

ADELAIDEAN

Vol 7 No 18

NEWS F

OCTOBER 12, 1998

The Vice-Chancellor on the Australian
Universities Alumni Convention



Sepang Institute of Technology, Klang Campus in Malaysia opened its doors to students at the beginning of 1996. Among those entering S.I.T there were around 200 students enrolled in University of Adelaide courses through a "twinning" arrangement between the two institutions. The twinning project allows students to study the first two years of their courses in Malaysia at S.I.T and then to complete their degrees in Adelaide. The project was hailed as an essentially win-win situation for all concerned. Students have the opportunity to obtain prestigious degrees at a much reduced cost. The close association with our University ensures S.I.T's image as a quality institution. Our University's overseas student numbers would increase, significantly boosting our income as well as our influence and reputation in South East Asia.

As Academic Director for this project I visited Malaysia almost monthly averaging 10 days each time. My role turned out to be manifold: from doing quite mundane clerical tasks to formulating policies

A SEVEN-FOOT POLE bearing the messag

Detecting metal ions to save brain power

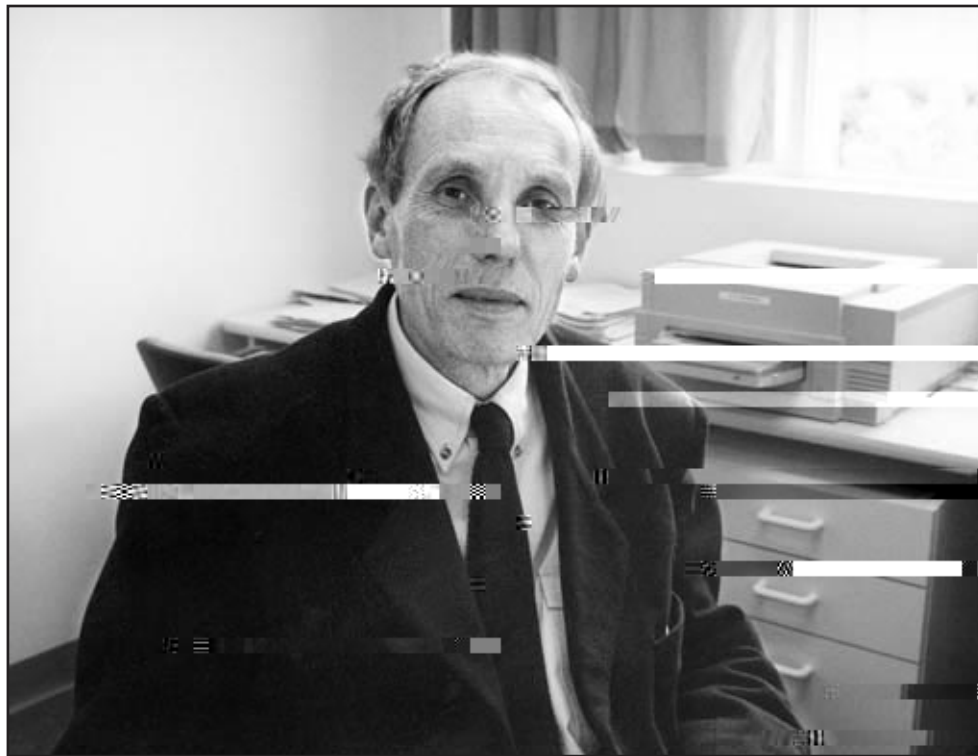
"IF CHILDREN between 1 to 4 years of age have blood lead readings above a certain level, their intellectual development will be significantly and permanently impaired," says Associate Professor David Ward in explanation of his work on chemical indicators.

"This is an issue the National Health and Medical Research Council regards with particular urgency, and improved detection strategies have a key role to play in response," he said.

Associate Professor Ward has been working with Professor Stephen Lincoln since the early 1990s in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Adelaide on the development of chemicals which fluoresce in contact with particular metals in cells, plasma and water samples.

They hope to produce, as one outcome of their work, a simple test kit which can be used by health workers in the field to readily identify people at risk from elevated blood lead levels.

They first became involved in this area as a result of collaborations with researchers at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who were studying the role of zinc within cells. In particular, they wanted to know whether the presence of 'available zinc'—zinc ions not strongly bound to proteins—caused changes in cell functioning, or merely resulted from such changes. To answer this query, a chemical was needed to indicate when and where



Professor Stephen Lincoln: test kits for blood lead levels. Photo: David Ellis.

available zinc was liberated.

Enter Professors Ward and Lincoln who used their skills in chemistry to produce the required molecules, one of which is now marketed under the name Zinquin to laboratories worldwide. As a result, researchers are able to see changes in available zinc levels as the cells perform their metabolic functions—like, for example,

when embryonic cells divide, and the process by which cells die.

As an extension of this work, David Ward and Stephen Lincoln began exploring the possibilities of making easily portable detectors to test for other metal ions, including the detection kit for lead in blood as well as detectors to test water samples for aluminium and the heavy metals,

lead, cadmium and mercury as a group.

In the case of lead detection, the advantage of this technology over existing laboratory procedures is that people with relatively high blood lead levels can be identified quickly in the field, thereby eliminating the need to run costly and time-consuming laboratory tests on an entire population.

"The test will work essentially like a breathalyser does for roadside testing of alcohol consumption which indicates if more precise testing is necessary," Professor Lincoln said.

The test kits for the other metals also promise to make work easier for researchers in other sciences too; for example, enabling environmental toxicologists to map out contaminant metal ion concentrations while in the field.

"This is a particular problem in European countries where houses are built on mine tailings in some areas. People live surrounded by metal ore dust which they breath in constantly, and in some cases the vegetables grown in these soils also contain alarmingly high concentrations of toxic metals," said Professor Lincoln.

While work on the chemical indicators is well advanced, David Ward and Stephen Lincoln estimate that it will be at least several years before the test kits go on sale, depending on the interest and availability of a production partner.

—Tony Cox

Creative discussion at computer conference

A MAJOR computer science conference was held recently at the University of Adelaide.

Delegates from Australia and overseas attended the 5th Australasian Conference on Parallel and Real-Time Systems (PART'98) at the University on 28-29 September.

The conference was opened by the Minister for Information



Advertisement

Advertisement

Todd Partners

Sharebrokers and Investment Advisors

Providing a range of services including:

- Construction of Tax Effective Portfolios
- Superannuation and Retirement Planning
- Buying and Selling Shares
- Maximising Social Security and Veterans' Affairs Pensions
- Rollover Fund Options
- Allocated Pensions

For a free, no obligation consultation, with one of our experienced advisers please telephone Petra

8205 5700

Website www.todd.com.au
Member Corporation of Australian Stock Exchange



FINANCIAL PLANNING ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED PRINCIPAL MEMBER

33 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000
Todd Partners Stockbroking Pty Ltd (ACN 008 082 157) is the holder of Dealers Licence No. 10788
Trading as Todd Partners

AFTER 15 YEARS of service as an academic, researcher and senior administrator, Professor John Agnew is to retire from the University of Adelaide at the end of this year.

Professor Agnew, a graduate of Sydney and Monash, began his academic career with Melbourne and Monash universities before accepting a chair in Chemical Engineering at the University of Adelaide in 1983. He has played a key role as head of the department,

A recollection of Geoffrey Dutton, 1922-1998

'Born'—says the blurb to his first novel, *The Mortal and The Marble* (Chapman and Hall, 1950)—'in 1922 on a sheep station in South Australia. ... He spent eight years at a public school in Victoria. [Geelong, of course] ... He went from school to Adelaide University, where his course was interrupted by the war, during which he was a pilot in the R.A.A.F. After the war he came to Oxford, and read English at Magdalen—it had been his father's college. At the time of publication he was 'living in London' and the book was written 'in the South of France in the summer of 1949'. It ends with his young Melbourne couple eagerly anticipating departure for a job in Europe.

Geoff's anabasis was the other way. He drove a Morris Minor from England to Australia via Afghanistan (*A Long Way South*, Chapman and Hall, 1953) and—though he came from 'an ardently royalist family'—became an advocate of Australian culture and a republican. In the early sixties his republicanism offended the RSL and the Adelaide Club.

When I came to Adelaide at the beginning of 1957 Geoff had been in the English Department for two years.

He was a generous and stimulating colleague; good-looking and well-dressed, with a slightly Woosterish self-deprecatory manner that disguised his strong mind, good judgement and remarkable energy. Soon after our arrival, he invited my family for a weekend lunch to the old cottage at Crafers where he and his first wife Ninette lived. The garden was beautiful and the cottage full of books and old furniture. It was elegant, excellent, and altogether unpretentious.

Another occasion was a crabbing expedition to the gulf, at the end of a very rough road, somewhere near Port Parham. We paddled in mud and mangroves, catching the Swimmers with a sort of outsize straining spoon as they came in on the tide, then boiled them in a kerosene tin and ate them with our fingers as the sun went down across the water.

We also visited his family home 'Anlaby', near Kapunda, a rambling stone house, separated from the farm buildings by the great garden that had been the pride of Geoff's mother

A L U M N I
NEWS

HEALTH IN ANTIQUITY

On Thursday, 29 October Professor Maciej Henneberg and Mrs Renata Henneberg, of the Department of Anatomical Sciences, will be giving a presentation about "Health in Antiquity".

AVAILABLE: 2 br unit, walking distance to Waite and transport. Air cond, shed, dryer, walk-in robes, available early November. \$673.50 per month. Ph Suzanne 8303 7259 (w) or 8379 0969 (ah).

BURNSIDE: Modern 2 storey, furn house with 3 br, 2 bathrooms, lounge & family, air cond, lock-up garage, walking distance to transport, shops & park. Avail Jan - July 99. Rent neg. Ph 8303 5084 or email: <jmazumda&maths.adelaide.edu.au> or <mjagan@ntu.edu.sg>.

CITY: Cottage near Central Market, 2 br, small garden. Ph 8344 2536 evenings.

CITY: SE cnr, share accomm - lge br avail, located just off Hutt St,

walking distance to all facs. \$75 pw. Ph 8232 0241.

GOLDEN GROVE (GREENWITH): 3 br villa with family rm, low maintenance garden, quiet street, close to schools, O-Bahn, avail now. \$165 pw. Ph Jodie 8332 3863 (ah).

GOODWOOD: Share 2 br maisonette. Lock-up u/cover parking, great location, close to city & transport. Avail now. \$100 pw + exp. Ph Deb 8272 1365.

HOUSE SITTING: Mature English lady keen to look after your house/garden/pets from mid Jan for short/long period to May 99. Ph Jenny 8204 6257 or email: <jnairn@wch.sa.gov.au>.

MYRTLE BANK: Avail for visiting academic and family for 3 mths, March - May 99. Fully furn &

equipped, 3 br, 2 bathrms, close to exc public & private schools. Walk to Waite, 5kms to Adelaide. Ph 8379 7390 or email: <aclancy@dov.net.au>.

WANTED: Professional couple with 3 children require house in Unley or nearby from Nov - Dec 98. Prefer part furn with shed or similar for storage. Happy to care for garden/pool/pets. Ph Pe

Bulletin Board

1.00pm Microbiology & Immunology Seminar: Viral vectors and immunity by Dr G Karupiah (John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU).
Library, 5th Floor, Medical School South.

1.10pm Student Workshop: Support for students with specific learning difficulties, presented by Sue Barnard. Counselling Centre, Ground Floor, Horac

*Applications for the following
vacancies will be considered
only from members of the staff
of the University

OFFICE MANAGER

(Ref: 1922)

Secretariat
Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Salary HEO4: \$30,133 - \$33,145

To oversee and assist with all
Secre

The new University of Adelaide Card is here

EARLIER THIS YEAR, the University of Adelaide became the first in Australia to replace old-style student cards with smart card technology. To date, over 14,000 smart cards have been issued to the students of the University.

The next step in embracing this new technology is the issuing of new cards to staff.

This process gets under way in October.

What does the card do?

It's an ID Card

The University Card gives access

to a range of essential services and functions, with your name, photo and Staff number making it an invaluable form of ID.

It's a Library Card

The barcode on the front of the University Card carries your library membership details. It lets you borrow books and gives you access to other library services.

It's an Access Card

The magnetic strip on the back of the University Card enables you to have access when you need it to buildings and facilities that you are authorised to enter. This in turn helps to ensure your safety on campus.

But the University Card is also much more...

An Electronic Purse

RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY

Joint Information Session

Australian Research Council
SPIRT SCHEME

Presented by Professor Peter
Robinson

Chair, Australian Research
Council University-Industry
Research Collaboration
Committee

Grants for
Collaborative Research Project
Australian Postdoctoral
Research Fellowship (Industry)
APDI

Australian Postgraduate Award
(Industry) APAI

AUSINDUSTRY (DIST)
R&D
START PROGRAM

Presented by Dr Leanna Read
Chair, R&D Start Committee,
Member, Industry Research &
Development Board

Grants for commercially focussed
projects conducted by insti-
tutions with industry partners

19 October 1998, 11.30am -