

## Fujitsu contract is a 'major step forward'

A CONTRACT worth US\$50,000 has been awarded to the University of Adelaide's Teletraffic Research Centre (TRC) by United States company Fujitsu Nexion.

Fujitsu Nexion is a manufacturer of ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) telecommunications switches. ATM is the international standard format for telecommunications—all forms of communication, including voice and data, are sent around the world in ATM format.

Under the six-month contract, the TRC will conduct performance analysis of a new ATM transfer

capability known as 'controlled transfer'. It is hoped this new method will improve efficiency of telecommunications resources and prevent loss of data during transfer.

"Controlled transfer gives extremely high performance for the sort of applications that can't afford to lose data," said the co-director of the TRC, Dr Peter Taylor.

"Some applications can afford to lose data—for example, with voice, if you lose a few little bits you can still understand what the person's saying. But other applications, such as data transfers for banking, have to be

absolutely perfect.

"Another difference is that with voice, it has to be sent down the line in real time. Other applications can afford to wait until there's enough room for them to be sent, but they can't afford to lose any data. This controlled transfer capability is designed specifically for those applications."

Dr Taylor said not only would the TRC perform mathematical modelling and simulations to test the performance of controlled transfer, the Centre would also present their findings to Australian and international study groups.

He said the contract from Fujitsu Nexion was a major step forward for the TRC's research efforts.

"This represents a diversification of our research funding away from Australia to a major international company, and also away from telecommunications carriers to a switch manufacturer.

"This will also enable us to build up our skills in representing companies at a national and international level, based on our research. If we do a good job with this contract, we can expect further international recognition."

—David Ellis

## 1998 Australia Prize to Adelaide genetic scientist

GRANT SUTHERLAND, an affiliate professor in the University of Adelaide's Department of Paediatrics, is one of the winners of the 1998 Australia Prize.

Professor Sutherland, Director of the Department of Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics at the Women's and Children's Hospital, shared Australia's most prestigious science prize for his discoveries in inheritance which have caused a landmark shift in conventional genetic theory.

The prize is awarded to researchers who have promoted human welfare with their outstanding contributions to science and technology. This year the prize was awarded to four researchers in the field of molecular genetics.

Professor Sutherland was honoured for his work in developing methods to allow the reliable observation of fragile sites on chromosomes. These studies culminated in the recognition of fragile X syndrome as the most common familial form of mental retardation.

Cytogenetics laboratories around the world wishing to find fragile X chromosomes had to change their methods for chromosome study following Professor Sutherland's research.

Professor Sutherland, who until last year was the president of the Human Genome Organisation, later demonstrated how an increased number of repeating triplets in the DNA could cause the fragile X mutation.

This new process of mutation explained a number of previously unaccounted-for features of the inheritance of several genetic diseases. More than a dozen genetic diseases are now recognised as having their molecular basis in this novel mutation process and the list is



Instrumentation Manager Bruce Lucas with some of the Glenunga students. Photo courtesy of Civil & Environmental Engineering.

## 'Three Little Pigs' come to campus

TWENTY-EIGHT enthusiastic Year 8 technology students from Glenunga International High School had the chance to put their work to the test when they visited the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering in March to make use of the earthquake rig.

The students had been working on a technology project around the theme of the "Three Little Pigs" and were looking into various building techniques and their relative strengths. They brought with them six models that had been built from materials ranging from clay to lego.

The models were clamped onto

the earthquake rig and subjected to three earthquakes: initially one-half the strength of a 7-point earthquake on the Richter Scale, then two-thirds, and finally the full 7-point quake. To this stage, most of the models were still intact.

Earthquake researcher Dr Michael Griffith, who was supervising the testing, then increased the frequency of shaking until some of the structures failed.

"The students were excited to see how their 'buildings' would react to an earthquake and asked many questions of Dr Griffith," said the Faculty of Engineering's Outreach and Liaison Manager, Jennie Hayes.

