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Or, for the chance to win a 32mb iPad, go online to sydney.edu.au/sam/survey and answer the questions.

Good luck and thank you!
JUSTICE AT LAST

In reading a copy of *SAM* (July ’10), I was intrigued again by Zoe Tryon’s work with Amazon Watch in Ecuador. I felt compelled to search for further information. I subsequently followed the referenced website to discover that the Amazon communities had been awarded $9 billion in damages on 15 February 2011 after fighting for 17 years through legal channels.

Chevron Texaco were found guilty of “massive environmental contamination” in areas of the Ecuadorian Amazon in which approximately 30,000 indigenous inhabitants still reside. Their groundwater, which approximatley 30,000 indigenous adults, children and unborns, causing serious illness and death. I can only hope at this stage that the damages awarded can go towards intense restoration and rehabilitation of these peoples’ home environments. It is a sorry state of the world when such an atrocity occurs but raises hope when justice is finally served.

I hope Zoe’s involvement has been an inspiration to others as it was to me, and one that can inspire us to advocate for those in need. www.chevrontoxico.com

Yvette Black (BAppSc (OccTh) ’02) Orange NSW

DEFINITELY NOT FORGOTTEN

I think you produce an excellent *SAM*, which I greatly enjoy, and your book reviews always call for congratulations. (You once reviewed one of mine — *Koala: A Historical Biography*. You do them with grace.)

This is true of your review of Delia Falconer’s *Sydney* (Nov ’10) in which you remark that the Rev William Branwhite Clarke in a sense lies at the heart of her story and has unfortunately been forgotten. And Delia herself writes, “Clarke might have been remembered as a lesser Darwin. It is staggering that he should be so thoroughly forgotten.”

But he is not! He ended up as the leading scientific “savant” in NSW in the 1850s until his death in 1878. In 2003 I published a two-volume book, The Scientific Correspondence of the Rev WB Clarke, Australia’s Pioneer Geologist, with Australian Scholarly Publishing.

Clarke rose in eminence as a geologist, meteorologist, and great science communicator of the Sydney press. When his wife left for Ireland after two years in the Colony taking their three children with her (and did not return for 15 years) he carried on an immense correspondence with key scientists overseas, including Darwin, and a wide spectrum of geologists, surveyors, explorers etc across Australia.

He was a founder of the Royal Society of NSW in 1867; became a Fellow of the Royal Society of London; and served for many years on the Council of St Paul’s College at the University. He was one of the first to discover gold in 1844 and took it to Governor Gipps who famously said, “Put it away Mr Clarke or we shall all have our throats cut.” And he conducted a vast geological survey for the NSW Colonial Government from 1851-2 from his parish in North Sydney at St Thomas’s Church to Omeo in Victoria and up to Ipswich in Queensland.

Indeed in his lifetime, Clarke was a household name. He was named at the Bicentenary of 1988 as one of the 200 people who had contributed most notably (through his geological and mineralogical investigations) to Australia’s progress.

Delia has consulted Clarke’s diaries and writes very engagingly and sensitively about him. And it is true that scientists (though he remained a key Anglican clergyman all his life) do not linger prominently in the public mind. But as he has played such a major role in my life (I am a historian of Australian science) I thought I would widen your acquaintance! I’m glad she liked him so much. I always thought of him, during my long transcriptions of his letters, rather as an extra husband! William Clarke College, at Kellyville NSW (in Clarke’s old Dural parish) is a perpetual reminder of him.

Dr Ann Moyal (BA ’47) Cook ACT

LEFT RIGHT LEFT

It is interesting to see an author who identifies as coming from the left approaching the topic of patriotism with an intention other than to merely trash the very idea of it and who sees it as an important part of a cohesive society (“Taking Back the Light”, July ’10). His views on Anzac and citizenship demonstrate he is willing to move beyond the usual left truisms. His book is a welcome stimulus to the debate.

Unfortunately, Tim Soutphommasane’s basic premise, “that the right has dictated the concept of patriotism far too long, effectively shaming the left into silence”, does not stand up to scrutiny.

Quite the opposite, from Marx onwards, the left has not been silent on patriotism; in fact it has had much to say on the topic. The historical consensus on the left is that patriotism is a tool of the economic ruling class. The nation state serves ruling class interests. Patriotism is a means of keeping the working class downtrodden by imposing a false consciousness in place of its real class interest, which goes beyond
state borders. What is there to be patriotic about when the workers have no country; indeed they should dismantle all countries. Remember The Internationale?

The idea that people, of whatever class, may feel affinity with members of their cultural/linguistic/national group has never fallen within the leftist worldview. Hence Mr Soutphommasane’s difficulties. Rather than question the left/right dichotomy, he has to massage his arguments in an attempt to reclaim (or create) a “left” patriotism. He appears uncomfortable with his fellow leftists outright condemnation of patriotism, but rather than any concession that they may be wrong, he blames the right not only for monopolising the concept, but also (in a feat of displacement) for being responsible for left’s shamed “silence” on the topic (when has the left ever been bashful of expressing its views? Hey ho!)

So too Mr Soutphommasane’s claim that the “left had no response” to Tampa and the Cronulla “race riots”. No response? The left was all response. It had an articulate, if repetitive, position on Tampa: “Free the Refugees!” John Howard’s government was mercilessly pilloried. As for Cronulla, the left chose to take the debate no further than expressing its outrage against white racist yobbos who were decried as the start and end of the problem. Any less shrill exploration of this nasty episode may have raised uncomfortable questions surrounding the left’s usual pieties on multiculturalism (it is always and unquestionably good) and approved identity groups (they are always the victims).

Mr Soutphommasane believes it would be beneficial if we have a leftist concept of patriotism to challenge that of the right. The problem is, we have always had a leftist concept of patriotism: a negative one. It does not assist the debate to create a tidy history of patriotism in which the left’s usual pieties on multiculturalism (it is always and unquestionably good) and approved identity groups (they are always the victims).

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Gaudy Profs Etc

I read with interest Anton Crouch’s recent contribution (Nov ‘10). “Gaudy profs” is indeed correct.

The University song, “The ‘Varsity”, was certainly sung regularly at Union dinners into at least the early ’70s and appears in the last edition I have of the Songs for Union Dinners (1983). The full text is as follows:

The ‘Varsity (HE Whitfield, 1900)

(Air: Men of Harlech)

Grads and Undergrads and fellows, Gaudy Prof in reds and yellows, Sing with lungs as tough as bellows, To our ‘Varsity

Some of us are mining, Some in Arts reclining, More and More Attack the Law And revel in its methods of refining; Some are fools and some are clever, Faculties divide and sever, Still we all belong for ever To our ‘Varsity.

Varied are the tastes of students, Varied our degrees of prudence, Very varied our amusements At our ‘Varsity.

We shall soon be scattered, Friendships may be shattered, Some, or all, Will grope or crawl And get up very knocked about and battered.

Some are hung and some are married, Some for years in gaol have tarried, Still they all are member of the Same old ‘Varsity.

John Blount (BA (Hons) ’69)

(President, Sydney University Union 1970-72)

Erindale Centre ACT

Ask and thou shalt...

Within minutes of showing my wife Anton Crouch’s letter (Nov ’10) re the University song she produced a copy of the Sydney University Medical Society Song Book. This dates back to my days as an undergraduate medical student and would have been acquired between 1949 and 1952. I note that the four lines commencing with “And all their deadly jaying mainly gas...” contain the names of Professors in the Medical faculty. Claude is Claude Stump, Professor of Embryology and Histology, and Harold is Harold Dew, Professor of Surgery. The others are Burkitt – Anatomy, Lambie – Medicine, Mayes – Obstetrics and Gynaecology; and Ward – Bacteriology. In those days there was but one professor in each discipline. I, and other students in our year had lectures from all these gentlemen and many of us had tutorials as well.

Apart from these four lines, the rest of the words are not specific to a single faculty. I wonder if the four lines were inserted to put a medical stamp on “The ‘Varsity” and this causes me to wonder if other faculties had versions with similar insertions relevant to their professorial staffs.

John D Cashman (MBBS ’53)

Lindfield NSW

Editor’s Note: Thanks to the many readers who responded to the question about the gaudy profs. In particular to Ken Knight who wrote:

I imagine you will have had a full box of letters on this topic, so I won’t lose any sleep if the following one ends up in the wpb. I really only wanted to demonstrate that I still retain a few marbles, even
though I resigned from the University as far back as 1982 and have been retired since 1988.

It is hardly necessary for SAM to go to the University Archives for the words: Google brings them up in about two seconds flat.

It is exactly as I recall it from my student days, except for one word. I believe that in Arts, students were “declining”, rather than “reclining”.

Ken Knight (BEC ’52 MEC ’55)
Hornsby NSW

COMPLICATED STARS

In response to Jeffrey Mellefont’s letter “Heavy Lifting Eadem” (Nov ’10), I would like to point out that I think the University’s Latin motto is quite simple and straightforward. Latin, like most European languages, has grammatical gender. The main noun in the motto is “mens”, the mind, which is feminine singular.

Eadem is the feminine singular form of a definitive pronoun meaning “the same”, and agrees with “mens”; so the meaning of these two words is simply “the same mind” (ie as at Cambridge and Oxford, the original models for the University). “Eadem” is the feminine form of the word “idem”, frequently enough encountered in academic footnotes!

“Sidere mutato” – literally with the star having been changed – or more idiomatically, “under a changed star/ under changed stars”, is actually more complicated. The motto is discussed and explained in an excellent University of Sydney publication: Kevin Lee’s The Writing on the Wall, 2002, pp. 4-5.

Robert Forgács
(BA ’77 MA ’89 PhD (UNSW) ’97)
Director, Latin Summer School
University of Sydney

A LATIN LOVER

Indeed, Jeffrey Mellefont (Nov ’10) Latin can be very economically and, at times, enigmatically succinct. One exception where modern English beats good old Latin hands down: “He’s well hung” (a mere three syllables!) takes twelve in Latin: “Duos testes habet et bene pendentes.”

Barrie Smillie (BA ’53)
Duffy ACT

UP UP AND AWAY

I did enjoy reading Into the Wild Blue Yonder (SAM, Nov ’10). I was a student and at St John’s College oval when the balloon crashed; it was about 3am and nobody was drunk. There were also some students from Sancta Sophia. Many ropes tethered the balloon and after it rose some 50 metres in the air, with its gas burner blazing and to the cheers of the crowd, Terry McCormack urged bystanders to assist by grabbing the ropes and pulling the balloon down.

Terry jumped up and grabbed the tether under the heavy aluminium gondola to help in bringing the balloon down. It was at this point that an innocent bystander, not knowing what the consequences would be, grabbed the zip cord, which collapsed the balloon on to the still blazing burner, setting it alight.

This action also collapsed the gondola onto Terry, crushing him beneath it. As the Daily Telegraph covered the incident and I was photographed, my father phoned me next day inquiring as to why I was not asleep preparing for my lectures.

