

Chancellor Bruce Webb: clear and intelligent leadership

HUNDREDS of mourners attended the funeral service for Adelaide University Chancellor Bruce Webb AM at Bonython Hall on 17 March.

Mr Webb died aged 73 at the Mary Potter Hospice in Adelaide on 10 March.

He was appointed Chancellor in March 1998 after a distinguished career in the private and public sectors.

Mr Webb was Director-General of the South Australian Department of Mines and Energy from 1972 to 1983 and Managing Director of the Poseidon Ltd Group from 1983 to 1988.

He had been a member of the University Council since 1995 and

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THE UNTAPPED market of East Malaysia is the latest target of Adelaide University's official representative in Sabah, Mr Anthony Lim of AC Services Enterprise.

Mr Lim visited Adelaide University earlier this month to further develop his first-hand knowledge of the institution, which last year had

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Seminars focus on impact of Aboriginal languages

THE IMPACT of Aboriginal languages on Australian English is declining all the time, according to a visiting linguistics expert.

Professor of English Linguistics at the Free University of Berlin in Germany, Gerhard Leitner, was in Adelaide to present two seminars at Adelaide University.

His main seminar, titled "The Impact of Aboriginal Languages Upon Australian English" was delivered as part of the University's Centre for Intercultural Studies and Multicultural Education's (CISME) Autumn Seminar Series for 2000.

Professor Leitner said only about 200 Aboriginal words were still in use in mainstream Australian English, a figure which would only decline over time unless more was done to maintain the use of Aboriginal language.

"When I was (in Australia) in the mid 1990s with the Australian Research Council fellowship at Monash University, I did a survey of three papers for two years to gauge the extent to which they used Aboriginal words," he said.

"The three papers were the *Herald-Sun*, *The Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and out of 100 Aboriginal words we were looking for, only 60 were used at all and only 10 occurred more than 1000 times.

"In this time there were some 300 million words in the papers, so 1000 times is not very many, really.

"This survey was indicative of the general population's use of Aboriginal words in everyday speech, and it also goes to show that unless words become very mainstream, like dingo, they will fall into oblivion simply because less and less people are using them.

"Some words have been, if you like, re-invented: over the last couple of years 'business' has had new Aboriginal connotations applied to it, as in 'women's business'."

Professor Leitner is the author of many books, monographs and papers based on his international research projects on language and society in Australia, India and Great Britain.

He is the author of *Australia's Many Voices: English, Indigenous, Migrant and Contact Languages* (published in Germany), and the *Bibliography of English and Its Interaction with other Immigrant and Indigenous Languages in Australia and New*



Aboriginal languages expert Professor Gerhard Leitner.

Zealand - 1788-1996.

*Professor Leitner also gave a separate seminar on the subject of Australian studies, and the supposed differences between the way it is taught in Australia and in Europe.

—Ben Osborne

EVEN before they begin their chosen courses, postgraduate students face the problem of funding, but it won't prove the only hurdle to jump.

Students and the staff who teach them are having to deal with many novel challenges; new information technology, increased accountability, the difficulties of combining study with work and families, internationalisation and, sometimes, language difficulties.

The phrase 'Making Ends Meet' sums up the difficult struggle to get it all together. It is the apt subtitle for an international conference, Quality in Postgraduate Research, to be held in Adelaide next month.

The conference will address the many major issues that confront students from the time that they start their courses until they finish. Sessions for the two days will be held at the Hilton International Hotel, but many of the issues will surface first in a free public debate on the topic Higher Education—It's not a public good, it's a private perk, to be held at Adelaide University, Union Cinema, level 5 Union Building at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 12 April.

"These conferences offer students a chance to learn from the experiences of others," says Jill Thorpe, one of the conference organisers. "Staff get the benefit of shared experiences, and we try to make sure that there is international and indigenous input.

"Students normally give about 10-15 of the

papers, while the remaining 50 or so are given by academic staff and research officers," said Ms Thorpe.

This biennial national conference has become a must for the members of CAPA, the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations. This year several of CAPA's past presidents will be taking part in the Conference, together with past and present research officers.

Highlighting the importance of this conference, CAPA has organised for the postgraduate research officers from its affiliate universities to hold their annual conference in Adelaide this year on April 11 and 12, rather than in Canberra. This will enable the researchers to meet with the university Deans of Graduate Studies, and their support staff.

CAPA is also holding its Annual General Meeting here, rather than in Melbourne. These two occasions are being convened with the assistance of the Adelaide University Postgraduate Students' Association whose President, Helen Kavanagh, a PhD student in English, is also the CAPA National Women's Officer.

Full registration fees for the 2-day conference are \$395, with a reduction for student registration at \$250, and ten free places are offered for each of Adelaide's three universities. A single day registration is also \$250.

Award for population ecologist

PROFESSOR Frank Fenner's outstanding contributions to science have been recognised in many ways, among them the Frank Fenner Medal, established by the Australian Academy of Science to recognise the achievements of younger researchers in the plant and animal sciences.

Professor Fenner's work on the Myxoma virus literally changed the Australian landscape in the nineteen fifties, when myxomatosis all but eradicated the European rabbit, recognised as the country's worst vertebrate pest.

The inaugural winner of the Fenner Medal is Professor Hugh Possingham of Adelaide University's Department of Applied and Molecular Ecology, another scientist who has done much in the field of wildlife conservation. Professor Possingham's extensive citation lists his many achievements in the field of applied and pure theoretical ecology; work which won

him (with Dr David Lindenmayer) the 1999 Eureka Prize for Environmental Research.

Much of Professor Possingham's work has been done in collaborative teams within Australia and overseas, and he is heavily involved in developing links between the scientific community and society, through science communication, advising government and non-government organisations, [achi2.6s](#)

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Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grant

THE Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grant is available to assist doctoral candidates (a) to travel to a conference at which the student will present his or her work, or (b) to travel to another institution to learn a particular method essential to his or her own work (which cannot be learned at Adelaide). Such travel may be undertaken within the state, within Australia, or overseas.

Application forms may be obtained from the Alumni Office, 44 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide (next to the Hartley Building), or requested for delivery through the internal mail, or downloaded from the University's email Bulletin Board, Scholarships website and Alumni website.

The Selection Committee will not normally provide retrospective support for travel already undertaken. The Selection Committee will not normally support an application for a doctoral candidate in his or her first year of enrolment for that degree. Grants are made on the condition that they are used for the purpose stated in the application.

Further information from Kathy Butler at the Alumni Office; telephone 8303 3196 or email <kathy.butler@adelaide.edu.au>

APPLICATIONS should be received at the Alumni Office no later than 5:00 pm Friday 28 April 2000.

The selection committee will consider applications and notify the successful candidate during May. All applicants will be notified of their success or otherwise.

The Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grant is made available by the Alumni Association. The Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grant is funded through a cooperative project between the Alumni Association and Mutual Community health insurance providers.

Applicants should note that a period of absence from the University requires approval by the Registrar, Graduate Studies. Please obtain a Leave of Absence Form "AS" from the Graduate Studies Branch and lodge it with them.

Alumni Association Sciences and Mathematical Sciences Chapter

Public Lecture

The first in this year's series of evening talks organised by the Sciences and Mathematical Sciences Chapter of the Alumni Association will take place on Wednesday 29 March in the Rennie Lecture Theatre and will commence at 7.30pm.

Starting the 2000 series will be the Director of the Centre for Molecular Genetics of Development, Professor Robert Saint. The title of his presentation is *How genes tell cells to make tissues*.

In this talk, Professor Saint, one of Australia's leading genetic research scientists, will explain the mechanism through which our bodies make the tissues that comprise the body parts with which we are so familiar, and how genetic research might lead to real advances in tissue growth and repair technology.

Details from 8303 4965 and bookings with the Alumni Office 8303 5800.

Bulletin Board

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1.00pm Microbiology & Immunology Seminar: Antigenic variation in Giardia: exploiting subtypes of *G. intestinalis* to define variant-specific surface protein (VSP) subsets by Dr Peter Ey (Microbiology & Immunology). Departmental Library, 5th Floor, Medical School South.

1.00pm Skindiving Club: Leafy and weedy seadragons and how we can be involved in the database by Jeremy Gramp (Dragon Search). WP Rogers Room, Level 5, Union Building.

1.10pm History Staff/ Postgraduate Seminar: The Impact of Industrialisation on Warfare: The experience of the First World War by Professor Trevor Wilson (History). Common Room 420, 4th Floor, Napier Building.

1.10pm Law Seminar: Is classical contract past its use-by-date? by John Gava. Room 216, Ligertwood Building. Sandwiches provided.

4.00pm Soil and Water Seminar: Cadmium uptake and distribution in two cultivars of potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) by Kelly Dunbar (Soil & Water). Room 301, Prescott Building, Waite Campus.

6.00pm Centre for Intercultural Studies & Multicultural Education Seminar: Korean Civil Society and Non-Government Organisations: Their Characteristics in the Democratic Process by Professor Kim Young-Pyong (President of the Korea Institute of Public Administration and Professor of Sociology, University of Korea). Council Room, 7D(n27233.52gyavl80.031 0.Tj0.513sular MTD M3j15 TDa1.icr TDk0 TDiultur o Thel)TS0.519 0 Ros134TD T5i6D T.35ng22 0(f650 TDTDo)Tj1.1 70 The K9 9 7D(n.2650 TDa

Changes in Student & Staff Services

Some changes have been taking place in the Division of Student and Staff Services, most notably:

1. Student Services Redesign

Following a recruitment process, managers have now been appointed into a series of new roles created for the redesign of direct service and support service units. These new managers are:

- David Lamb, Administrative Services Branch
- Karyn Paukkunen, Student Centre
- Liz Geddes, Student Recruitment
- Kerry Jaeger, Student Services Policy Branch
- Susan Close, Student Support Services.

When the new managers have had the opportunity to review the outcomes of the first phase of the restructure, further adjustments will be made alongside the preparations for going live with the first suite of PeopleSoft student administration modules between June 2000 and M

Women's Professional Development Network (WPDN)

The WPDN is a development initiative for all women general staff of Adelaide University. It focuses on issues affecting the professional and personal development needs of women general staff.

The WPDN runs a variety of activities including breakfasts, lunchtime speakers and workshops. For more information, visit our web site at:

<<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/wpdn>>

or contact Sam Jacob <sam.jacob@adelaide.edu.au>, ext 34201, o



Research Grants & Fellowships

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

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