Following the earthquakes the students observed tensile testing of two different samples of metals. The students were given the metal samples and graphs that had been produced to take back to their school, where the graphs will be used as part of mathematics classes and the metals samples in technology classes for other students at the school.

"The excitement, enthusiasm and interest shown by the students was wonderful, and stemmed from the time and effort put in by many staff of the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department," Jennie Hayes said.



## A Great Gr

The various recent attempts to define the province of the Academic Board, including Pennington's, and including the current one, have all foundered on a confusion as to the distinction between academic and managerial. And lately, with the problem of enterprise bargaining, the issue has been compounded by the entry of 'industrial' into the category stakes.

As to the latter, the distinction is the same one: 'industrial' is the other side of the 'management' coin, and contrasts in an equivalent way to 'academic'. So I shall consider only the academic/managerial distinction.

The distinction is confused whenever it is applied to subject-matters of deliberation. Thus when something is proposed to be ruled out of order in the Academic Board because it has a managerial content, it is implied that it is a subject matter beyond the jurisdiction of the Board. There is no such distinction. Everything that the Vice-Chancellor does is academic; and everything the Board concerns itself with is managerial. The former follows from the fact that it is a University she is leading (were it a brewery everything she did would concern beer). The latter follows from the fact that the Board is not a debating society; that is, every question before it is connected to the running of a real university, the University of Adelaide.

But there is nevertheless a very important distinction between the two. It is a distinction of function, not subject-matter. To take an example, suppose Academic Board declares that it is against fees and conveys that to the Vice-Chancellor. Is it thereby purporting to manage the University? Of course not. It is expressing an academic opinion (by which I mean to describe a function, not a subject-matter) to which the Vice-Chancellor will give due weight. It is an important opinion. If the Academic Board is functioning well it has a much greater store and variety of academic wisdom than any Vice-Chancellor could ever have. But this wisdom is not immediately and clearly connected to exigencies of management: in a practical sense the Board's opinion might be "academic". The Vice-Chancellor, on the other hand, is so connected, and has the responsibility for practical implementation. To follow the example through, if she were to decide that the University could not function at an appropriate level without fees, she would discharge her managing responsibility accordingly. It would not even be necessary to think that there was a conflict in this matter between her and the Board. They would simply have discharged different

by  
**Michael Detmold**  
Law School

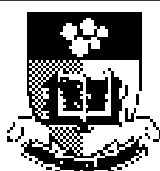
functions; in fact, each might say of the other: yes, if I had had your function I would have decided/done the same.

We can see the confusion in the current working-party report when it recommends that certain managerial matters be ruled out of order in the Academic Board, and that there be a pretty tight control on the movement of matters from the Vice-Chancellor's committee to the Board. A tight control on the prerogative of management is right. But there is no interference with that prerogative by virtue of Academic Board comment. The Board may well comment on management matters. But it is not by that fact managing; that is, there is no confusion of function, no interference with anyone's prerogative. And no problem at all for the relations between the two functions when they respect each other. The confusion here is that it is thought that by dealing with a management subject-matter there is a trespass beyond proper function.

So the point is not to try to limit the subject-matter of issue that can come before the Board; it is to attend carefully to expediting its discharge of function, efficiently relating it to the Vice-Chancellor's management function, and ensuring there is a harmonious relation between the two. On these matters the most important thing has already happened. The Convenor sits in the Vice-Chancellor's committee, and is therefore appropriately placed to bring matters to the Board and to inject Board opinions into the management function. I suggest all we need is some fairly general instruction to the effect that:

The Convenor will bring items of importance and general University concern to the Academic Board for information, discussion and, if it desires, the expression of an opinion.

The Convenor himself has an important responsibility here, which will have to be discharged with independence, tact, a proper constitutional sense, and sometimes respect for confidence. There is no reason to think this will cause trouble. In fact the opposite is the case. The independent judgement of the Convenor in this matter is essential if we are not to descend again into the distrust of a few years ago. There are other matters for the Board, as well—course approvals, for example—but I have in this paper addressed only the main issue of respective constitutional functions. It is this issue, I think, which is causing much concern in the Board.