John Rowe (BA ’69)
Exeter NSW

KANT BE WRONG, SURELY

I note the “Theist v Atheist” debate in SAM’s letters. Am I missing something? Didn’t Immanuel Kant write: “Transcendental theology is still therefore, notwithstanding its objective insufficiency, of importance in a negative respect; it is useful as a test of the procedure of reason when engaged with pure ideas, no other than a transcendental standard being in this case admissible. For if, from a practical point of view, the hypothesis of a Supreme and All-sufficient Being is to maintain its validity without opposition, it must be of the highest importance to define this conception in a correct and rigorous manner – as the transcendental conception of a necessary being, to eliminate all phenomenal elements (anthropomorphism in its most extended signification), and at the same time to overflow all contradictory assertions – be they atheistic, deistic, or anthropomorphic. This is of course very easy; as the same arguments which demonstrated the inability of human reason to affirm the existence of a Supreme Being must be alike sufficient to prove the invalidity of its denial. (My Italics.)

Has some recent philosophical genius proven Kant wrong on this? No respectable philosopher today would disagree with Kant one way or the other: reason can neither prove nor disprove God’s existence.

Anne Julienne (BSc (Hons) ’69)
Wiley Park NSW

PRE-EMPTIVE ABSOLUTION

In the midst of a La Nina season it is hard to believe that global warming continues. In fact, rates of warming are even faster than was projected. Greenland experienced its hottest summer on record in 2010 with unprecedented melting while heatwaves in Russia drove massive bushfires. Heavy (northern hemisphere) snowfalls at Christmas could lead to more flooding in the northern spring. All this is within the equations of climatic models and global warming.

Like most theories in science, Einstein’s relativity and Darwinian evolution cannot be proven, only confirmed. It would be costly indeed to proceed as if these theories were false, yet that is what many would have us do with global warming.

Unfortunately the debate is not academic. We all have a vested interest in the status quo in one way or another and it is tempting to let preference sway our judgement. Some argue that anthropogenic greenhouse gases cannot be proven to be the cause of global warming. Strangely this selective discounting of evidence does not counter climate change but merely absolves the proponent of any need to act.

The real argument is not about human induced climate change but about the sacrifices we are prepared to make. Sadly, we are falling at the first hurdles and with continued delay the necessary emission reduction targets rise steeply. Among researchers and experts in the field optimism is a rapidly disappearing commodity. Proponents and sceptics in the debate are both becoming fatalistic, the only difference being that the sceptics seem slower to realise they have saved nothing at all.

Greg Reid (MSc ’78)
Murringo NSW

4 MAR 2011 SAM
BEGINNING OF AN ERA

WORDS:
DR MICHAEL SPENCE,
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL

We all know there’s more to a story than the catchy headline. Particularly so when reading Australian media reports about higher education, where it seems an irresistible force compels journalists and editors to reduce complex issues to league tables and rankings.

Recently we received the first data assessing Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) gathered by the Australian Research Council on more than 150 different disciplines across all Australian universities.

Despite the ARC’s warning that ERA was not devised as a tool for ranking universities and that it is not possible to add up or average scores to reach an overall ranking for an institution, we nevertheless were treated to front page headlines talking of global comparisons and below par institutions.

The reality is that the ERA results are extremely sensitive to size and focus of both institutions and disciplines. For example, a discipline represented by 100 researchers in one university and a much smaller team in another can lead to a higher score in the smaller team if it is well focused.

Limitations of methodology aside, ERA has been an extremely valuable exercise. This is a milestone for the Australian research enterprise, providing us with rich data to better understand our research performance.

Not surprisingly, the University of Sydney research stands among Australia’s best, and shows both breadth and depth, being at or above world standard in all 24 of the broad discipline areas in which it was rated.

We scored well above the world average across a wide spectrum of discipline areas; Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Biomedical and Clinical Health Sciences, History and Archaeology and Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Sydney also was rated to be above world standard in an additional ten disciplines areas; Earth Sciences; Environmental Sciences; Information and Computing Sciences; Engineering; Public and Allied Health Sciences; Commerce, Management, Tourism and Services; Psychology and Cognitive Sciences, Law and Legal Studies, Studies in Creative Arts and Writing; and Language Communication and Culture.

Again we were rated as being at or above the Australian average in a total of 21 of the 24 different broad discipline categories. There is much to be proud of in the contributions that our researchers make to the national interest, particularly considering our size and comprehensive make-up.

It is important to underline that this ERA report is based on data from 2003 to 2008. It provides an important benchmark and we are already preparing for another submission in 2012, which will allow opportunities to assess trends and improve the ERA methodology.

I have been heartened that the ERA data reveals and underlines the importance of our research strategies articulated in the Strategic Plan 2011-2015. I am looking forward to working across the University this year to implement those strategies.

Much of the University’s work last year, like our Strategic Plan, was never going to excite the headline writers. But I believe that as an institution we have made major steps in planning, in devising a new and more transparent budget process, and most importantly, in the way in which we as a university community work together and make decisions.

The higher education sector is constantly changing, and the recent Federal government decision to end funding for the Capital Development Pool and the Australian Learning and Teaching Council, highlights the need for us to be creative and more reliant on our own resources.

We have an enormous agenda ahead of us this year. Major projects like the new multi-disciplinary Centre for Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease and the revitalised Abercrombie precinct, involving a new Business School, are just two landmark buildings that will begin construction.

Equally important is our new China Studies Centre. It will bring together our extensive academic expertise, provide a voice for public commentary as well as engagement with government, business and Chinese society. It promises to be an exciting year.

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Like many in the university community I was deeply saddened to learn of Gavin Brown’s untimely death. It has been a great privilege to follow him as Vice-Chancellor, and I am constantly reminded of the enormous and lasting contributions he made to this great university. We have benefitted from the strength of his passion and commitment to improving research and research-led teaching. We maintain his belief that a complete university education involves much more than what takes place in the classroom. He has given us firm foundations on which we will continue to build and improve. He will not be forgotten.

SAM MAR 2011 5
Gavin Brown was born in the small, windswept Scottish village of Lundin Links on 26 February 1942 and although he spent the greater part of his adult life in Australia, he never lost his distinctive soft brogue. A naturally shy man, he was a physically imposing figure with a dry and ready sense of humour. He became a dominant figure at the University, where he was Vice-Chancellor for 12 years from 1996, when it was in something of a decline and at a low ranking on international scales. He led it to a significant position once more, to the top rank among Australia’s Group of Eight leading universities.

He oversaw a sixfold increase in research income, a far greater increase than that of any other sandstone university, and was responsible for the largest capital works program at any university. The Eastern Avenue Mall was built, leading from a new information technology building at one end to the magnificent architectural award-winning law school at the other. The Brain and Mind Research Institute, the Rio Tinto Centre for Mining Automation and the United States Studies Centre were also established. Plans for a new obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease research building were put in place and a much-needed 650-bed village for students was built.

Gavin Brown made a significant impact at national and international levels in tertiary education and research. Andrew Norton, adviser to education minister David Kemp during the Howard years, commented that Brown, like Alan Gilbert at Melbourne, stood out among the vice-
chancellors. This reputation was gained through many contributions: as a member of the Australian Research Council (1992–93) and chairman of its advisory committees (1988–93), vice-president of the Australian Academy of Science (1993–94); foundation chairman of Go8 (2000), president of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (2006–08), Australian representative at the UN Global Colloquium of University Presidents in Princeton (2006) and inaugural director of the Royal Institution of Australia (2008–10). For these and other contributions, he received honorary doctorates from universities as far afield as Japan, Malaysia and Scotland, as well as from Australian universities.

During Brown’s stewardship, student numbers increased by more than 50 per cent, postgraduate numbers more than doubled, income almost trebled and the numbers of international students multiplied fourfold. There were also more completions of higher degrees than at any other Australian university. The University also became the first to hold a graduation ceremony in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Gavin Brown was the only child of a bricklayer, Frank Brown, and his wife, Alexandria (nee Duncanson). His agile mind and considerable intellect were evident from an early age: at eight he was banned from adult Scrabble competitions because he was too good. He attended Madras College, St Andrews, then the University of St Andrews, where he graduated Master of Arts in 1963 with first-class honours in mathematics and Latin. In 1965 he became a junior research fellow at Edinburgh University.

A year later, he was awarded a PhD from Newcastle University in the north of England and joined the academic staff of the University of Liverpool. Also that year he married geography teacher, Barbara Routh; they were married for 35 years until her death in 2001.

At Liverpool, he progressed to senior lecturer before accepting the post of professor of pure mathematics at the University of NSW in 1976. He took up visiting professorships in Paris, Cambridge and Washington. In 1982 Brown won the Australian Mathematical Society Medal. Brown held many administrative and academic appointments at NSW, including dean of the faculty of science from 1989 to 1992, when he took up the deputy vice-chancellorship at the University of Adelaide. Two years later he was appointed vice-chancellor. In 1996, he became vice-chancellor at Sydney.

As vice-chancellor at Adelaide he sat for renowned portrait painter Judy Cassab and the picture depicted the closed right eye – caused by a virus, contracted while swimming in 1977 that affected the muscles of the eye. When Cassab painted him again for Sydney, in 2004, the eye had mysteriously recovered. That year he married the marketing director of health sciences at the University, Diané Ranck – interestingly also a geography teacher.

His friend Max Bennett, professor of neuroscience, university chair and founding director of the Brain and Mind Institute at the University of Sydney said of him that he had a first-rate analytical mind. This is evident in his appointment to the chair of pure mathematics at 34, the Australian Mathematical Society Medal awarded at 40 and his election to the Australian Academy of Science at 39. The last of his more than 135 papers, principally in the areas of algebraic geometry, measure theory and harmonic analysis, was published last year on the subject Symmetric Cantor Measure, Coin-Tossing and Sum Sets.

It was an inspiration to scholars in the universities he led to know that he was engaged in research, with his own ARC grants and PhD students – and also to know, as one dean of science remarked, that he was probably the cleverest person on campus.

In 2006 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia, appointed an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of NSW and a corresponding fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In 2008 he retired from the University and returned to Adelaide. He was appointed inaugural director of the Royal Institution of Australia and received the Royal Society NSW Medal. He also took up the honorary position of SAM’s cryptic crossword compiler – one of his many eclectic interests that included Robert Burns, good red wine and horse racing.

Having suffered a heart condition for some years, Gavin Brown died suddenly from a heart attack after enjoying Christmas lunch with his family.

His funeral was held at Adelaide’s Immanuel College and he is survived by Diane, his children, Janet and Colin, and stepchildren Benjamin and Oliver.

A memorial fund for cardiac research at the Flinders University School of Medicine has been set up in honour of Gavin Brown. www.flinders.edu.au/gavin-brown-memorial-fund/
SANCTA SOPHIA COLLEGE IS LOOKING FOR
LOST ALUMNAE
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or contact the College on 9577 2100 to update your details and
make sure you are included in special events throughout 2010

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE IS LOOKING
FOR LOST ALUMNI!

International House has recently launched a new website and
online portal for Alumni. If you have received your ID and
password by mail or email please go to sydney.edu.au/
independenthouse/portal to update your details and keep in
touch with us!

If you haven’t received your ID and password please send an email to
info@suihaa.org.au with the following information: Full name, Year in
the House and Course Studied.

We look forward to keeping in touch with you.
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On Australia Day three eminent alumna of Sydney University – The Hon Elizabeth Evatt AC AO (LLB ’55), Professor Germaine Greer (MA ’63 DLitt ’05) and Dr Anne Summers AO (PhD ’79) and one Friend – Professor Eva Cox AO – joined the ranks of Australians immortalised on a postage stamp.

