



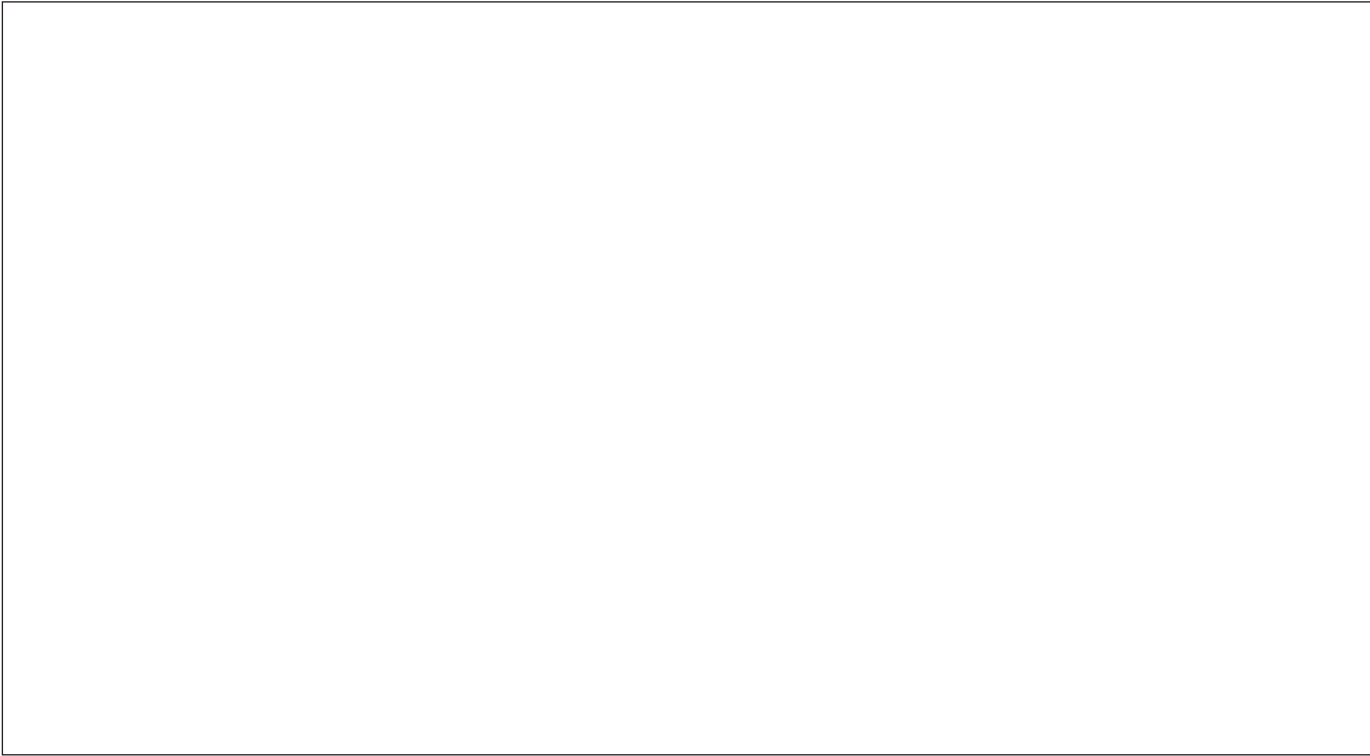
On and off for the last 150 years, Australians have been asking each other whether we should become a republic. However, the meaning of the term 'republic' has changed. In the radical nationalism of the 1880s and 1890s, republicanism was associated with aggressive anti-British nationalism, socialism and secularism. Today, in the long shadow cast by the sacking of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, we are preoccupied with the Office of the Governor-General, "the pinhead of State", according to Mark McKenna (1996, *The Captive Republic*, p.110). Should the present debate encompass more than this?

Many delegates to the Constitutional Convention in February 1998 came with a larger agenda. Due to successful lobbying by women's groups and other community organisations, a cross-section of Australians debated our Constitution, our electoral system and, of course, 'the republic'. 20,000 people passed through the public gallery of Old Parliament House to watch the proceedings, 80,000 hits were recorded on the Convention's website and members of the Convention received hundreds of faxes, emails, phone calls and personal visits.