## ADELAIDEAN

**John Edge**  
Editor

**Julie Ryke**  
Layout

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**Writers**  
David Ellis  
David Washington

**Contributors**  
Anne Lucas  
Adrienne Eccles  
Geoff Sauer

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Room G07 Mitchell Building, South Australia, 5005. Tel (08) 8303 5174; Fax (08) 8303 4838; Email: jryke@vco.adelaide.edu.au  
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# Botswana Minister's visit builds on Adelaide links with Africa

BOTSWANA'S Minister for Agriculture visited Adelaide recently to assess the training and education capabilities of the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy and Waite Campuses and to explore technology transfer and trade opportunities.

The Hon. Ronald Sebego MP met with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, and the Head of Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences, Professor Malcolm Oades, during his visit.

The Division has had an association with Botswana since 1992 when senior lecturer in soil science Iain Grierson was appointed for six months to advise on soil conservation policies for the government of Botswana.

Mr Grierson has since conducted short courses in land capability assessment, soil structural measurements, catchment planning, remote sensing, and GIS.

Professor Oades said the Minister's visit was an opportunity to present the University as a preferred source of academic training, research, short courses and consultancy services in agriculture, specifically for Botswana's needs.

"In particular, we emphasise that South Australia is the best State for dryland farming and rangeland management, water and other natural resource management and training expertise and equipment," he said.

These services are delivered in conjunction with PIRSA, SARDI,



Minister Sebego with Roseworthy students. Photo: Elizabeth Butler.

SAGRIC International and John Shearer Ltd.

The University last year signed an agreement with the Macpherson Consulting Group in Harare, Zimbabwe, to recruit mainly agricultural students in southern Africa.

It currently has four students enrolled, three at Roseworthy in the Department of Agronomy and Farming Systems, and one at Waite in the Department of Soil Science.

"Our objective is to greatly increase student numbers and to explore other areas of mutually beneficial cooperation," Professor Oades said.

"The link with Botswana is an example of the expanding international focus of the University of Adelaide, particularly through areas of world standing such as the Division of Agricultural & Natural Sciences," said Professor O'Kane.

—Anne Lucas

## Medicine set to revamp sixth year curriculum

THE FACULTY of Medicine is implementing a major curriculum change to the sixth year of the medical course, to begin in 1999. Trials have already begun in the Department of Surgery.

The changes will see students given the opportunity of nominating four elective attachments, each of four weeks' duration. Thus the year will consist of a semester of compulsory traditional internship placements, and a second semester of elective attachments.

Students will have the chance to spend time in areas of medicine that are of particular interest to them, and at least one of the elective attachments must be in a rural area.

Feedback from the Surgery trials is reported to be encouraging. In particular, students placed in the rural area have been very happy with their experiences, including their treatment by country medical staff and the wide variety of surgical procedures to which they were exposed.

Many of these students have expressed an interest in returning to rural areas, which for some had not previously been a consideration.

The Faculty is currently seeking proposals for elective attachments from interested groups. For further information, contact Catherine Leahy on 8303 5336, or fax 8303 3788.

## A review for the 21st century

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE has begun a review of its Property Services Branch with the aim of positioning the institution as a world leader in managing its physical environment over the next 25 years.

The new Director of Finance and Infrastructure, Mr Tony Siebert, will convene the Review Panel, which also includes Council member Ms Jane Jose, the Director of Facilities and Services at Monash University, Mr John Trembath, and Mr Wayne Stokes, Managing Director of NL Stokes Pty Ltd and Chair of the Land Management Corporation.

Submissions are now being invited from Divisions, to which staff will be able to contribute, but interested individuals are also invited to make personal submissions. The closing date is Friday 22 May. (See Bulletin Board for terms of reference and other details.)

The Review is taking place in the overall context of the University's Strategic Plan, and its vision of creating an "excellent, accessible and sustainable", world-leading physical environment for teaching, learning and research by the year 2022.

Last year, as part of that vision, the Vice-Chancellor established a new Buildings, Sites and Space Committee to advise her on the interrelationship between the development of the University's strategic goals in teaching, learning and research and its physical fabric and associated services.

"Good property management is central to this development, and it is important that we position ourselves to be able to carry out that role effectively," Mr Siebert said.

The responsibilities of the Property Services Branch are undoubtedly complex. The University has four campuses on which there are some 300 buildings of different sizes, construct and age, grossing approximately 300,000m of floor area. Four of its buildings have heritage status, and a number are relatively old.

In all, the University has land holdings of around 2,000 hectares, with a further 70,000 hectares of farming land.

With some 2,500 staff and around 14,000 students, it is really like a small city.

In recent years, Property Services has been moving to improve its service delivery and eliminate wastage in the management of this vast portfolio.

It has worked to foster an environment of continuous improvement and greater levels of all staff participating in formulating and implementing procedures and work instructions.

"In this context, it's an appropriate time to have a Review, to enable us to consolidate and build on the good work that has already been achieved," Tony Siebert said.

—John Edge

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### TOP SURGERY AWARD

Professor Guy Maddern, RP Jepson Professor of Surgery, has been awarded the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship for 1998.

The \$45,000 Fellowship is the College's highest research award. It is made to an individual who in the opinion of Council is making an outstanding contribution to the advancement of surgery and must be used to assist continuation of this work.

Professor Maddern will use the Fellowship to further the development of new techniques for the management of hepatic metastatic tumours, and continue with the development of efficient surgical practice within the public hospital sector.

### LAW WEEK PANEL

Who studies law and why? How do we train lawyers? Where do law students go after Law School? What do lawyers do? Do we need lawyers?

Answers to these questions and more will be available at a panel staged by the University's Law School as part of its contribution to Law Week (15-22 May).

The panel takes place on Wednesday 20 May between 5pm and 6pm in Lecture Theatre 2, Ligertwood Building. A group of academics and students will be available to answer questions about the study of law and the role of law graduates in today's society. All welcome. For further details contact Sarah at the Law School on 8303 5545.

### LIBRARY BOOKS SALE

The University of Adelaide Library will hold its first book sale on Tuesday 26 May from 9am to 5pm, in the Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library. 2000 books and journals on a wide variety of subjects, hardback and paperback, in English, French and German, will be offered at bargain prices—most under \$10 and many for \$1 and \$2.

Most of the books for sale are those donated to the Library which duplicate titles already held, or which do not come within the Library's collection guidelines. The donors have all generously agreed that the Library may dispose of their gifts as appropriate, and the books are now being offered to the University community, with all funds raised to be used for the purchase of new books.

### HENNEBERG ON EVOLUTION

The 1998 series of Inaugural Lectures sponsored by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, begins on 15 May and runs to 3 July on Fridays at 1.15pm in Napier Theatre 102.

Professor Maciej Henneberg, the Wood Jones Professor of Anthropological and Comparative Anatomy, will head off this series on Friday 15 May.

His lecture, entitled "Human evolution is not a theory about the past: it happens now", explores changes in human morphology through time—such as reductions in brain size and loss of muscle mass—and how the occurrence of these phenomena relates to changing opportunities for natural selection. Professor Henneberg suggests that a further increase in human anatomical variation in the future can be predicted.

On Friday 22 May, Professor Robin Graham from Plant Science will talk about a new alliance between the agricultural and health sciences.

## Advertisement

## Statistics in the Workplace

The Statistical Consulting Group in the Department of Statistics is again offering this popular introductory course on statistical methods. It is ideally suited for postgraduate students, preferably at the early stages of their research, and a subsidy by the University gives them a very much reduced fee.

The emphasis is firmly on applications and understanding the ideas, with a focus on identifying the problem, asking the right questions, and collecting the right data to answer the question, as well as analysing the data.

The course will run for 10 sessions, Monday and Wednesdays mornings, commencing 15 June. Each session will involve two lectures, a tutorial and a hands-on computer session using Excel. The course will be led by Professor Richard Jarrett.

