with North he soon found himself in the Reserves, then the League itself. Last year he missed only two SANFL games due to injury, and this year... the results speak for themselves.

A love of the outdoors and science fuelled his decision to study Agricultural Science at the Waite Campus. But combining a university degree with football training has not been easy for Mr Francou.

"It's been pretty hard because I've got a part-time job as well, and I work about 15 to 20 hours a week. I've also got a girlfriend, so I suppose I've been keeping fairly busy.

"I've enjoyed studying at the University, but I suppose it's also important for me to have something out of study, just to take my mind off it," he said.

With just the last few weeks of university life ahead of him, Mr Francou is concentrating on his main career goal — football.

"I'm really looking forward to finishing my degree and graduating next year. My main ambition now is to play in the AFL — that's always been my ambition, even as a kid.

"I guess the ultimate would

be playing in an AFL Grand Final. To play in front of 100,000 people would be fantastic," he said.

But Mr Francou is not letting his football success get the better of him.

"For now I'm just going to focus on the game and try to keep a level head about the whole thing," he said.

"As my dad said to me, you can be at the top of the pile one day but if you're not playing good footy you'll be down at the bottom again. So you can't get too carried away.

"If for some reason I don't make it with the AFL I think I'll just stick with SANFL. So at this stage I'm not getting too worried about it.

"If it happens, it happens,