The wide-ranging debate at the Constitutional Convention is now narrowed to two referendum questions. Shall we have an Australian head of state appointed by politicians? Shall we have the proposed preamble largely authored by Prime Minister John Howard? While we debate the comparative merits of an appointed presidential Sir William Deane or Dame Roma Mitchell against an

elected presidential Kylie Minogue or Ray Martin, we seldom pause to consider why a majority of Australians are so distrustful of their elected representatives. Respondents in the survey commissioned by the Civics Expert Group in 1994 described parliament as "two parties yelling at each other and calling each other names"; "They can't come to a decision, they're just like children"; "It's just that you feel so useless. You have no power". Women 'especially' reported alienation from government.

As this same survey discovered, Australians are not alienated from citizenship per se, but from the definitions of citizenship found in politics textbooks and school civics classes. The three major answers to the question "What makes a good citizen?" were obey laws, care and consideration for others (e.g. help others, treat others equally, live and let live), and community involvement. Voting was mentioned by only 5% of respondents. As Eva Cox says, the small change of citizenship is enacted daily: "We pause to let a car join a line of traffic, we walk a little further across a park to put our rubbish in a bin, enjoy giving at fund-raising



New professor: 'dynamic time' for plant breeding

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN grain growers are enlisting the expertise of the University of Adelaide to help them produce higher-yielding crops.

The South Australian Cooperative Bulk Handling (SACBH) Board is sponsoring a five-year Chair in Plant Breeding at the University to ensure that the local industry

Advertisement

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The advertisement features a collage of computer-related images, including a barcode, a computer monitor, and various logos. The text 'Academic prices for computers' is prominently displayed at the top. Below it, the phrase 'Computer hardware and software' is visible. A list of logos includes Apple, Microsoft, Academy, and Symantec. At the bottom left, the text 'sales service' and 'CAMTECH' are present. The overall image is somewhat grainy and has a high-contrast, black and white aesthetic.

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Innovative teaching a leap

A HISTORY LECTURER screens war films to his students. An engineering lecturer offers cash for the best emailed questions. Dental students play a novel game about gum disease. An anthropology lecturer uses a child's toy to explain the process of analysis.

These are just some of the imaginative teaching ideas that academics at the University of Adelaide have introduced across a range of departments in the past four years.

Advertisement

Obituary: The First Lady of Singapore Madame Ong Siew May (1937-1999)

LING SIEW MAY was born in Shanghai in 1937. She lived in an orphanage until when at age 11 she left to live in Singapore. She then attended Nanyang Girls' High School and later when First Lady she was a generous benefactor and an esteemed mentor for her old school. Siew May first met her future husband, Ong Teng Cheong, when she was 15 and he was 16.

She later attended Adelaide Girls' High School where she was in the same class as Laila Chaleki, now Datuk Amar Dr Laila Taib, wife of the Chief Minister of Sarawak, East Malaysia. Both young girls were taught by my wife Diana Medlin (formerly Wauchope).

Both Teng Cheong and Siew May

CITY: Person to share fully furn, modern, 2 br apartment off Carrington St, secure parking, prefer female. \$100 pw (+ exps). Ph 8303 6356 or 8359 2258 (ah).

FLEURIEU PENINSULA: Second Valley - modern, comfortable holiday house, sleeps 5, combustion stove, quiet and restful. Rental from \$75 per night (minimum 2 nights). Ph Diane 8379 6510.

FRANCE: Experience the colourful Autumn in The Loire Valley (châteaux and wineries). Character house, stunning views, 55 mins from Paris by TGV. Suitable for 5

people, weekly or longer rental. Car available. Ph 8365 1078 or 0417 816 041.

MARINO: 1 br unit, living room, bathroom, ocean view, 1 minute to train, available September. \$99 pw. Ph 8303 3712 or 8298 8725.

ST GEORGES: Fully

Bulletin Board

12noon Plant Science Seminar:
Molecular Mechanisms of Nitrogen
Recycling in Rice Planting by Professor
Tom Yamaya (Tohoku University, Japan).
PS Seminar Room, Waite Campus.

1.00pm Law Seminar: Intentional
torts by Professor Peter Cane (ANU).
Room 216, Ligertwood Building.