For more information, costs and a brochure, contact the Secretary, Faculty of Mathematics & Computer Sciences on 8303 5030.

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# Fruitful Mexico visit for CRC leaders

PROGRAM LEADERS and key researchers from the Adelaide-based CRC for Molecular Plant Breeding have recently completed a successful visit to CRC partner, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in Mexico.

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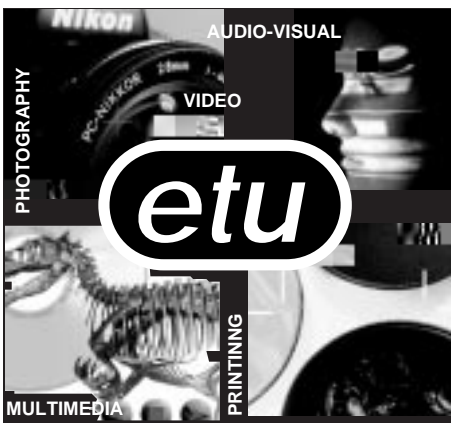
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# Eminent ecologist leaves a lasting legacy

INTERNEED by the Japanese in Changi prisoner of war camp, Tom Browning survived World War II to become the first graduating PhD at the University of Adelaide, and an eminent zoologist and ecologist.

His speciality was the ecology and physiology of insects, for which he has an international reputation. He had a deep interest in the arid areas of Australia where he conducted much of his early research on the ecology of kangaroo ticks, and was a strong exponent of such ideas as "sustainable development" and "biodiversity", long before these became buzz words of the 90s. As a university teacher, he was both dedicated and passionate, and his occasional abrupt manner belied a deep concern for the well-being of his students.

In addition to academic life, he was also influential in the "The Peace Movement", vigorously protesting the British nuclear tests at Maralinga, and later the war in Vietnam. He was an avid patron of the arts and was instrumental in developing Adelaide University's art collection, being responsible for acquiring some of its most significant pieces.

Born at Maitland, South Australia, on 26 January 1920, Thomas Oakley Browning moved to Sydney with his parents at the height of the depression in 1929. There he attended Kings School at Paramatta where he excelled at sports and distinguished himself academically. He started a BSc at the Uni-

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# Bulletin Board

**12 noon Plant Science Seminar:** Setting the nutritional agenda for agricultural research: An update by Professor Robin Graham (Plant Science). Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Waite.

**1.00pm Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology Seminar:** Cardiovascular effects of edible oils and antioxidants by Dr Mahinda Abeywardena (CSIRO Division of Human Nutrition). Seminar Rm, Level 6, Medical School Nth.

**1.10pm History Staff/Postgraduate Seminar:** Soccer, spies and strudel: Croats in South Australia since World War II by Dr Vesna Drapac (History). Common Room 420, 4th Floor, Napier.

**1.10pm Public Health Seminar:** Policy development for a baby friendly environment by Mrs Ellen McIntyre. Seminar Room, Level 6, Bice Bldg, RAH.

**2.15pm English Staff/Postgraduate Seminar:** Postcolonial Studies: Global Culture, Local Identity and Post-Colonial Transformation by Dr Bill Ashcroft (Senior Lecturer, University of NSW). Room 618, Level 6, Napier.

**4.00pm Crop Protection Seminar:** Molecular genetics of host manipulation and competition in an insect parasitoid system by Mr Markus Beck (PhD student). Lecture Room 1, Teaching Wing, Waite.

**4.15pm Geography Seminar:** Population movement in Australia: comparing temporary and permanent migrants by Dr Martin Bell (Geography). Room 819, 8th Floor, Napier Building.

**1.10pm Anatomical Sciences Seminar:** Cellular biology of ovarian follicles by Dr Ray Rodgers (Medicine, Flinders University). Room S127, Medical School, South Wing.

**3.15pm Anthropology Seminar:** Sheep Farming in the European Community: The borders and rural by Dr John Gray. Rm 405, 4th Flr, Schulz Bldg.

**5.30pm Social Inquiry / Centre for Labour Research Seminar:** The meaning of the waterfront dispute: an analysis of the waterfront dispute and its significance for Australian industrial relations, presented by Social Inquiry staff. Kerr Grant Lecture Theatre, Physics.

**10.10am Electrical & Electronic Engineering Seminar:** Psychological Approaches to the Representation of Information by Michael Lee (DSTO). Lecture Room S112, Engineering South.

**12.30pm School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences Seminar:** Biotechnology: from Bedside to Barnyard by Dr Cynthia Bottema. Room 058, FW Reid Building, Frome Road, UniSA.

**1.00pm Zoology Seminar:** The book: an endangered species by Mr Ray Choate (Barr Smith Library). Seminar Room, 4th Floor, Fisher Building.

**1.00pm Environmental Science and Management Seminar:** Stony Desert's Biological Survey by Robert Brandle (Dept of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs). Stefanson Lecture Theatre, Williams Building, Roseworthy.

**1.10pm Genetics Seminar:** Dpp regulates G1 arrest of the cell cycle in the developing Drosophila eye by Dr Jules Horsfield. Seminar Room, Fisher Bldg.

**1.10pm Horticulture, Viticulture and Oenology Seminar:** Gall midges - unknown pests of Australian plants by Dr

Peter Kolesik (HVO). Plant Research Centre Auditorium, Waite Campus.

**4.00pm Physiology Seminar:** Fat, food intake and leptin by Dr Gary Wittert (Medicine, RAH). Seminar Room N416, Medical School North.

**4.10pm Botany Seminar:** Phosphorus compartmentalisation in Pinus Serotina by Sarah Ayling. Benham Lecture Theatre, Ground Floor, Benham Labs.

**6.00pm Public Lecture Series - Weaving the Social Fabric:** Global Integration, Local Disintegration? by Hugh Stretton. Room H1-44, Amy Wheaton Bldg, UniSA, Magill Campus.

**12noon HCCR/IMVS Seminar:** Post transcriptional regulation of plasminogen activator inhibitor type 2 (PAI-2) by Dr Robert Metcalf (Medicine, Monash University). Verco Theatre, IMVS.

**12.05pm Psychology Seminar:** Coping with traumatic stress by Professor Sandy McFarlane (Psychiatry). Room 527, Level 5, Hughes Building.

**1.00pm University of Adelaide Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation:** Promoting reconciliation and supporting native title and coexistence on campus. Postgraduate Students Association, Level 2, George Murray Building. Details: Barbara Baird, ext 33158 or Gus Nathan, ext 35822.

**1.00pm Chemical Pathology Seminar:** Dysmorphic Features in Selected Biochemical Disorders by Dr Elizabeth Thompson. Seminar Room 1, 4th Floor, Clarence Reiger Building, WCH.

**1.10pm Physics and Mathematical Physics Seminar:** The Evolution of Light Elements in the Galaxy by Prof David Dearborn (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, University of California / 1998 Selby Fellow of Australian Academy of Science). Kerr Grant Lecture Theatre, Physics Building.

**3.15pm Centre for British Studies Seminar:** The Poorest She that is in England: Women and Citizenship in Early Modern England by Professor PM Crawford (History, University of WA). Seminar Room 420, 4th Floor, Napier.

**7.00pm Adelaide University Film Society:** The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Union Cinema, Union Building.

**7.30pm Philosophy Club:** Plato's Pharmacy and Derrida's Drugstore by Chris Mortensen. Room 527, Hughes.

**7.45pm Field Geology Club of SA Lecture:** Some new perspectives of the Mount Lofty Ranges by Dr MSandiford. Mawson Lecture Theatre, Mawson Labs.

**1.10pm Asian Studies Seminar:** Establishing education in early Meiji: the myth of Monbusho management by Ms A Schweber (Doctoral candidate, Harvard University). Rm 518, 5th Flr, Ligertw