Ahmed Fahour, Australia Post managing director and CEO, said this year’s award celebrates the remarkable contributions the women have made to public life and women’s rights in Australia.

“These passionate individuals have worked tirelessly to champion the rights of women and they continue to campaign against obstacles that women still face today,” Mr Fahour said. “The stamps will be a permanent reminder of the indelible mark these four outstanding women have made on Australian society through the advancement of gender equality.”

The latest Legends rose to prominence during the ’70s, working since then – and continuing to do so – to address the issues facing women in Australia, and internationally, through their writing, activism, judicial work, advocacy or a combination of these activities.

Journalist and author Dr Summers said, “I hope the fact there are four women on Australian stamps at the time of International Women’s Day and the centenary of International Women’s Day will contribute to awareness about women’s issues and the continuing need to fight for equality for women in Australia. I hope it will encourage people to realise that the fight for women’s equality is not yet over.”

Former judge Elizabeth Evatt said she is, “proud to be in such eminent company. I hope they will increase people’s knowledge and understanding of women’s fight for equality over the years. I think those of us involved in it would like to feel that we represent a whole larger group of women who have been in the same battle.”

Academic and author Germaine Greer said, “I think it’s very funny. I wish my poor old Dad were alive to see it might have made up for some of the embarrassment I’ve caused him. My mother would have said, ‘what is she doing on a stamp?’ I’m delighted to be with three distinguished Australian women and not to be singled out as some sort of rara avis.”

Dr Summers added that she too is honoured to be on a stamp. “It’s a very strange feeling to know that your image will be on letters going all around the country, or possibly all around the world,” she said.

Social justice, change and women’s advocate Eva Cox, said, as someone who arrived in Australia as “a refugee kid”, that she’s delighted with the recognition. “I think it’s terrific and I’m going to encourage women around Australia to do a lot of posting. The women who’ve been picked have all made a difference in a not so conventional way, and I think that’s a really good lesson for people to understand – that there are lots of ways of making a difference. I’m also pleased that we’re all still here and still working. That makes a difference too.”

We in the alumni community are also delighted that these exemplary women, whose own lives and careers have been so influenced by their experiences at the University, continue to inspire and challenge the generations following them.

The Legends feature on 4 x 60c stamps, a stamp pack, first day cover and set of maxicards. A commemorative biography, *Trailblazers: The Road to Equality*, by Kay O’Sullivan, accompanies the issue. They can be purchased at participating Australia Post outlets or online at auspost.com.au/legends.

The Australia Post Australian Legends Award began 14 years ago when Sir Donald Bradman was the first living person, other than a ruling monarch, to feature on an Australian stamp.
One of the most famous Chinese sayings, true when it was coined 2500 years ago and still true today, asserts that a journey of a thousand li begins with a single step. David Goodman, acting director of the University's new China Studies Centre, stepped out on the most important journey of his life 40 years ago when he was one of a group of young scholars invited to China to witness the glorious impact of the Cultural Revolution. A radical student of the '60s at Manchester University, Goodman had a strong sympathy for Communist politics and the revolutionary ideas of Mao Zedong. He had even learnt Mandarin as part of his PhD on Chinese politics. The less-than-glorious reality of Mao’s China came as a slap in the face, he admits, but was a turning point in his life. He decided to return, enrolled as an economics student at Peking University and found himself one of just four foreigners in the class. Despite the hardships – “I didn’t eat fruit for a whole year, and lived on a diet of cabbage, pork fat and poor quality rice” – he developed a lasting passion for the country, which provided the oxygen for his subsequent academic career. After two years as Professor of Chinese Politics at Sydney, his current challenge is to steer the development of the China Studies Centre, which draws together more than 130 academics with research interests in China. Similar centres have already taken root in other Australian universities, but Sydney aims to be the biggest and the best. It will cover 16 major disciplines including medicine, arts, economics, sociology, media studies, education, politics and architecture. The Centre is starting from a position of strength. “We were the first University to teach Chinese language in Australia nearly a century ago and we have been hosting Chinese students for more than 30 years,” says Professor Goodman. “We now have around 5000 Chinese students on campus and 15,000 alumni in China.” Besides its research arm, the Centre will cater for Australians who are interested in learning more about China. It will run an MA in China Studies, a two-year bilingual Master of Public Administration program, specialising in China-Australia for professionals working in either country, and a PhD program. “The MPA has already proved attractive to Australia’s business community,” says Professor Goodman. “A few companies have expressed an interest in sponsoring programs so that their staff can be better equipped with China knowledge which is crucial to business success nowadays.” Due to be officially launched later this year, the China Studies Centre will be a hub for leadership dialogue, research partnerships and business and government development between Australia and China. “One of our major tasks now is to lift our profile within the Australian and international communities by providing the best-quality research and teaching programs,” says Professor Goodman. “Our goal is to build our reputation so that when Australians think about studying China, they think about the University of Sydney China Studies Centre. “And in this our Chinese alumni around the world are great assets – they are part of us. Their participation and contribution will be important to the Centre’s success.” Professor Goodman, who has a book coming out later this year on 20th century colonialism in China, and has a research interest in China’s new economic elites, believes that the Centre will be a rich source of learning for all Australians. “China is now our biggest trading partner and everybody in Australia can feel its economic influence,” he explains. “But following on from this, there will also be cultural and social influences as well. The Centre will help us understand and be prepared for the growing influence China has on our lives in Australia.” The Centre has received strong support from the Chinese and Australian governments. It will engage with major Chinese cities and provincial business and cultural centres. It will also make academic partnerships with major universities in China such as Fudan, and provide opportunities for researchers and students to go to China. Professor Marie Bashir, the Chancellor and Governor of NSW, will be the first patron of the Centre. Professor Bashir first visited China in 1974, making a special visit to see the work of the “barefoot doctors”. “The next generation has a unique and exciting challenge - learning, living and prospering with a resurgent China,” says Professor Bashir. “In Sydney and NSW, we have a longstanding Chinese community and have welcomed thousands of Chinese students. Sydney is the gateway for cultural exchange, trade and investment between our two countries.”
Justin Lurie (MinBus ‘03) decided to re-invent himself after a division closure and lay-off from an excellent job in the USA at a Fortune 250 company in the energy industry. He jumped in the deep end: founding his own company in a new industry with no experience!

“I first came up with the idea in February 2010, and officially opened the doors of Bond St Custom Clothiers www.bondstcustomsuits.com/index.php last November 2010. We are an online retail company specialising in custom suits, shirts and tuxedos for men.” Lurie travelled throughout Asia sourcing suppliers and created the intensive website, building a company from the ground up.

“I am happy to report that I now utilise my Sydney degree more than ever,” he says. “Completing it prepared me to build a truly global company with suppliers and contractors all over the world. I am on the phone daily to multiple continents and love every minute of it.”

Bond St Custom Clothiers is a 21st century twist on an old theme. Clients can design their own suits, shirts or tuxedos from wherever they access the net. First comes fabric selection, then the design, using images to see and adjust the final garment. Once satisfied with the look, there’s a simple guide to make quick and easy measurements that means the suit is custom tailored for the client.

“If a client doesn’t know how to best match the suit colour or fabric and design to their body type or style, we have created the Concierge – Style Wizard,” says Lurie. “It’s a questionnaire that will determine your body type, style, fit and the fabrics which will best suit you and what you want the suit for. Then you can design the suit or tuxedo and shirt that will fit you best!”

In late 2010, the Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser carried a story celebrating remarkable Sydney alumni, Marshall Edwards (BVetSc ’49 PhD ’70 DVetSc ’79). Professor Edwards had just delivered the inaugural Sarah Smith Paediatric Oration at the University of Western Sydney’s school of medicine.

Professor Edwards spoke to students about what happened when a group of guinea pigs delivered unusual numbers of deformed and stillborn babies and his realisation that there might be a cause-and-effect in play because they occurred immediately after a heatwave.

“We had a guinea pig colony which was housed temporarily in an uninsulated iron shed,” he said. “Suddenly, came two very hot days, between 41C to 43C, and it really did stress the guinea pigs. They started to abort and miscarry.”

A few days later, the situation deteriorated further when guinea pigs were born with joint problems and other flaws – absence of eyes and teeth; heart defects, cataracts, clubfeet.

“I couldn’t believe it,” recalled Professor Edwards. “I thought it was time to do some experiments.” And it was on a cold winter’s night in the University’s Vet Science lab at Camden when Professor Edwards made the breakthrough link between heat and birth defects. He found that outside temperatures had to be just two degrees above the animals’ normal body temperature to have a devastating effect on their pregnancies and unborn young. Professor Edwards’ findings then sparked further research in the United States and Europe that led to greater knowledge of the dangers of maternal fever and other hitherto unknown environmental concerns.

UWS professor of pediatrics John Whitehall said the students benefitted from hearing of the discovery and research.

“As a veterinary scientist, Professor Edwards may be an unexpected selection to give a lecture on pediatric medicine, but his work has helped to identify the risks of maternal fever, and it is inspiring that the work was done locally,” he said.
Classical musicians have been “crossing over” since Mario Lanza made The Student Prince; and before that too. “Sing ‘em muck,” was Dame Nellie Melba’s advice to another singer. And she meant – put some pop in your repertoire – not rubbish.

Electronics and classical instruments have meant cross-overs are even more adventurous in recent times: the Cecilia Quartet’s classical repertoire is laced with Gershwin and Porter and they are wired for sound; the hilarious sexpots Bond took the idea a step further and the latest to make the leap is Aston, a group of six recent graduates from the Conservatorium. Led by percussionist Daniel Lunscombe (BMus ’09) they play classically scored interpretations of popular music and audiences love them. They’ve been signed to Warner Music Australia, and have clicked up more than two million views on youtube for their version of Coldplay’s Viva La Vida. And they’re going international with their debut album.

Check out Viva La Vida on www.youtube.com/astonmusic and find their album and “like” them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/astonclassical

Photo: left to right Ella Jamieson (Piano), Will Henderson (Guitar), Eliza Morrison (Violin), Hanna Oblilov (Cello), Michael Bennett (Violin) and Daniel Luscombe (Percussion).
precious books by burying them. Sakuko recalls finding out a charred copy of the Pocket Oxford English Dictionary from and taking some comfort from it; she loved studying English.

The war ended soon after, and the altered landscape of occupied Japan made it easy for Sakuko to expand her English studies. She became an academic and went on to devote her life to the study of languages and literature, first as an English scholar in Japan and then as a lecturer in Japanese at Sydney University. This year, Dr Matsui – an honorary associate professor in the School of Languages and Cultures – celebrates 50 years of association with the University.

Sakuko first received the offer to come to Sydney in 1961 while she was a young scholar at Konan University in Kobe. “My former colleague Geoffrey Sargent wrote to my professor saying that if I was still interested in studying English, Australians spoke English, and I could study English literature at Sydney University while teaching Japanese,” she says.

She immediately decided to take up the offer (“Australia is better than Hokkaido, my mother said”). After a rough, 11-day voyage, the ship docked at Woolloomooloo and she collected her six large boxes of books, including her precious dictionaries, from the pier. She was picked up and taken directly to the Women’s College, where she would live for the next decade.

“There I was secluded and probably protected, because anti-Japanese feelings were very strong at that time,” she says, recalling that friends had been turned away from hotels due to lingering resentment over Japan’s treatment of Australian prisoners-of-war. “But at Women’s College people were so nice. I was a member of the senior common room, and it was a wonderful life. We ate our meals at the high table and had a formal dinner every night, with a gown.”

Their house was totally destroyed, yet it could have been much worse: her family survived, and her father had saved their
The Best and the Brightest is an annual forum that showcases the depth and variety of research done by IVth Honours students in Government and International Relations. In 2010 it was held in the Parliament House theatre on Macquarie Street. There were five presenters and an audience of more than 100 alumni and friends.

The presentations were followed by a lively Q&A session, then refreshments were served, and in that informal atmosphere discussions continued.

The forum offers the opportunity for alumni to hear and meet some of the year’s outstanding graduating students, while the students value the opportunity to explain their work and to meet alumni.

2010’s presenters were (left to right in the photo):

Pat Bateman, whose thesis, “Explaining Variation in the Role of the Membership in Candidate Selection: A Comparative Study of Political Parties in New South Wales”, is a study of membership behaviour in four New South Wales political parties. It’s a valuable study at a time when the public at large is both disengaged from the political process and disenchanted with political parties.

May Samali, whose thesis, “Venue Shopping, Issue framing, and the United Nations Systems”, examines the factors that determine NGOs’ selection of strategies in pursuit of agenda and policy change. May applied it to the Baha’i International Community’s campaign to end the persecution of Baha’is in Iran.

Tarsha Gavin, whose thesis, “Participatory Governance and the Policy-making Process A study of community engagement in the Minto Public Housing Estate Renewal Project” is an in-depth study of the complex dynamics and trajectory of community engagement within the Minto Project in NSW.

Alice Zheng, whose thesis, “Narrating the nation: the making of ethnic minorities in China’s northwest”, seeks to illuminate the Chinese state’s interpretation of civil unrest in Xinjiang province as Uyghur ethno-nationalist separatism that threatens the stability and unity of China. This view is produced by the Chinese state in writing the Chinese nation, drawing upon the materials of imperial Chinese history, which is predominantly the history of the Han Chinese, while ethnic minorities are “non-Chinese”.

Patrick Hurley, whose thesis, “Making Ideas Matter: The Think Tank Phenomenon in Australia”, examines the proliferation of independent public policy research institutes, commonly known as think tanks, over the past three decades. In addition to the increases in their numbers, budgets, staff and the range of activities in which they are involved, think tanks are now widely regarded as having a significant influence on the policymaking process. Nevertheless, they remain a vaguely understood area within political science.

The forum is organised by the External Advisory Committee of the Department of Government and International Relations. The next is scheduled for 3 May 2011, in the same venue. For more information contact Emeritus Professor Michael Jackson Michael.jackson@sydney.edu.au

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NOTA BENE

Making a Difference

Pat Bateman, May Samali, Tarsha Gavin, Alice Zheng and Patrick Hurley

Natural Resilience

Can our environment keep bouncing back? Is the question raised by the symposium of the same title being organised by the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Natural systems are inherently resilient but just as their capacity to cope with disturbance can be degraded, so can it be enhanced. Agriculture encompasses the widest range of managed ecosystems and the scientific and economic resilience of such systems is of crucial importance to issues of food, water and energy security.

International guest speakers and Australia’s key thinkers will join the Faculty’s interdisciplinary community to discuss the latest emerging research.


More: sydney.edu.au/agriculture/events/RS2011 or Lucy Buxton (61 2) 8627 1005
If you had asked me in September what I would be doing for the last quarter of 2010, I would probably have replied, “lying on Sydney’s beaches.” After all, I had just returned from six years in Edinburgh during which I spent less than a week – total – on the beach. However, that was not to be. Instead, I went to Perth and took part in the Summer 2010/11 Aurora Native Title Internship Program. The Program aims to place anthropology, law and other social science students into organisations that deal with some aspect of native title, policy, social justice and Indigenous affairs. Placements are arranged in order for these organisations to receive much needed support, while also building their future capacity by introducing potential employees to the field. I had just submitted my anthropological PhD thesis for final examination when I discovered the program and thought it would be an ideal way to get a proper introduction to the practicalities of native title.

For six weeks, I immersed myself in a mass of documents. They related to native title claims throughout the Western Desert and I was looking for useful information to be included in Central Desert Native Title Services’ (Central Desert), the newly up-and-running cultural geography database. That might sound like a fancy way to describe data entry but, while some of the work was routine, it was a great opportunity to familiarise myself with the types of documents produced for claiming native title. It also gave me time to learn a multitude of names and places associated with individual claims. It didn’t take long to feel that I was actually beginning to understand how important cultural information might be collected and collated to form a legal case and thus, what the anthropologist’s role is in the native title system.

Being located in Central Desert’s office meant I was in the middle of the daily goings-on and I was able to take in the roles of others in the office and get involved in anything interesting that was happening. So I got to meet some of the traditional owners who visited from time to time and grasp the interaction between them and my colleagues. The highlight of the internship was a four-day field trip to Wiluna. The township is 966kms northeast of Perth, on the edge of the desert, at the gateway to the Canning Stock Route and Gunbarrel Highway. The purpose of the trip was to hold meetings – one for men, one for women and one for everybody – in which some very important decisions had to be made. As the intern, I helped out wherever possible, which mainly meant preparing meals and videotaping the meetings. It was also a brilliant opportunity to meet the claimants in their own communities and see a little of the incredible landscape I had been reading so much about back in Perth. And I met some of the consultant “expert” anthropologists who work with Central Desert and saw what anthropological work in the native title system can be like.

After the fieldtrip – with just one week of internship left – to my absolute delight, I was offered a full-time position with Central Desert. Although we hadn’t originally envisioned relocating to Perth (my family and I had only just resettled in Sydney) the experience of the internship convinced me it would be the right decision and one I’m sure will lead to many new and exciting adventures. One thing I know is that being part of Central Desert will help me fulfil my goals of using my research training to make a real and practical difference in the world.

Applications for the winter 2011 round of Aurora Native Title Internships open in March. To find out more or apply, visit: www.auroraproject.com.au
Giselle Antmann (BA'69) is a painter, sculptor, writer and teacher whose family immigrated to Australia, when she was nine, from the turmoil of post-war Europe. At 17 she won a Commonwealth Scholarship for undergraduate study at the University, then a post-graduate Commonwealth Scholarship and a tutorship to continue her studies in English literature.

“The money meant that I could also find time to develop my self taught art practice which, for me was an essential complement to my university experience, as necessary as breathing,” she says.

Without these opportunities her life would have been harder and narrower, she recognises.

“Now I would like to repay the educational advantages I received as I am a great believer in education and its transformative effects.”

Antmann has exhibited in Australia and the UK; her early self-taught work was included in University exhibitions. She has since been hung in the Blake Prize, Oz Drawing Now (Holdsworth Galleries) and Perspecta at the Art Gallery of NSW, as well as the Visual Arts Board and Australia Council. She has had solo shows at Holdsworth as well as the Mori and Rex Irwin spaces. In 2010 her work was part of the soft sculpture exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra.

She has now decided to “give back” and acknowledge her own good fortune in a novel way.

“I would like to sell paintings to raise money for children living in dire circumstances,” she says. “Every child should have its needs met, every child should have basic human rights of food, clean water, physical safety, education and the warmth of adult care.”

Much of Antmann’s recent work (pictured here) reflects the influence of Japanese simplicity, the Australian landscape and contemporary Aboriginal art as well as the abstraction of Rothko and Auerbach. There is a tantalising palimpsest-like depth and quality to the small, mysterious canvases.

“An early exposure to archaeology and anthropology at University shaped my art making and extended my thinking,” she says. “I am a passionate admirer of contemporary Australian Aboriginal art and I know that some of this consciousness has changed my own awareness. I have been given so much and my project is offered in the hope of giving something back to children so that they too can go to school to extend their vision and see beyond just trying to survive.”


ART FOR KIDS’ SAKE

PHOTOGRAPHY MARTIN MUNZ

Opposite: Healing Circle
Below: Magic Square
After-hours care is rare and SAVES is a 24-hour magnet for distressed people and their animals

Vets are “in” again as they haven’t been since the heyday of All Creatures Great and Small. Ted’s Bondi Vet and its charismatic Dr Chris Brown (BVetSc ’01) is part of the interest; 2011 is the International Year of the Vet (celebrating 250 years of modern vet science) and Sydney University’s Vet Hospital turned 100 in 2010. And few “animal” stories have made bigger headlines than the recent research, published by Associate Professor Dr David Evans and Professor Paul McGreevy, proving that whipping a race horse does not improve its chances of winning.

It’s 5pm and a quiet Sunday: not like Christmas and other public holidays when many vet clinics close, after-hours care is rare and Sydney After-Hours Veterinary Emergency Service (SAVES) is a 24-hour magnet for distressed people and their animals. Nevertheless, the cat ward is overflowing – a couple of unwell felines are temporarily lodged in the dog ward; and the dog ward is full. Then there’s the rabbit.

At 6.00pm a bundle of white angora with transparent ears and a twitching fawn nose is brought in: accidentally dropped by its owner; apparently not uncommon. Neither is the gallows humour so often associated with emergency workers: “I was on call once when a rabbit jumped right out of the consultant’s hands,” says nurse Sharon. “Broke its back.”

“No!” Unfortunately yes, of course, everyone laughs. This rabbit has a fractured leg – it flops uselessly as she is examined. It’s a case for surgery and probable costs of around $2000.

“And it’s an $80 rabbit,” says on-call vet Jennifer Chau, meaning she doubts the owners will spend on it.

At 6.20pm Jennifer is right: the rabbit is going to heaven. The owners leave without saying goodbye – the staff left to deal with the small creature with the dignity and compassion it deserves.

Meanwhile, oblivious to what’s happening on the emergency table, a Rottweiler with fractured legs and a plastic ruff around her neck sleeps peacefully; in the next cage a merry Sharpei is recovering from a mystery poisoning that gave him such severe gastro-enteritis 15cms of his gut was removed, along with his spleen.

“Want to see them? They’re here,” Sharon holds up two specimen jars. Ted gamely focuses on the jars; we shudder – but better out than in.

Says Clinical Practice Manager, Craig Lord; “It has been the single biggest addition in both caseload and revenue to the hospital in 10 years. It has been a big demand for staff; before SAVES we rarely had a dozen animals in house overnight or on weekends. Now we have over 40 at any time.”

One is Pudding, a popular cat who’s sleeping with the assistance of drugs. She’s one of a half dozen car victims in hospital at the moment.

“ticks are seasonal, of course, and really bad at the moment. They love wet, warm weather. But we’ve had a run of road injuries.”

Twenty-plus years ago, I had my first experience of the Vet Hospital: a car hit my two-year-old Great Dane and his left front leg was fractured, but unlike smaller dogs, Danes can’t live on three legs. A young, newly qualified surgeon was on duty; she said she would try to save the leg, if I agreed. How could I not? Known as Mike, his registered name – Wang Choy (Valued Giant) could have been Beloved Hound. He was in surgery seven hours and in hospital for three months. His saviour is now Professor Geraldine Hunt, a renowned specialist surgeon and currently in the USA. Mike eventually died at the grand age of 12.
Along with Hunt, Dean of Vet Science Professor Rosanne Taylor, symbolises one of the major changes in a calling that now attracts 80 per cent female students. "I was fortunate to have an inspiring mentor in the final years of high school, she was the very first female vet I met. She led a fantastic life, doing a great mix of surgery, animal rescues, wildlife work and animal health at the Canberra RSPCA. Veterinary science seemed my ultimate (if daunting) career, and one that was just opening up to women at a time when education, financial independence and careers for women were being taken seriously in my family and school."

At 7.10pm yet another car victim: Teddy, an 11-year-old Maltese terrier. He’s in a mess; his people are distraught. In the ICU he’s cleaned up, examined and eventually stabilised. His blood pressure comes down from 180 and he’s carried to the X-ray room. Teddy proves to be a stoic as he’s sedated so that his back legs can be manipulated. Professor Taylor again: “Our service provides more than just basic care – it’s more like coming to a teaching hospital like RPA – because its staffed by some of the most skilled, committed veterinarians in the profession, who have the support of a range of specialists, in medicine, surgery and other disciplines.”

Teddy’s pelvis doesn’t look good: multiple fractures. The view doesn’t improve with successive perspectives. Jennifer Lau is the vet on duty tonight. She handles Teddy with utmost tenderness; when he whimpers while his legs are being straightened, she quietly tells him he is very brave. Her thoughtfulness towards the injured dog is remarkable.

Professor Taylor is not surprised, “Their professionalism and humanistic values are a core part of their training. While veterinary students are among the most outstanding students (in academic performance) coming to this university (top 1-2 per cent of the state) they are also selected on the basis of a demonstrated commitment to veterinary science. They learn about all aspects of professional practice – including how to communicate with clients, and handle their animals well, as well as important areas like business management and grief counselling.”

In their final year students are assessed by staff with the advice of external veterinarians on their communication, ethics, animal welfare and client care in all of their practice placements and must reach the required standard to progress to graduation.

“I actually decided two weeks before placing my university course preferences,” says Chau, whose parents moved from Adelaide to Sydney when she was small. “So, definitely not like the majority of vets I’ve met who knew they wanted to be a vet forever. But I loved animals and I tried other things like accounting, arts and photography and I thought being a vet would be the most exciting and interesting option. I haven’t look back.”

It’s 8.35pm and time for regular, routine toilet walks. Some are straightforward,
others need carrying; the bigger dogs with broken limbs are a two-person job: human crutches via a towel around the tummy; some recalcitrants insist on paddling on the floor; a student’s training includes a lot of mopping up.

Cats are easier: litter tray changes are simple unless the cat is hostile – few are. Nurse Sharon comes in sneezing – I’m allergic to cats, she sniffles. Truly.

Attending to Mietta, then, is not for her: Mietta is an elegant Siamese with a squawk to match. She has critical pneumonia. However, with four-hourly chest physiotherapy (thumpety-thump with a cupped hand) to loosen and help her expel the deadly mucus, she’s improving. For physio she’s placed in a miniature oxygen tent; and at first was not keen. But that was then and this is now: she hops in, stuffs her nose in the oxygen outlet and inhales.

Another of tonight’s cat patients is a donor cat, Amos. He lives at the hospital and his blood is regularly harvested. Cats’ blood comes in three groups: A+, B+ and AB. Currently he is himself unwell and being cosseted and fussed over. Normally his A+ blood is a valuable resource and is why he’s named Amos. Who knew?

Amos brings to mind another image: nasty experiments on defenceless creatures. Mice and monkeys were forever being liberated from unholy laboratories and association could taint a school such as Sydney, despite its 100-year history of producing some of the finest vets and research in the world and despite the fact that those notorious experiments occurred in medicine and physiology – not in Vet Science where students learn without harming animals. The School’s very emphatic Code of Ethics for staff and students also contributes to the sense of security and relief animals and their people feel when they come limping in.

The meeting of practical and theoretical is vital, says Professor Taylor: “It’s a remarkable synergy which motivates and inspires our work. Research underpins progress, improvement and the great leaps forward that dramatically improve treatments for animals in our practice. As a university after-hours and emergency service, within a teaching hospital, we make the most of the many opportunities we have to test new ideas, innovate, and progress veterinary medicine. People come here to work with us because they are passionate about providing the best of care for animals and outstanding teaching for students.”

Vet students at Sydney spend their first two years conventionally: classes, tutorials and theory. Then the real business starts. As well as the Small Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Emergency/after-hours service at Camperdown, there’s a teaching hospital at Camden where small animals are treated as well as facilities for horses, particularly for performance and racing horses. Also at Camden is a purpose-built Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre, which treats Australian wildlife (birds, reptiles, marsupials etc) as well as cage birds and pocket pets. And the Livestock Veterinary Services provides field veterinary service for cattle, sheep, goats and ruminants across a large area of NSW.

“The experience is as full and thorough as possible for both patients and students,” says Professor Taylor.

BBQ-itis is a vet nickname for Pancreatitis – the illness dogs suffer from on public holidays. Sally, a tiny terrier also known as Worst Dog in the World, is one of Natasha Evans’s patients, presenting with near-death symptoms post-Christmas holidays. After a nervous student examination, Natasha listens intently to the diagnosis, offers advice and quickly identifies Sally’s problems: too much rich food and excruciating pain. She is in hospital for three days, studiously gnawing through a succession of drip-feeds and returning to health. No more ham, pork or steak fat for Sally.

Sally is fortunate, but could be more so, says Professor Taylor. “I’m sad to say there is very little funding available for clinical research on companion animal health and disease. It is not an area that usually attracts government or industry funding, restricting what we can do and the progress we can make.”

As an example, she says they would like to apply the exciting new tools of molecular genetics, like microarray, real-time PCR and nextGen sequencing to understanding complex diseases like canine diabetes, microbial infections in cats and to the causes of cancer in dogs and cats.

“Unfortunately there is almost no funding available, so the work moves much slower than we would wish.”

At 9.45pm a couple brings in a young Dachshund found wandering near Harold Park. It’s a mystery: she is in good health but has no collar. She’s been searching for a Dachshund for a week. It’s 10.15pm: a call from a frantic young woman. She’s been searching for a Dachshund for a week. She’s house-sitting for her boss, who’s overseas and has no idea how the dog did a runner from Alexandria. On the bush telegraph she’s heard that she might be at SAVES. The dog is Roxie and all’s well that ends well, although barely credible if written as fiction.

Roxie’s best friend races into the Hospital foyer, her name is Tillie, she’s a Maltese bitzer and is closely followed by her person: Professor Kim Walker, Dean of the Conservatorium. They have been out every night searching for the runaway with the distraught babysitter.

“Tillie can’t understand why she’s been going on all these mammoth walks,” says an overjoyed Walker. Roxie goes home. It’s 10.45pm and a quiet night.

PS: aside from the ill-fated rabbit, all the animals in this story recovered and have gone home.
John Brogden recalls his graduation ceremony in the Great Hall at the University as one of his “proudest moments”. The former NSW Opposition Leader was awarded the degree of Master of Public Affairs in 2002 – a qualification he had completed part-time while serving as the Member for Pittwater.

His graduation audience included his proud mentor Ted Pickering, a former NSW Police Minister, who had long encouraged Brogden to return to his university studies.

On leaving school, Brogden trained to become a teacher but left to work as a political staffer for a number of ministers. He joined the Liberal Party while still at school and was President of the NSW Young Liberals in 1992 and 1993. After several unsuccessful attempts at pre-selection, he was elected to the NSW Parliament as the Member for Pittwater in 1996.

Brogden says that the flexible delivery of the Master of Public Affairs degree – cutting-edge at that time – was the only reason he could complete his studies at the University.

“The taxpayers of NSW should know that most of my assignments were written at two in the morning,” jokes Brogden, who praises the weekend lectures and internet delivery of assignments, high-profile international visiting lecturers and accelerated coursework options.

These days, Brogden heads the Financial Services Council of Australia, overseeing the investment of an estimated $1.4 trillion through superannuation, funds management and life insurance organisations. He is also the Patron of Lifeline and a keen advocate for mental health services.

Brogden’s sponsorship has been a shot in the arm for mental health lobbyists. He wields considerable clout, both through his influential connections in politics and in corporate Australia and through achingly honest revelations about his own struggle with mental illness.

Brogden’s achievements as a politician were
considerable. In 1996, at just 27, he was the youngest member elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly, and by 2002, aged 35, he had taken over from Kerry Chikarovski (BEc ’77 LLB ’79) to become the youngest leader of a state or federal Liberal Party.

Behind the scenes, though, his brilliant career hid a private despair. For around a decade, Brogden battled with undiagnosed depression. Despite the support of his wife Lucy, the birth of his much longed for child and the admiration of political colleagues, he recalls feeling isolated and inadequate – and very, very unhappy.

“I was untouchable and unreachable in this splendid isolation and quiet panic,” he later wrote about that time.

There were signs, but few could see them. He had poor sleep patterns and little appetite and was constantly anxious. Any criticism wounded him deeply and his self-esteem was in tatters. His wife suspected depression and suggested as much but he didn’t consider it for a moment. Brogden now says that he had no self-awareness – but would have laughed at anyone who suggested that to him. He was irritable at home and a tyrant to his staff, but could justify all of this to himself because of the immense pressure of his work.

And what pressure it was; whenever he felt inadequate – which was often – he would work harder. Any gaps opening up in his diary were instantly filled with more and more commitments.

“All that work led to some spectacular results. But in my mind, I was on a never-ending escalator.”

All he could see ahead, was more of the same pressure and intensity. And he never felt up to the task, constantly seeking reassurance but never believing the praise. He recalls the first time he sat in his enormous new office as Opposition Leader, just after Easter 2002. The huge desk was empty and the task ahead daunting – and he felt incredibly lonely.

“I remember thinking, yes – it’s lonely at the top,” he says. But the cliché offered no comfort.

Finally, it was Brogden’s spectacular and very public fall from grace in 2005 that sent his promising career on an entirely different trajectory – and forced him to face his own mental illness. He was hospitalised following a suicide attempt, the night after his resignation as Opposition Leader and following a series of inappropriate events including a widely-reported insult of Helena Carr, wife of the then-premier. He had been pilloried in the media, his reputation was in tatters and he felt an overwhelming sense of shame. While he says that the media and the weight of public disapproval played some role in his breakdown, he is quick to accept much of the responsibility himself.

Brogden resigned his seat and underwent treatment for many months. Accepting the diagnosis of depression was a big step. The 10,000-plus letters of support he received from the public, and countless messages and offers of support from colleagues on both sides of politics, also buoyed him. But returning to a political career was “not an option for me,” he says.

He recalls then-premier Morris Iemma offering him parliamentary leave while he recovered, but it was too daunting a prospect.

“I imagined media headlines, if I took my child to a playground – this is what the taxpayers of NSW are funding.”

Things are different now, he says, citing the widespread acceptance of federal Liberal MP, Andrew Robb taking several months off in 2009 to undergo treatment for depression.

“Society is changing and is more accepting of mental illness,” Brogden says, citing high-profile people publicly talking about their illness and the increased education campaigns. But, he adds, there’s still quite a way to go.

After months away from work, Brogden felt ready to return, and says he will be forever grateful to the board of health insurance company Manchester Unity, which had enough faith in his previous achievements to appoint him CEO. This eventually led to his current appointment, as high-profile CEO of the Financial Services Council of Australia.

Six years later, he continues treatment for his own depression and says that every person with a mental illness has a social obligation to accept treatment and try to manage their illness.

“I know this can be a controversial thing to say and that for some people, the side effects of medication can be difficult. Yes, you might put on weight for example but it is better to be fat and happy than to try to carry on skinny and in denial.”

Suicide is the greatest mental health issue facing Australians, Brogden says, rattling off some clearly familiar – and startling – statistics. Suicide is the leading cause of death in Australia for men under 44 and for women under 34. And more people die by suicide each year than on the roads. Yet it’s preventable, he says. Lifeline has helped countless Australians in crisis, and simply by recognising that there is a problem and encouraging someone to get help, mental health crises can be reduced. People with a mental illness will rarely tell their employer, he says.

“They fear they won’t be treated normally in the workplace.”

But just as corporate Australia must play a role in destigmatising mental illness in the workplace, he says, employers can also be positive in helping a staff member seek help.

“If someone came into work with blood running down their face, we’d send them straight to the emergency ward,” he says. “And if someone comes into work smelling bad, they haven’t washed for a few days, if they are disoriented, if their behaviour changes, these are all signs that they need help. But we don’t address the signs of mental illness as something medical.”

Talking about his own mental illness publicly has been a huge challenge for Brogden; it is clear, listening to him speak about it, that it is still a struggle. But talking about mental illness and talking about suicide is something that he believes we must do, if we are to limit the damage it is doing to our society.

“We need to get to the stage where someone is just as comfortable talking at a dinner party about their treatment for depression as their knee surgery or cancer treatment.”
When I ring Justine Olrog (BEd (Primary) ’94) to arrange an interview time she is in her car, on the way to drop her youngest daughter at a friend’s house. “But I’ve had to turn around and go back home,” she groans. “I’ve already made dinner for tonight but I just realised I didn’t put it in the fridge.”

Definitely not the first working mum to leave a cooked dinner out on the kitchen bench, Olrog is co-director with Amy Skene of Blossom Management – a drama school and talent agency – located in Sydney.

“This is our eighth year in business,” explains Olrog. “We started off with five children at Harbord Public School doing after-school drama lessons and now we have a couple of hundred kids on our books. A highlight of last year was when one of our students won a role in My Place, the ABC 3 series.”

Olrog says that setting up her own business was a “massive learning curve.” She adds: “when we first started the drama school I used to worry about a lot of things because we had no experience in running a business. But my partner

“The key for me to managing work/life balance is a good slow cooker”

Words
Sara Donald
Photography
Paul Wright
and I have a long-term business plan and we set three-monthly goals – that helps to keep us focused on growing an effective and profitable business.”

Married to Craig Sandercock, the assistant coach of the Newcastle Knights Rugby League team, Olrog has three daughters: Milly (15), Annabel (8) and Jemima (4). Running her own business while raising her children has not been without its juggling acts.

“On the days that I work I have a babysitter for my youngest daughter but the key for me to managing work-life balance is a good slow cooker – and I always double the recipe,” she laughs. “Personally, for me, if I have my food and dinners organised, and the washing hung out in the morning then I feel in control.”

Olrog also admits to vacuuming her living area every day – “I can’t leave the house without doing so – it creates a feeling of calm.”

Asking Olrog to reflect on her time at Sydney, she is positive about her experiences: “I have very fond memories of university. There were so many amazing opportunities. I loved drama and the performing arts – these subjects definitely inspired a lifetime love of nurturing children’s imaginations.”

Now in her late 30s, Olrog is upbeat about where she is in life. “When I was a little girl I used to think to myself: ‘when I’m older I want to own a drama school and have a casting agency as part of it’...and there are days when I’m coming to work and think this is exactly where I want to be.”

Whenever I sit down to read a book for the purpose of a review I always make sure I have a highlighter with me so that I can accurately pinpoint important phrases that might be useful in the final analysis. When I found myself highlighting chunks of words on every page I realised that The Good Mother is a book rich with contemporary meaning, rigorously researched and bursting with astute observations.

Invasive and insightful, The Good Mother is a compilation of essays, which explore the notion of what it means to be a mother in present-day Australia. Edited by Susan Goodwin, a senior lecturer in Policy Studies and Kate Huppatz, a postdoctoral research fellow, both from the Faculty of Education and Social Work, the book contains essays from diverse authors covering topics such as women who work in executive roles, mothers in male-dominated work, indigenous mothers, lesbian parents and the experiences of adoptive mothers.

In the first chapter, Goodwin and Huppatz state that the principal aim of the book is to “generate an understanding of the good mother in the contemporary Australian context”, albeit recognising that representations of motherhood change with “time, fashion and context.” They discuss how the good mother is perceived as a “formidable social construct placing pressure on women to conform to particular standards and ideals, against which they are judged and judge themselves.”

Further on in their overview, they introduce the topic of the Australian labour market, where it is more likely for the woman with young children to withdraw from the workforce: “only 83 per cent of women with children under 15 are employed, compared to 92 per cent of men with children.” Furthermore, men are “disproportionately represented in positions of power and authority across occupations”. Tellingly, when summing up contemporary research, the authors reveal that “while higher education and the establishment of career may have become a normative pattern for women, having children continues to interrupt this trajectory.”

Perhaps the most poignant phrase in The Good Mother which resonated instantly with me was in the second chapter titled Good executive, good mother: contradictory devotions co-written by Colleen Chesterman and Anne Ross-Smith. In their narrative, a woman is explaining about the “relentless clash” between realising her potential as a senior executive and the time taken for mothering:

“They would think less of me. They would think I was a hard bitch if they felt I was neglecting the children, although they would still call a meeting at a ridiculous time. When they get in and say, ‘Did you see the Fin Review this morning?’ I think, ‘What do you think I do before I get here?’”

As a mother myself who has to have her two young boys out of the house by 7:20am, I instantly thought of the multitude of things I have to do to ensure the morning routine runs smoothly. Like the woman above, and I’m assuming many other working mothers, it’s not surprising that we don’t have time to skim a newspaper before we get to work.

Consider this excerpt concerning the “mummy ceiling”: “I would love to work part time next year after the birth and I have some runs on the board. But they will just get a male into the job because they know they don’t have to deal with those issues.”

Expressions of frustrations from women who want to return to part-time work after maternity leave was clearly evident in the essay. What became apparent to Chesterman and Ross-Smith during their research was that “the upper echelons or organisations are not ‘safe’ places for senior women to challenge the expected work devotion schema and that contradictions will still arise when women are committed to family devotion.”

The Good Mother ably tackles the many different life experiences and diverse perspectives of women who are mothers or who are involved in the raising of children. The honest anecdotes, intuitive reflections and thoughtful analysis make it a compelling read. – SD
Travel writers are fond of describing places as “the best-kept secret in (insert destination)” to entice visitors – implying perhaps some form of exclusivity, but usually far from the case. On a recent trip to Japan, I found a place where this cliché came true: the Benesse Art Site, a wondrous collection of art works and buildings scattered among a group of islands at the south end of the Seto (Inland) Sea. The Art Site is not well known outside Japan. I had heard about it from a group of Australian curators who visited some years ago; noted Australian artists have exhibited in temporary shows at the Site. Benesse was the brainchild of a wealthy Japanese publisher and art collector, Tetsuhiko Fukutake, who in 1985 conceived the idea of establishing a special place to promote culture. The first initiative was a camp for children held on the island, Naoshima, which is now the centrepiece of Benesse. Like many of the islands on the inland sea, Naoshima was in decline, and degraded by years of heavy industry. Fukutake joined forces with the mayor of Naoshima, who shared his dream of a pristine and educational cultural area, and development of the art site began.

After a trip from Tokyo involving bullet train, local train and ferry, Naoshima’s port offered our first taste of the island’s outstanding architecture: the airy Marine Station designed by the male-female partnership SANAA (whose winning design for the extension to Sydney’s MCA was controversially shelved). Nearby is a large red pumpkin, visitors’ first experience of Naoshima’s many outdoor artworks. Most Naoshima buildings are products of another felicitous partnership, between the philanthropist and the great, self-taught Japanese architect Tadao Ando, whom Fukutake commissioned to design both art museums and accommodation. Everything about the buildings testifies to Ando’s passion for simplicity of design and excellence in detail.

On Naoshima there are three places to stay: Oval, a luxury section high on a hill with panoramic views and a cable car to transport guests to other parts of the site; Park, a low-key, elegant building overlooking a beach and many outdoor artworks; and Beach, an attractive weathered timber building with accommodation for groups or families. The rooms in Park, where I stayed, mix simple contemporary elegance with references to traditional Japanese design, notably sliding timber doors reminiscent of rice paper screens. Near Reception, a life-size male sculpture by Anthony Gormley greets guests. In all the accommodation, works of art are sited throughout in areas designed specifically for them.

The first museum to be opened, Benesse House (1992), is built around Fukutake’s own art collection, with work by leading Japanese contemporary artists such as Yukinori Yasuda and Shinro Ohtake, as well as Western “names” such as Hockney, Pollock, Basquiat, Twombly, Richard Long and Jasper Johns and one woman – Jennifer Bartlett. While there are some excellent individual works, it has to be said that the quality is patchy; there is no discernible overarching collection concept. As is often the case in Japan, the excellence of the architecture tends to overshadow the quality of the art. Constructed in Ando’s trademark polished concrete, the building encourages a focus on the artworks while offering glimpses of the surrounding forest and the sea below.
The Chichu Art Museum (opened 2004) is conceptually very different. It is entirely underground as a result of Ando’s desire to avoid obtrusive monumentalism. Only the café permits a view of the outside world. Nevertheless, thanks to light wells, an interior courtyard and subtle lighting, it’s not dark. Chichu houses the work of just three artists: a room of huge Monet water lilies; a cathedral-like space dominated by steps, by Walter de Maria (USA); and a light work by James Turrell (another Turrell work was recently installed at the NGA in Canberra).

The more recent Lee Ufan museum highlights the work of the Korean/Japanese artist. For me, this small, exquisite building sited in a valley is the masterpiece among Ando’s works, many of which I saw on this trip. It combines all his distinctive features in one beautiful, coherent whole. As the brochure says: “The plan, composed of a triangle and a rectangle on the land between the building and the sea, creates a rhythmic development of space in harmony with nature”. And Lee Ufan’s delicate works marry brilliantly with Ando’s architecture.

At various places around the Art Site, often near the sea, on beaches, jetties or headlands, there are outdoor artworks, easily accessible on foot – there are regular shuttle buses to all sites for the less mobile. In the main town, Honmura, the Art House Projects were conceived to revive abandoned houses with site-specific work. Among them are a house with a floor filled with water lit from underneath by tiny, constantly changing coloured lights; and a Turrell/Ando collaboration where visitors enter and sit in total darkness – an eerie experience. Yet another house, patched together from bits and pieces of timber and iron, somehow squeezes in a huge torso modeled on the Statue of Liberty.

The Art Site continues beyond Naoshima. Using local ferries, one can visit another island, Inujima, where the Seirensha art museum (2008) is on the site of a former copper refinery, an industrial heritage site. Within the museum is a remarkable artwork assembled from pieces of the childhood house of the novelist Yukio Mishima. The museum is a kind of homage to Mishima, a controversial figure still admired by many Japanese. On another island, Teshima, the most recently opened museum (October 2010) – the work of architect Ryue Nishizawa – stands on a hill overlooking the sea, surrounded by disused rice terraces restored with the help of local residents.

The stated aim of Benesse is “to create special places by situating modern art and architecture within the nature and the unique culture of the Seto Inland Sea, a landscape with a powerful cultural and historical resonance ... We seek to inspire visitors to consider the meaning of Benesse – Living Well ... and build(ing) a relationship of mutual growth between art and the region ... in order to make a positive contribution to the local community”. For this visitor at least, these ambitious aims are well on the way to fulfillment.

For more information: www.benesse-artsite.jp/en
The Trustees of the Fund are pleased to announce the award of the Prize for 2011 to be shared between:

**DR ELI PIKARSKY**
HADASSAH MEDICAL SCHOOL, HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

**A/PROF SIGAL BEN-YEHUDA**
FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Dr Pikarsky was nominated for insights gained from his work in complex mouse models, into the pathogenesis of human disease. His work has yielded new understanding of the determinants of malignancy in testicular cancer, of the impact of inflammation on the progress of liver cancer and the regulation of liver regeneration, important in all conditions which damage liver function.

A/Prof Ben-Yehuda was nominated for her contributions to our understanding of the biology of bacteria. Her discoveries, which include the demonstration of a previously unknown ‘nanotube’ form of communication between cells, are also fundamental for understanding the mechanisms of bacterial resistance to antibiotics. This gives her work great importance for the treatment of infections caused by the growing number of resistant bacteria.

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CROSSWORD WINNER

The prize is Portrait of an Orchestra: the New Haven Symphony, photographs by Cheever Tyler. The book is the brainchild of the orchestra’s executive director Natalie Forbes (BMus ’88).

The first correct entry out of SAM’s hat is Christine Edwards (BA ’71) of Burwood Heights, NSW.

The prize crossword is a small but heartfelt tribute to former Vice-Chancellor Professor Gavin Brown AO FAA CorrFRSE and is the last puzzle he compiled before his untimely death on Christmas Day 2010.

SAM NOVEMBER SOLUTION

ACROSS
1 Simple mathematical skill – hard to acquire with 18? (14)
9 Expert challenges and reform advocate. (9)
10 Queen holds Asian dish for another ruler. (5)
11 Dysfunctional writer is welcomed back in old SA. (5)
12 Brackens, heather provide cover, doubly so. (9)
13 Referring to small stones in pattern assembled by Lasseter. (8)
15 Fizz opened and given to uncle. (6)
17 Overweight without a way of describing vigorous impact. (6)
19 Illegally take most of 24 and most of this whole enterprise. (8)
22 Text emperor delivers off the cuff with a sinister twist in the tail. (2,7)
23 How you arrived at 4 and 20 perhaps. (5)
24 Time period when part of clan was evicted may still generate fiery response. (5)
25 Preserved from long ago I throw up in unimaginative surroundings. (9)
26 Perhaps Peter advertises unproductive investment opportunities. (7,7)

DOWN
1 I’m poet’s help. She conjures up a devilish character. (14)
2 Wild female to smarm up over monster home. (7)
3 Fashionable secret, regularly powering no reaction. (5)
4 Window framing a Christian. (8)
5 Shows compassion with a hint of solace and a loving gesture. (6)
6 Indication of location of warning and assertion of consequence. (9)
7 Outperform with shy indication of pot. (7)
8 Destitution with Donald gone. (14)
9 “I am a fairy” – Expression of heritance or traditional rule? (8)
10 Famous incompetent? (7)
11 God cut short chaotic departure leaving semi-precious stone. (7)
12 He throws and drops coloured balls. (6)
13 Macho Irish envelop traditional Welsh assembly. (5)
A PERFECTLY DREADFUL CAMPAIGN

WORDS
ROY WILLIAMS
(BA '84 LLB '86)

Last year’s federal election was among the strangest in our history. Australians were bitterly and almost evenly divided: the final result not determined in Labor’s favour until nearly three weeks after polling day. Six months on, and several books later, it’s timely to assess what happened, and to remind ourselves of the crucial role of this university in our national life, because remarkable numbers of key figures in the 2010 election are alumni of the University.

The Leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott (BEc ‘79, LLB ‘81), got his start in the rugged arena of student politics. He battled his way to the Presidency of the Student Representative Council, no mean feat for a conservative, and it proved an omen of things to come. In the ballot of 1 December 2009 for the leadership of the federal parliamentary Liberal Party – probably the pivotal event in Australian politics since the 2007 election – Abbott prevailed by one vote over then-incumbent Malcolm Turnbull (BA ’77 LLB ’78) and the amiable Shadow Treasurer, Joe Hockey (BA LLB ’90).

On the Labor side, Kevin Rudd (ANU) and Julia Gillard (University of Melbourne) received their tertiary education elsewhere. But many important players can be counted as alumni, including David Bradbury (BA ‘97 LLB (Hons) ’99), member for the bellwether western Sydney seat of Lindsay. Chalk in, as well, the pugnacious former leader Mark Latham (BEc ’83), who caused such a stir as a “special reporter” for Channel Nine’s 60 Minutes.

The roll call continues with Greens’ leader Bob Brown (MBBS ’86) and rural independent Rob Oakeshott (BA (Hons) ’98), whose impassioned, lengthy announcement on 9 September 2010 confirmed that Labor would stay in office.

Then there are High Court justices Dyson Heydon (BA ’64 LLD ’07), Susan Crennan (LLB ’79) and Virginia Bell (LLB ’77). The Court’s decision on 6 August 2010 in Rowe v Electoral Commissioner, declaring invalid certain provisions of the Electoral Act introduced by the Howard Government in 2006, re-enfranchised about 100,000 voters and probably helped Labor get over the line.

The list includes some heavy-hitters in the media. The Sydney Morning Herald’s David Marr (BA ’68 LLB ’71), author of a damaging profile of Rudd (“Power Trip”) in the first Quarterly Essay of 2010. So too the veteran Laurie Oakes (BA ’66), recipient of high-level Labor leaks in the early stages of the campaign, and the redoubtable Phillip Adams (DLitt (honoris causa) ’05) to whom, a week or so later, Rudd poured out his heart on ABC Radio National.

Two other names belong on this imposing list, those of authors Bob Ellis and Mungo Wentworth MacCallum (BA ’63). Both attended Sydney around the same time as other national icons-to-be – Germaine Greer, Clive James, Les Murray and John Bell among them. (Ellis, never actually graduated!)

Both MacCallum and Ellis are consummate – and prolific – prose stylists. Whatever else they got up to on campus, they learned to write. Each has penned a highly entertaining account of the 2010 campaign. MacCallum’s Punch and Judy (BlackInc) is distinguished by his droll wit and comprehensive knowledge of Australian political history. The book gives every appearance of having been effortlessly dashed off; once a doyen of the Canberra press gallery, MacCallum now lives contentedly on the NSW North Coast.

On balance, MacCallum’s distance from the day-to-day hurly-burly of politics was an advantage. He confesses late in the book that he regarded the prospect of an Abbott government as “the stuff of febrile nightmare”, but, for the most part, he maintains a wry detachment. His judgments are fair and sensible.

Ellis’ Suddenly, Last Winter (Penguin) is a different animal. For a start, unlike MacCallum, Ellis frequently turned up in person at key events. The book is written as a diary, in the style of Hunter S Thompson. It’s a bizarrely eclectic mix of fine socio-political commentary, trenchant invective and personal gossip and reminiscence.

Ellis is an unabashed Labor groupie. (Disclosure: he’s also a personal friend in whose boisterous company I sat through election night.) But his views are a hotch-potch: he regularly excoriates Gillard (“evasive, wayward” and “a political drongo”) and exhibits decidedly mixed feelings about Rudd (“a f***ing sententious pest … and yet, and yet, a humble upward-striving man of decency and probity and worth”). He admires both Wayne Swan and Bob Katter.
As is now notorious, Ellis’ opinion of Abbott the man is surprisingly favourable (“assured, skilful, plausible and handsome”). At page 214 he issues a caution, as much to himself as the reader: “It is time, therefore, to look at his policies, lest we be too tempted to vote for him.”

By comparison, Barrie Cassidy and Paul Howes are pedestal writers. But both are genuine political insiders, with some fascinating insights. Cassidy is a distinguished broadcaster, and was once press secretary to Bob Hawke; Howes, the head of the Australian Workers Union, played a significant role in Rudd’s overthrow. (Neither went to university, by the way, let alone Sydney; both attended local state high schools, at, respectively, Rutherglen in country Victoria and Blaxland in the Blue Mountains. Howes left in Year 9.)

The central thesis of Cassidy’s The Party Thieves (MUP) is that Rudd and Malcolm Turnbull were both fish out of water on their own side of politics. Each had “a manic desire to get his own way”. Eventually – and, terrifyingly towards many people, and in that sense “deserved” his fate. But he had led a dignified and mostly competent government (“a lot better than fair”, as MacCallum puts it). Despite his ill-advised decision to shelve the Emissions Trading Scheme, and the ham-fisted introduction of the mining tax, his and the Government’s opinion poll ratings remained reasonable.

In any case, the electorate ought to have been the judge. For what it’s worth, I share the view of John Howard (LLB ’61) that Rudd would have won easily. In March he thrashed Abbott in their only one-on-one debate, on health.

Third, the election campaign was ghastly. The 24-hour news cycle now forces editors to publish daily assessments of every single comment, move, or rumour. By the time the campaign was over, we had become experts in the “bogan vote” on issues of race, a sad and unseemly spectacle that all four authors rightly denounce. Howes’ recurring treatment of this issue is the best thing about his book.

Finally, beyond trivial point scoring about alleged waste in Labor’s school-buildings program, there was little mature discussion about education policy – tertiary education, especially. This was a great shame, if unsurprising, and it makes you wonder whether any of our post-Rudd leaders properly appreciate the importance of the issue. Sydney alumni have no excuse.

Roy Williams is a lawyer and author. His most recent book is God, Actually.
1950s

MARIE COLEMAN (BA ’53 DipSocStud ’57) is the ACT’s Senior Australian of the Year 2011. She was a public servant in the Whitlam and the Fraser governments; the first woman to head a Commonwealth Government statutory agency, and the first woman to hold the powers of permanent head under the Public Service Act. She was founding Secretary of the National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW) and was on the board of directors that established the Australian Women’s Archives Project. She currently chairs the Social Policy Committee of the NFAW, which has played a leadership role for national women’s organisations in research and analysis of the impacts of the former WorkChoices and Welfare to Work policies on women. Marie spearheaded the campaign, which resulted in the establishment of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into a national paid maternity, paternity and parental leave scheme. She is currently leading a national project with the National Women’s Alliance promoting the expansion of affordable rental housing.

MICHAEL KIRBY AC CMG (BA ’59 LLB ’62 LLB ’66 LLM ’67 LLD ’96) (pictured above) former judge of the High Court of Australia, and Associate Professor Ben Saul of the Sydney Centre for International Law, visited Bhutan in December 2010 at the invitation of the Chief Justice of Bhutan, Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye.

Mr Kirby and Dr Saul gave a series of lectures and seminars, which explored Bhutan’s new Constitution from a comparative perspective and were attended by many judges from the newly restructured Supreme Court, High Court and Dzongkhag (District) courts of Bhutan. Government ministers also attended Mr Kirby’s opening lecture.

The seminars examined the Bhutanese Constitution in the light of constitutional practices and jurisprudence in a range of jurisdictions (India, South Africa, Australia, Britain, the United States and Europe); addressing issues such as the separation of powers and the rule of law; judicial power and non-justiciability; standing in constitutional litigation; prerogative and executive powers; principles of constitutional interpretation; the relevance of international and foreign law; the interpretation of fundamental rights and principles of state policy; and national security and public emergency powers.

Bhutan adopted a new Constitution in 2008, after the 4th Dragon King (the Druk Gyalpo), Jigme Singye Wangchuck, initiated a national consultation on its drafting in 2001. More than 100 foreign constitutions were reviewed and 20 selected as particularly relevant. Attention was also given to incorporating Bhutan’s international law obligations, particularly under human rights treaties, as well as Buddhist philosophies and it further refers to duties to respect the environment, culture, heritage and diversity; mentioning Bhutan’s famous policy of pursuing “Gross National Happiness”.

LES SULLIVAN (BA ’50) won second prize in the 2008 RAAF Heritage Awards (Literature) for Proceed on Posting, A RAAF Education Journey 1952-1974, a sequel to his Not To Be Shot At Or Exported, which was awarded first prize in the 1994 competition. In it Les, then a primary teacher, describes his three years as an evening Arts student 1947 to 1949 of the post-war cohort and the career door as an education officer in the RAAF that his degree opened. Les is a long-time member of Writers of the Far South Coast and has contributed many articles to journals and writers’ anthologies.

1960s

BDS CLASS OF 1960 reunion dinner (pictured right) was held at the Women’s College in an atmosphere of remarkable congeniality. Alumnus Graham Pearlman writes that it was “a reflection of the bonds formed during the undergraduate dental program, one which was both intensive and of relatively small class size (44). “The classmates submitted bio’s, which reflected a consistency of long and productive professional lives. The undergraduate training of SU not only provided a platform for professional fulfilment and personal reward, but enabled many years of collective service to the community.

“It was notable that, having achieved their BDS, almost all found their life’s occupation within Dentistry, and ‘opting out’ or switching to other fields has been virtually non-existent. A high proportion of the graduates of BDS 1960 have undertaken further study to specialise in clinical practice or academic teaching; many of the group, while pursuing Dentistry as their principal occupation, have been involved in diverse interests, often in community service or professional societies.”
1970s

DENNIS A AHLBURG (BEc’73) is an internationally respected economist and in October 2010 was celebrated at his inauguration as 18th president of Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas.

1980s

DAPHNE HOWIE (BA ’80) (pictured above) has had many Sydney exhibitions of her paintings depicting her travels to places such as Peru and China. However, she will be exhibiting outside Sydney for the first time to show her works depicting Aboriginal communities in remote locations in the Northern Territory.

Daphne’s paintings, some realistic and some expressionistic, show contemporary Aboriginal life in remote communities as they actually are – looking for bush tucker, kids playing in water, cutting dugongs to share among families. These paintings are not idealised, but slices of genuine Australia as seen by the artist in her travels around remote Australia.

Landscape, Community and Memory at Peta Appleyard Gallery, Alice Springs from 6-20 May 2011.

1990s

MIMI FONG (BA ’95 LLB ’97) practised law for a year and a half before moving into the legal recruitment profession, specialising in relocating lawyers around the world to the major global law firms. After forging a successful recruitment career over a decade and building up an extensive network of contacts, I set up my own international recruitment business in 2008 called Amicas Global, a high end consultancy which recruits lawyers, HR and marketing/BD professionals to the leading international law firms worldwide – www.amicasglobal.com. Our most exciting news however is the recent launch of the Amicas Global...
Coaching business, offering life/business/leadership/career coaching to individuals and companies. We utilise very specific techniques in Neuro-Linguistic Programming, Time Line Therapy and Hypnotherapy; all our coaches are certified in these areas and we guarantee our results.

2000s

DR REUBEN BOLT (PhD ‘10) (pictured above) is the first indigenous student to graduate with a doctorate from the Faculty of Health Sciences. Deputy Chancellor and Fellow of Senate Alan Cameron presided in an exciting event for the Faculty, with four visiting academics who were significant in Dr Bolt’s journey joining the academic procession: Professor Chris Cunningham, Massey University, Wellington NZ; Professor Gavin Mooney, based in Western Australia; Associate Professor Susan Page, Head of Department of Indigenous Affairs, Macquarie University; and Ms Sally Farrington, University of Tasmania, School of Human Life Sciences, Rozelle Campus. Both Dr Page and Ms Farrington were previously FHS academic staff at Yooroang Garang, Cumberland campus.

Members of Dr Bolt’s family were in the front row for the occasion – his wife, three-year-old daughter, newborn son, both parents, his aunty, two sisters and 82-year-old grandmother. Also with the family as personal friends were Professor Cunningham’s wife and daughter who came from New Zealand for the graduation.

Dr Bolt has accepted a position at UNSW.

GANESH SAHATHEVAN (LLM ’03) is a Fellow at the American Center for Democracy, a researcher and reporter from Sydney, Australia who focuses on South East Asian business, economic and politics. This work has led him into research of structures that support terrorist and jihadist activities in the region, and their links to similar structures in other parts of the world. Ganesh investigated financial mismanagement in Malaysia prior to the financial crisis in the ‘90s.

Professor Ron McCallum was named Senior Australian of the Year in the Australia Day 2011 Honours List.

“I am greatly honoured to be Senior Australian of the Year and I am grateful to the University, which appointed me to a full professorship in 1993 as the first totally blind person to be appointed to such a position in either Australia or New Zealand,” Professor McCallum said.

Professor McCallum was the University’s foundation Professor in Industrial Law and he served five years as Dean of Law from 2002. He is currently an Honorary Professor at the Sydney Law School. He plans to use his position as Senior Australian of the Year to change the attitudes of Australians to disability.

Australia Day honours were awarded to more than 60 staff and alumni including:

- Honorary Professor of Medicine. For distinguished service to medicine in the field of neurology as an academic, researcher and mentor, to improving the lives of people with multiple sclerosis, and to medical education.
- Professor John William Prineas – Honorary Professor of Medicine. For distinguished service to medicine in the field of neurology as an academic, researcher and mentor, to improving the lives of people with multiple sclerosis, and to medical education.
- Professor Roger Smalley – Honorary Research Associate, Sydney Conservatorium of Music. For service to the arts as a composer, concert pianist, educator, mentor of emerging musicians and advocate for Australian and international new music.
- Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia
- Professor Ben Friedman – Professor of Cardiology and Deputy Dean, Sydney Medical School. For service to medicine as a clinician, educator and researcher.
18 MARCH
Medical Alumni Reunion
Graduating Year of 1953
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli, 11:30am for 12 noon.
Further information, please contact John Cashman on + 61 2 9416 3960 or at johncash@msn.com.au

19 MARCH
Medical Alumni Reunion
Graduating Year of 1981
The Great Hall. For further information, please contact Graeme Doherty at Graeme.doherty@live.com.au

3 APRIL
Japan in Sydney
University Art Gallery
Arthur Lindsay Sadler (1882-1970), Professor of Oriental Studies at the University from 1922-47, was instrumental in promoting Japanese art, language, architecture and interior and garden design in Australia. The exhibition features the University’s extensive collection of Japanese modernist prints and the work of prominent Australian and European artists. To 25 June 2011.

3 APRIL
Dean's Reception
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Join Professor Duncan Ivison at this special alumni event in the Great Hall. Further information please contact Kate MacFarlane at kate.macfarlane@sydney.edu.au

11 APRIL
Golden Graduates Luncheon
The Great Hall, 12-3pm
Three course luncheon including entertainment and an address by the Vice-Chancellor. Open to all pre-1961 alumni and their friends; $75 per head. For further information and booking, visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/golden or contact the Events Office on + 61 2 9369 9278 or alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au

12 APRIL
Western NSW Alumni Reception
School of Rural Health, Dubbo, 6-8pm
Hosted by the Vice-Chancellor. For further information, please visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/westernnsw

15 MAY
Pharmacy Alumni Picnic in the Park
Bicentennial Park, Homebush, Sydney, 11.30am-3pm
For further information please contact Jo Bilous on + 61 2 9351 7829 or at jo.bilous@sydney.edu.au

17 MAY
Vet Science Alumni Reception
Sebel Playford Hotel, Adelaide
For further information please contact Skaidy Gulbis on + 61 2 8627 1006 or at skaidy.gulbis@sydney.edu.au

30 MAY
Reconciliation Week Flag Raising Ceremony and “Sea of Hands” Celebration
The Front Lawns at the University, 12.30-2pm
All alumni are invited to attend a Flag Raising Ceremony to celebrate Reconciliation Week at the University, and to plant a hand in the Sea of Hands. Refreshments provided. For further information please contact the Events Office on 02 9351 8627 or at alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au

1 JUNE
Canberra Alumni Reception
High Court of Australia, Canberra, 6-8pm
Hosted by the Vice-Chancellor with the Canberra Alumni Association. For further information please visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/canberra

14 JULY
UK Alumni Association Summer Reception
The National Gallery Barry Rooms, Trafalgar Square, London, 6.30-8.30pm
Further information please contact the Events Office on 02 9351 8627 or at alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au

4-7 AUGUST
SUGUNA Annual Conference
University of British Columbia (UBC) campus, Vancouver, Canada.
Including a wide range of speakers and social events. From $C55 to $C183. Further information: contact Robert Bear at ro.bear45@gmail.com or Gillian Beattie at gbeattie@ucsd.edu or visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/suguna/conference

OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS
Active alumni chapters in the UK, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong and the US, as well as Canberra and Victoria, run social events on a regular basis. All alumni and friends are welcome to attend. For information visit alumni.sydney.edu.au/chapters.
Interested in starting up your own local chapter or online group? Contact Andrea Beannard in the Alumni Relations Office on 02 9351 1963 or at andrea.beannard@sydney.edu.au

ALUMNI REUNIONS
There are numerous Alumni Reunions being held throughout the year. Please visit the event pages at sydney.edu.au/alumni for more information. If you would like help arranging your own reunion, email: assistant@sydney.edu.au
Dr Michael Biercuk, a quantum physicist in the School of Physics at the University of Sydney, attempts to harness the quantum mechanics to deliver new technological capabilities.

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Ede de Waart conductor

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**EMIRATES METRO SERIES**
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**SAT 9 APR 2PM**
**RACHMANINOFF Symphony No.3**
**MON 11 APR 7PM**

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Joyce Yang piano

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**SAT 7 MAY 7PM**
**SUN 8 MAY 2PM**
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**Sydney Philharmonia Choirs**
**Sydney Children’s Choir**

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Lang Lang in Recital

**10 & 11 JUNE 8PM**
Lang Lang plays Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No.2

**14 JUNE 8PM**
Lang Lang plays Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1

www.syneysymphony.com/2011/langlang

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