1.00pm Microbiology &
Immunology Seminar: Milk and
infant mucosal immunity by Dr Imme
Penttila (Child Health Research Institute,
WCH). Departmental Library, 5th Floor,
Medical School South.

1.10pm History Staff/Postgrad-
uate Seminar: Why We Weren't Told:
Mistress-servant relationships under the
New South Wales Aborigines Protection
Board and the contingencies of silences
and speaking out by Dr Victoria Haskins
(National Museum of Aust). Common
Room 420, 4th Floor, Napier Building.

1.10pm Student Workshop: Learn
Deep Relaxation by Mark O'Donoghue.
Counselling Centre, Ground Floor,
Horace Lamb Building.

4.00pm Soil and Water Seminar:
Natural organic matter in fresh water by
Kaye Spark (CRC Water Acidity and
Treatment). Room 301, Prescott
Building, Waite Campus.

6.00pm Centre for Intercultural
Studies & Multicultural Education
Seminar: From Kosovo to Auschwitz:
The New International Criminal Court
by Hon Justice John W Perry (Supreme
Court of SA). Council Room, Level 7,
Wills Building.

12noon Child Health Research
Institute Seminar: IGF's and IGF BP's
of the Wound by Dr Gray Robertson
(PhD student). Seminar Room, 7th
Floor, Rieger Building, WCH.
Refreshments provided.

1.10pm Student Workshop: The
perfect procrastinator by Sally
Hebenstreit. Discussion Room 1, Charles
Hawker Conference Centre, Waite
Campus. Bookings essential 8303 5663.

3.15pm Anthropology Seminar:
Dingo Discourse: Constructions of
Nature and Contradictions of Capital in
an Australian Eco-Tourist location by Dr
Ade Peace (Anthropology). Room 722,
7th Floor, Napier Building.

7.30pm Musicological Society of
Australia / Elder Conservatorium,
School of Performing Arts:
"Abendland" (The Western World):
Universal Claims in German Concepts of

World Music
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For further information about the

LUMINIS

SNAPSHOTS

MOUSETRAPS

The other day I bumped into an old colleague whom I hadn't seen in ages.

"How's it going? Wife? Kids? common friends? etc etc job?"

"Luminis?" he enquired, the tone of his voice indicating a desire to know more.

As we were both in a rush, and I wanted to give him at least some idea of my role at Luminis, I grasped at a metaphor.

"Mousetraps!"

"For those within the University of Adelaide who have invented 'Better Mousetraps' we help find commercial partners. Conversely we assist commercial interests with plans for 'Better Mousetraps' to link up with appropriate academics and researchers."

At that we parted. Hopefully my friend was wiser from the interaction.

I've since found this description quite useful when promoting the services of Luminis to clients both within the University and in the commercial world.

"Invent a better mouse trap and the world will beat a path to your door."

One can hardly expect this to be so straightforward. Luminis' role is to help clients at either end of the path profit from travelling along it. We help our clients find the right path, to traverse hurdles, climb the fences, break down the brick walls, avoid getting bogged, and when they come to intersections, to choose the path with the best potential.

Over the past 12 months we have used this column to explain our role by reporting on a range of successful consultancies and commercial ventures.

Recently I and my colleague Andrew Cecil gave a presentation on
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Research Grants & Fellowships

The following is a list of grant, fellowship and other research funding schemes currently available for application. A more detailed electronic version of this listing (Update: Research), together with guidelines and application forms for some of the major schemes, are available at: <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/RB/>>. For hard copy application forms and guidelines schemes listed below, contact the Research Branch, ext 35137; or email <louise.moore@adelaide.edu.au>.

Sponsored Programs Information Network (SPIN): SPIN Australia - A database containing current and comprehensive information on over 2,600 government and private funding opportunities. The SPIN web site is accessible via the Research Branch web site.

Australian Academy of Science - Selby Fellowship for 2000: Internal closing date: 23 August 1999. Web site: <www.science.org.au/awards/awards.htm>.

Dunlop Asia Awards Trust, The University of Melbourne, Asialink Centre: Sir Edward Weary Dunlop Asia Fellowships: Internal closing date: 23 August 1999.

Horticultural Research and Development Corporation - Partnership in Horticulture: Horticultural R&D Funding 2000/2001: mp Asia Fellowships: