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NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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The News **IN BRIEF**

ENGINEERING AWARDS

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, and the Head of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, Professor John Agnew, have been made Honorary Fellows of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

The award recognises conspicuous service to engineering and is the highest membership grade the Institution bestows.

Professor Agnew has also recently been invited to be a member of the Advisory Committee of the UNESCO-supported International Centre for Engineering Education.

TEACHING BODY APPOINTMENT

Associate Professor Caryl Cresswell from Mechanical Engineering has been appointed to the Federal Government's new Committee for University Teaching and Staff Development (CUTSD).

Dr Cresswell was previously a member of the Committee for the Advancement of University Teaching, which has been replaced by the new body.

The purpose of CUTSD is to improve teaching and administration in universities, and advise the Government on policy, grant allocations and best practice.

TEACHING GRANTS

SIDS, drugs and the biological clock

University of Adelaide researchers are exploring the effects of drugs commonly used by pregnant women on the development of the biological clock.

A malfunctioning biological clock may be a factor in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), because of the clock's key role in regulating sleep, temperature and hormonal rhythms.

Current theories about the causes of SIDS include disturbances to the baby's sleep organisation and temperature control — factors under the control of the biological clock.

Dr David Kennaway, in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, has won an Australian Research Council Large Grant to study the functional effects of three drugs administered during pregnancy on the biological clocks of animals.

Two of the drugs — nicotine and caffeine — are used by many pregnant and breast-feeding women but both have been implicated in adverse changes in the developing foetus. The third drug to be studied by Dr Kennaway is cocaine, which is a major problem in pregnancy in the United States.

Dr Kennaway's major research interest is Circadian Rhythms — those biological rhythms which recur on a roughly 24-hour basis. The rhythms include sleeping patterns, hormonal release and temperature cycles.

"The timing of your sleep isn't just dependent on whether you're tired or not: there is a drive from your brain which tells you when to sleep," Dr Kennaway said.

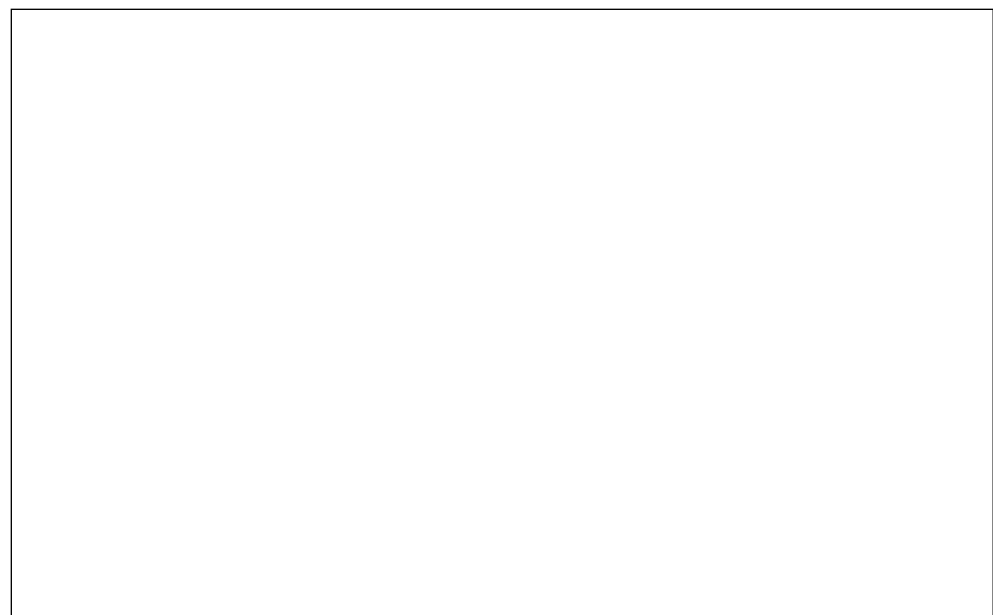
In a previous study, Dr Kennaway found that premature babies had a

delayed development of biological rhythms, which usually develop at nine to 12 weeks of age.

Two University of Adelaide scientists have stunned the science world with the discovery that some plants, like animals, can warm and regulate their body's temperature — at least for a while.

The two researchers found that sacred lotus plants growing in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens warmed their blooms during flowering, then kept them at a steady temperature for several days.

Zoology Associate Professor Roger Seymour and his postdoctoral assistant Paul Schultze-Motel made the front cover of one of the world's most prestigious science journals, *Nature*,



Oil industry scholars 'strike it rich'

Ten students from as far afield as the Ukraine have been awarded almost \$40,000 in industry-funded scholarships, enabling them to study Honours at the National Centre for Petroleum Geology and Geophysics (NCPGG) at the University of Adelaide.

The National Centre is involved in exciting new developments in oil and gas exploration in South Australia and has an international reputation for educational excellence in petroleum geology and geophysics.

Students at the Centre come from around the world, including Canada, the United States, China, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Malta, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom.

Established in 1985 as a Key Centre for petroleum research, the NCPGG is a joint venture between the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia and is based at the University of Adelaide's Thebarton Campus.

Since 1991 the Centre has been a partner in the Australian Petroleum Cooperative Research Centre, working closely with industry and other research interests for the scientific and economic benefit of the nation.

"Working with the petroleum exploration industry on research tasks throughout Australia, the NCPGG is an important regional and national asset," said the Centre's Acting Director, Professor Cedric Griffiths, "attracting interstate and international students and developing the expertise to secure the future supply of vital national and global resources.

"We're pleased to report that our graduates have a 96% employment success rate thanks to the strong links we've developed with industry partners, including Woodside, BHP, Santos, Boral, Shell, Esso, and other oil companies."

On Monday, 3 February, the NCPGG welcomed its 10 new Honours scholarship winners with a special reception at the Thebarton Campus.

The scholarships include:

- two Geoscience Scholarships of \$7000 each, funded by Woodside Offshore Petroleum and Esso Australia
- seven Industrial Scholarships of \$3000 each, funded by industry partners
- three University of Adelaide Outreach Scholarships of \$2000 each, funded by the University of Adelaide for graduates transferring to the University.

Some students were awarded more than one scholarship, giving them extra help in earning qualifications of high international regard.

The students' study will involve field trips to the Flinders Ranges to see drilling rigs in action, industrial experience placements, and petroleum industry-related research projects sponsored by both industry and government partners.

—Ian Roberts
—David Ellis

'Slice-of-life' wins accolades at young filmmakers' awards

A 20-minute documentary produced by a University of Adelaide PhD student has been awarded two major prizes at the South Australian Young Filmmakers' Awards.

Striking Poses is a slice-of-life documentary about 10 Adelaide girls, all from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.

The girls, aged about 15 when filming began, were given a video camera to record their lives over the course of a year. At age 18, and with the help of a professional editor, they selected one minute each out of almost 40 hours of footage to sum up who they were. In the documentary, these one-minute segments about the girls' lives are then followed by their reflective comments about making the film.

Striking Poses was shown in December last year at the SA Young Filmmakers' Awards, where it received Best Documentary and Best Editing.

"I'm really happy with the way people have responded to it," said the documentary's producer, Anthropology PhD student Ms Gerry Bloustien.

The idea for the documentary came out of the research for her PhD thesis, which looks at image, representation and gender.

Ms Bloustien, also a lecturer in Communications at the University of South Australia, said *Striking Poses* had a unique quality not shared by many other slice-of-life documentaries.

"The difference about this one is that the girls were given complete control, which I think is very important. They could decide what they were going to film in the first place, and then they were given the choice of what they were going to edit out for public consumption," Ms Bloustien said.

The girls — Molly Kendall, Nat Giffney, Joeline Rankine, Mia Handshin, Tara Sanders, Nikki Calvert, Rebecca Perkin, Tracey Dixon, Rebecca Mango and Aija Fitzgerald — sometimes used the video camera as a confessional or a diary as well as recording their day-to-day lives.

The final footage reflects the com-



Shine director Scott Hicks (left) congratulates some of the "Striking Poses" team and producer Gerry Bloustien (centre front) holding the award for Best Documentary.

plexity of their lives, touching on issues ranging from family, friends, pets and clothes, to sex, drugs, school, music, unemployment and multiculturalism.

"I was amazed at some of the things they wanted to film," said Ms Bloustien, "things that I thought would be too private, that they wouldn't want to be seen. But they had the ultimate control over what was used and what was left out — it was entirely their decision.

"The editing allowed them to be creative and selective about who they were and how they wanted to see themselves portrayed. So what we get from that is a very interesting insight into how the girls see themselves, how they create themselves and their image, and the role that popular culture and mass media play in that process."

She said another important aspect of *Striking Poses* was the different backgrounds of each of the girls. One girl was from Papua New Guinea, another was Aboriginal, there were girls from middle-class backgrounds and others from very working-class backgrounds.

"It's quite interesting to see the

similarities and the differences in how they view their lives and the kinds of narratives they tell," Ms Bloustien said.

"People have told me that the film is quite moving, because obviously they've seen aspects of themselves in these young women, and I've also been told that it's too short — which means they felt teased by it, they wanted more. I think that's definitely a good sign."

Making the documentary was also a positive experience for the girls involved. Some of them were amazed at how much they had changed over the years, and all were happy to have had the chance to record that time in their lives. As one of the girls, Molly Kendall, said in the film: "It's important to know who you are and where you are in the world."

Striking Poses has now been selected for screening at several South Australian film festivals. The girls involved in the project have also been invited to make another film, with the assistance of television production house Network 8 Digital.

—David Ellis

Science high achievers get added value

The University of Adelaide is giving some of South Australia's highest achieving students "extra value" in their Science courses as part of the new Science Scholars Scheme starting this year.

The 20 inaugural Science Scholars last year scored at least 19 out of 20 in three or more Science-related subjects in their Year-12 exams.

The Science Scholars Scheme is aimed at recognising and fostering the talents of these high achievers and pro-

Waite planting a tribute to horticultural vision

A three hectare site on the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus has been named "The Laidlaw Planting" to commemorate the contribution made by Mr Don Laidlaw AO (LLB 1949) to horticulture in South Australia.

The Premier, Mr John Olsen, unveiled a plaque at a function on the Waite Campus hosted by the Playford Memorial Trust last December. The plaque is set in a one-tonne quartzite rock donated by Boral Resources (SA) Ltd.

Mr Laidlaw was the founding Chairman of the Trust from 1983 to 1995, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Playford Scholarship in Horticulture in 1987 following a successful public appeal.

The Playford Trust endows the perpetual scholarship, which is under the supervision of the Chair of Horti-

cultural Science, Professor Margaret Sedgely, and has so far funded three researchers.

A major outcome of the research of the first scholar, Dr Alison Fuss, was the development of pruning strategies for optimal bloom production of banksias for cut flower production. The second scholar, Ms Mary Reiger, successfully identified banksia populations for the selection of new cultivars for cut flower production.

Ms Kate Delaporte is the current holder of the scholarship. She is investigating the breeding, propagation and vase life of eucalypts for cut flowers and buds.

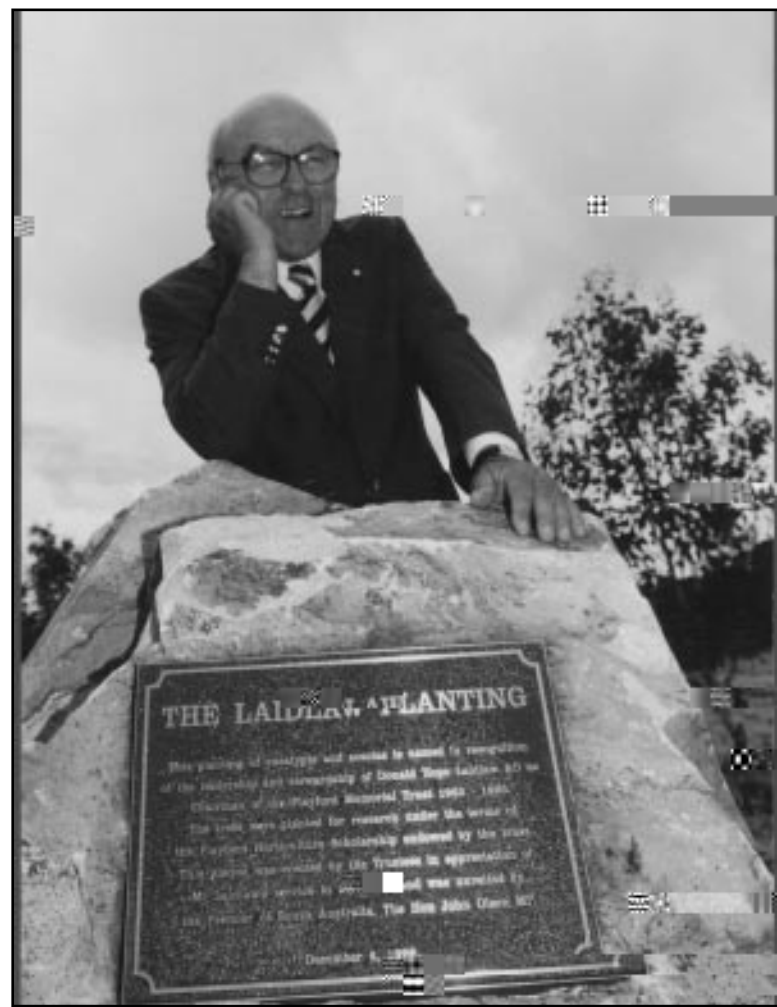
The Laidlaw Planting comprises eucalypts and acacias, and was established for current and future projects conducted by the Playford Horticulture scholars. It covers an area from Waite Road along the Cross Road bound-

ary of the campus almost to Fullarton Road.

The current Chairman of the Playford Memorial Trust, Jennifer Cashmore, said that while many of the trees were still small, the planting would be a "veritable forest" in a few years' time — "testimony to Mr Laidlaw's vision and stewardship as the prime mover in establishing the Horticulture Scholarship".

The University is expected to name the first new variety from the planting after Mr Laidlaw.

Last year the Trust also established a new scholarship in Aquaculture. The winner of this scholarship, to be announced shortly, will be supervised by Associate Professor Mike Geddes from the Zoology Department and will conduct research there and at the SARDI Aquatic Sciences Centre at West Beach.



Resting on his laurels — Mr Don Laidlaw with the plaque recognising his service to the Playford Memorial trust and to horticulture. Photo courtesy of Jenny Groom, Educational Technology Unit.

Australia Day Honours

Eighteen alumni of the University were recognised in the Australia Day Honours List.

Appointed Officers in the General Division of the Order of Australia [AO] were **Dr Eric French** [BSc 1942 MSc 1948] for service to scientific research, particularly in veterinary microbiology and virology; the **Hon Roger Goldsworthy** [BSc 1950] for service to politics, the South Australian Parliament and the community; and the **Hon George Walters** [LLB 1936] for service to the law as a Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia, to legal education and the community.

Members in the General Division of the Order of Australia [AM] were **Mr James Giles** [BA 1961 DipEd 1962] for service to the community as an advocate for multiculturalism in education and the arts, particularly through the Multicultural Education Coordinating Committee; **Associate Professor Rodney Jory** [BSc 1959] for service to Science Education, particularly as Executive Director of the National Youth Science Forums and through the International Science Olympiads; and **Dr Vicki Pearson** [MBBS 1973] for service to the community in alcohol and drug rehabilitation, developing programs to prevent drug related deaths and reduce HIV/AIDS.

Awarded the Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia [OAM] were **Mrs Nina Arnott** [BA 1971] and **Mr Peter Arnott** [BE 1968] for their service to youth through Wirraway Christian Youth Centre; **Mr Ralph Arthur**

AVAILABLE: Unit to let - walking distance to Waite Campus, 1 br, b-in robe, quiet tree-lined street, small garden, fully furn, tel, carport. \$85 pw + bond and refs required. Ph 8271 3386.

BRIGHTON: Opportunities exist for enthusiastic students from a variety of depts to live in a small highly creative environment. The offer is for accomm at a competitive price, with copier, fax, tv, phone, washing and parking facs. Applicants will have at least 1/2 yr uni experience and enjoy graphic design and architecture. An occupant is sought for 1-2 yrs depending on the academic development of the applicant. Confidential applications to David Moore, Moore Design, 39 Lewis St, Brighton SA 5048. Ph 8296 3601, fax 8358 2230.

BRIGHTON: Design business has space - period HIA listed house. 2 rooms avail. Use of courtyard, boardroom, fax, copier, phone, library, kitchen, parking, etc. \$317 per month. Ph Moore Design 8296 3601.

DULWICH: Wanted, non smoker to share lge, 6 rm house with owner. Close to bus route and all facs. \$100 pw + exp. Ph Peter Taylor 8303 5086 or 8364 4390.

EASTERN SUBURBS: Furn, family-size house, superb city views, pool, 2-car lock-up garage. Avail early March to 1 Jan 98, would suit visiting academic. Ph Victor 8281 6103.

FORESTVILLE: Fully furn br in furn house to share with 2 others plus small friendly dogs. Prefer non smoker, mature age, postgrad or visiting lecturer. Avail now. Ph 081 127 359 or 8297 2942 (ah)

GILBERTON: 2 br townhouse with carport, close to transport. Avail early March for 6 or 12 mths. \$140 pw (garden maintenance provided). Ph 8223 2366.

GRANGE: Esplanade - Professional woman in 40s seeks to share seafront

maisonette with female, non-smoker who enjoys the beach. \$85 pw + exp. Ph 8356 4058.

HAZELWOOD PARK: 2 br, fully furn house, on bus route to city. Includes linen, lge garden, sleepout, near Burnside and Linden Pk schools. \$225 pw. Ph Mary Ann 8379 2715.

HAZELWOOD PARK: Self contained, studio type, granny flat plus study. Fully furn incl linen. Garden outlook, near bus route. \$105 pw (includes elec). Ph Mary Ann 8379 2715.

HOUSE SITTING: Mature, prof seeks house sitting. Ph Jill 8431 4092 (h) or 8332 4836 / ext 5786 (b).

HYDE PARK: 2 br townhouse, attractive, renovated, great location, off-street parking for 2 cars, courtyard garden. Avail 20 Feb. \$140 pw. Ph 8271 2127 or 8405 3448.

KANGAROO ISLAND: