RESOURCES
SQUANDERING AUSTRALIA’S MINERAL WEALTH

SUMMER SYDNEY FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

MARC NEWSON TANZANIA INDIGENOUS ART CAMOUFLAGE
Babel (words)
Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui / Damien Jalet / Antony Gormley
Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay, January 9-11, 13-14

Beautiful Burnout
Frantic Assembly and National Theatre of Scotland
York Theatre, Seymour Centre, January 18-22, 24-29

Assembly
Chunky Move and Victorian Opera
City Recital Hall Angel Place, January 11-14

‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore
Cbeek by Jowl
Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay, January 17-21

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LETTERS

BOOK BARN BETTER
Throwing out books is not something that enthuses me. Years ago, in Harvard’s law library, I dug through some law reports of the early 19th century which had been so little read that the shelf had dropped on to them and dust covered my shirt as I read. Yet the cases I read showed the origins of limited liability came from case law on contract, not from Companies Acts.

Another time, at Berkelouw's in Berrima, I came across the memoir of a press secretary to five Victorian Premiers, which had been thrown out by UNSW Library, perhaps because it had had only one borrowing in 15 years. Yet it was a mine of information on Victorian politics from the '30s to the '90s. Not everything is, or will be put or kept, on the internet. Libraries exist to preserve unread treasures as well as today's academically fashionable tomes. Better to spend money on a barn in the country to store books than just throw them out.

Dr Terry Dwyer (BA '70 BEc '74)
Canberra ACT

The University Library has advised that all titles purchased or used in the past five years will remain in the Fisher Library. After academic consultation, all lower use duplicate copies will be removed from the collection, offered to the University community then sold through the Book Fair. For more information see the Library’s website or contact Acting University Librarian Su Hanfling: su.hanfling@sydney.edu.au

REMEMBER TOM O’MAHONY
I have some personal connection to this Library as my father, also a University of Sydney architecture graduate, was an architect on the project. It was a time of his life he liked to remember, as it was obviously a stimulating and exciting project.

However, over the years the original design architect for the project, Tom O’Mahony, seems to have been written out of the Library’s history. The Sulman Medal, which the building won, was awarded to both Tom and to the Government Architect (represented by Ken Woolley). Tom was in fact the lead designer of the first stage of the design, and responsible for the overall design philosophy of the building. This is in no way to downplay Ken Woolley’s significant contribution to the project, but I do believe that it is beholden upon the Library to properly acknowledge the role that Tom O’Mahony played in its design. Recent histories focus exclusively on Woolley, without any reference to O’Mahony.

I do need to declare that my father later joined Tom in practice, and worked with him for many years. Tom is now long since dead. I am probably biased, given my late father’s great affection for it, but I always found Fisher, in terms of its architecture, to be a logical and well thought out building, particularly in comparison to other university libraries such as UNSW or Macquarie.

Richard Neville (BA ’84 MA ’89)
Mitchell Librarian
State Library of NSW, Sydney NSW

CUDGELS AT 20 PACES
There it was, staring cheekily back at me from the page. That creeping scourge, the pluralised kilometre designation: kms. I first sighted it on page 26 of the Nov 2010 SAM: a balloon had “climbed to 610m and traveled almost 5kms”. Aghast! The scourge had infected even so erudite a publication as SAM! Leaving aside the matter of the Americanisation of travelled, as any scientist knows, unit abbreviations in the metric system are never pluralised. (The designation “kms” means kilometre seconds, which I’m sure is not what was intended). And apparently the inconsistency of pluralising kilometres but not metres – nor centimetres, elsewhere on the same page – escaped the proofreading stage.

I thought it must be a one-off, but alas, the same error reappeared on the next page. And a couple of additional cases popped up in subsequent pages. Hmmm. It’s surely time for SAM to take up the cudgels and stamp out this epidemic scourge!

Peter Kruse (BSc (Hons) ’76 PhD ’81)
Second Valley SA

DANGER: TEAPOT
I’ve enjoyed the series of letters relating to belief or non-belief. I accept that an absolute proof of the non-existence of a non-existent entity is unavailable. Yetis, all the gods, leprechauns, Bertrand Russell’s china teapot and many other potential non-existent entities maybe out there. Using my possibly deluded senses, the lack of objective evidence, reason and logic, leads me to the judgement that the existence of all these entities isn’t plausible and highly improbable. There is a risk that my judgement may have been wrong. While bushwalking, a glowing teapot that has been displaced from its orbit could hit me. As risk-averse as I am, I continue to bushwalk.

Milton Pakes (BE ’69)
Normanhurst NSW
A MOTLEY CREW
Nic Angelov (Letters, March ’11) is correct in saying that there is nothing wrong with patriotism and that it belongs neither to the left nor the right but he omitted to describe the sort of country to which patriotic allegiance should be given. Over the years patriotism has been perverted in some countries, and one need only think of Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia as prime examples of regimes using patriotism to achieve their own objectives and incidentally illustrating Samuel Johnson’s aphorism that patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel.

A useful statement on Australian patriotism is included in Bob Carr’s essay Advance Australia Fair in his book Thoughtlines (2002). He says that there are three elements: “One is our response to the land itself. It is unique and beautiful. The second is the people, a motley people, an immigrant people, as diverse as any in the world. The third element is the unusual society which resulted from the interaction of that land and that people: a working democracy where the rule of law prevails, where the fairness of policies is the essence of the political debate”.

It is not a tight definition of Australian patriotism but I doubt whether that is possible in modern global society. Our vision of the country to which we owe allegiance depends to a large extent on our value systems. I think it is a positive that allegiance depends to a large extent on our vision of the country to which we owe allegiance.

James Moore (LLB ’55 MA ’72)
Kingsgrove NSW

TRANSFORMATIONAL BENEFACATION
In his overview of the history of philanthropic support for the University, Dr. Michael Spence fails to mention the major gift of $50,000 (equivalent to approximately A$2,000,000 in today’s dollars) to the University by Adolph Basser in 1954 to build Australia’s first digital computer. This was the catalyst for the successful design and development of the SYLLIAC computer. The Adolph Basser Computing Laboratory was established in the School of Physics in 1956. A generation of Australian scientists and engineers learned the rudiments of machine programming on the SYLLIAC machine and a diploma course in computing was introduced in 1961. We learn from the University’s historians, Connell, Sherrington, Fletcher, Turney and Bygott, that research and teaching in what was then called Computing Science had expanded to such an extent that the laboratory was given departmental status and the Basser Department of Computing Science was created in 1972. This Department moved out of the Physics Building into the Madsen Building in 1979, after it had been vacated by CSIRO.

In 2001, the Basser Department morphed into the present School of Information Technologies to reflect the breadth and depth of computing-related research and teaching undertaken by the School. It is presently housed in the modern glass and steel structure on Cleveland St. and is part of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies. Basser’s philanthropic act is a good exemplar of the transformational power of generosity.

Prof Joseph G Davis
School of Information Technologies
University of Sydney

RIGHT-WING BIAS AHOY
Michael Griggs in his prize-winning letter (July ’11) asserted a strong right-wing bias in the Australian media. However, I am intrigued by his example of the Courier Mail, published by News Ltd, that he claims has greatly influenced the voters of Queensland to be anti-ALP. Certainly, the Courier Mail is by far the dominant newspaper in Queensland and given this it seems strange, with all this right-wing bias being fed daily to its Queensland readers, the Queensland voters have returned an ALP Government for the past 10+ years. Perhaps these brainwashed voters do not vote in State elections?

John Wilson (BScAgr ’58 DSc ’95)
Chapel Hill QLD

BALANCE IS THE THING
Michael Griggs (Letters, July ’11) perceives right-wing bias in the media. On the other hand, I have perceived a left-wing bias. There are a few right-wing journalists, but the great majority of journalists are left-wing in their political outlook and this shows in their writings.

I think that a perception of political bias in the media depends to a great extent on your own viewpoint. The fact that some people complain of right-wing media bias and some complain of left-wing media bias suggests that the media is overall reasonably balanced.

Alan Templeman (BDS ’57)
Wyoming NSW

GROSS-OUT
The article by Karma Tshering (July ’11) was interesting but I nearly choked as I read all about Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness Index.

As an activist with Amnesty International, I was long ago alerted to the fact that Bhutan has a dark secret, when I became friends with a Bhutanese refugee. Who knows – or cares – that Bhutan has generated one of the highest numbers of refugees in the world in proportion to its population? Since 1991 over one-sixth of Bhutan’s people have sought asylum in Nepal, India and other countries around the world.

The vast majority of the refugees are Lhotshampas, one of Bhutan’s three main ethnic groups. There is evidence that the expulsion of large numbers of Lhotshampas (who are mainly Hindus) was planned and executed with meticulous attention to detail. Over 105,000 Bhutanese have spent more than 20 years living in refugee camps established in Nepal by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Not much happiness for these forgotten people.

Marie McInnes (PhD ’10)
University of Sydney
Cumberland Campus (Lidcombe)

THE WINNER
This issue’s prize-winning letter is “Cudgels at 20 Faces” from Peter Kruse of Second Valley SA. The prize for the best letter is Australian Poetry Since 1788, co-edited by Geoffrey Lehmann and Robert Gray for NewSouthBooks. The 1080-page anthology showcases Australian poetry – 170 poets in all – with the aim of interesting readers in the poets and their lives and times.
OMAN AND JORDAN: A JOURNEY THROUGH ARABIA
MARCH 22 – APRIL 8, 2012
$6,900 per person, twin share (land content only) $1,800 single supplement

East meets West as you journey from the Mediterranean to the shores of the Arabian Sea. The itinerary combines great archaeological sites, including Petra, with the spectacular landscape of the Arabian Desert and exotic cities such as Muscat and Salalah. Tour led by archaeologist Dr John Tidmarsh.

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APRIL 1-23, 2012
$6,995 per person, twin share (land content only) $1,450 single supplement

Experience a taste of the Persian Empire on this 21-day tour through Iran. The itinerary includes visits to the capital Tehran, three nights in Ahwaz, four nights exploring ancient Persepolis and Pasargad culminating in three nights in the UNESCO listed city of Esfahan. Tour led by archaeologist Toby Hartnell & Yalda Razmahang.

EASTERN TURKEY
MAY 6-21, 2012
$4,990 per person, twin share (land content only) $850 single supplement

Experience an exotic blend of nomadic central Asian cultures far away from the tourist crowds, as you visit remote Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman sites in Turkey’s South East and on the Black Sea. Tour led by archaeologist Toby Hartnell.

Academy Travel, one of Australia’s leading cultural travel companies, offers around 25 journeys each year. Our destinations include Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas. Each journey is led by an expert in archaeology, history or the arts, whose in-depth knowledge and passion for the destination will transform your travel experience. All tours include background talks, on-site information and detailed tour notes.
T here are some visitors who certainly make an impact and leave a lasting impression. So it was recently when the University had the immense pleasure and privilege of hosting the United Nations Secretary General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, on his recent trip to Australia. His visit to the campus was significant for a number of reasons – it was his only official public appearance while in the country and he chose the occasion to address an over-subscribed audience of students and senior staff.

Australia and the University of Sydney in particular have a special association with the UN, which began with the pivotal roles played by our alumni Herbert “Doc” Evatt and Jessie Street in the formation of the UN charter. Acknowledging our links, the seasoned diplomat had some encouraging words for our students: “this is a place that will produce the future leaders of our world.”

But it was Ban Ki-moon’s emphasis on the need for joint action by the international community to tackle the major issues facing the world, which really struck a chord. There could be no mistaking the message from the man who grew up in poverty and war in Korea. The sustainable development agenda is the agenda for the 21st century.

These 21st-century challenges are too big for any country or region to solve alone, he told us. “The future belongs to those who act together to advance our common values.” There was a need, he said, to “join the dots” and establish links between challenges such as climate change and water scarcity, energy shortages, global health issues, food insecurity and the empowerment of women.

We have a foundational commitment to many of the things the UN represents. The University shares many of the same values, aspirations and much of the DNA of the UN, with its global outlook, record of community service, and commitment to tackling world problems such as global health, food security and sustainability.

We are doing our best to join the dots. We have bold ambitions for our new multidisciplinary research centre for obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. There is no doubt this is an international issue which was the subject of a UN high-level meeting recently in New York, the first health-related UN summit since AIDS a decade ago.

Together, these diseases cause more than half of all deaths in low- and middle-income countries. We are intent on finding solutions to these major health issues and are currently engaged in international searches to find the best people possible. And by working with high profile initiatives such as Jamie Oliver’s Ministry of Food, now operating in Australia, we are helping to increase public awareness of this global epidemic.

By contrast, there’s no relief in sight for the world’s poor, with the price of staple foods remaining high, in fact 33 per cent more expensive than last year. As well as the desperate situation in the Horn of Africa, we find one of the most vulnerable regions is our own. According to researchers with the Food Security Program at our Centre for International Security Studies, Asia is not only home to the majority of the poor in the world, it is also home to the largest number of hungry people in the world. About 62 per cent of the world’s hungry live in the Asia-Pacific region.

Our Food Security Program is the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific. Its focus is on how political, economic, demographic and environmental pressures will impact on food supply and demand in the region over the next 20 to 30 years, with a close eye on the consequences for regional stability. Other projects at the Centre include research into depleting fish stocks in the Mekong Delta, foreign land acquisitions and the impact on local communities in the Philippines and Cambodia, as well as in African countries such as Kenya, and evaluating regional policies to deal with food insecurity in Asia.

Elsewhere we have leading experts working with international NGOs in a wide variety of fields including agriculture, soil security and remediation, disease, resistant wheat varieties, drought and salt-tolerant crops. The Sydney Centre for International Law is recognised as a leading research and policy centre in the Asia-Pacific region, and uses its expertise to inform public debates and law reform processes, including on areas of sustainability and food security policy areas.

These are just a few of the many examples of where we are collaborating closely with governments here and abroad and with key international agencies on the big global challenges. To borrow Ban Ki-moon’s challenge to our students, we aim to make a difference to help change the world.
The Axis of Awesome is currently two-thirds through an eight-month world tour, playing to sell-out audiences and huge enthusiasm, and their YouTube clips have scored millions of hits. Yet it’s probably their Facebook fans’ comments that give a real indication of their worldwide success.

“Please come and visit us in little Luxembourg!!” says one. “You guys need to come to Minnesota sometime!” And: “Come to the Czech Republic :))” Or, “Axis of Awesome to Denmark ASAP!” Plus “Can’t wait to see you in Hamburg, Germany! :))” And “You are the most awesomest band in the history of ever!”

The trio – Jordan Raskopoulos, Lee Naimo and Benny Davis – met while at the University and taking part in Theatre Sports. Raskopoulos was studying Physics and Naimo was doing Performance Studies alongside English and Film Studies. Although neither see their degree as leading to their current careers in comedy, Raskopoulos says that, “The University Union and being involved with things like Theatre Sports, SUDS and stand-up comedy on campus – and meeting people like Benny and Lee – did help”.

Naimo explains that, “Being able to play theatre sports without any training was invaluable. You just have a couple of workshops, meet some people and get a team together. That’s where I feel my comedy career started.” Raskopoulos concludes: “University is very much about community as well as education. And if you combine both of those you will have a rich and fulfilling tertiary education”.

It was a bit different for Davis, who studied Music. “It’s kind of half-and-half for me. There were a lot of things I was learning in my degree which gave me these valuable skills like improv and ear training ... but all the things I got into which have helped me towards a career in comedy have been extracurricular.” He also mentions theatre sports and, “Being able to play TV theme tunes got me involved with the revues and in comedy.”

It was those campus comedy shows that brought the three together. “Me and Jordan were performing, with Benny as the improvising musician, for every show we seemed to play”, explains Naimo. “It got to the point where we wanted to do something different and I saw Benny doing the four-chord song at a rehearsal and I said you should come and join my band and ride on my coat-tails!”

They have recently released their first proper album, Animal Vehicle, and played their fourth Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

“We’ve been building year on year,” says lead vocalist Raskopoulos. “We were originally playing rooms of mostly ghosts”. Says guitarist Naimo, “It still counts as sold-out if you have two people and 98 ghosts though.” And keyboard player Davis confirms, “So pretty much every show we’ve ever done there sold out”. □
Shane Houston has learnt to be wary of grand plans for advancing Aboriginal Australia.

The 35-year veteran of the Aboriginal health sector, who is the University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Indigenous Strategy and Services, has watched previous governments launch ambitious schemes to combat the multifactorial problem of Aboriginal disadvantage.

Despite good intentions, he says, the plans often fall short because they try to do too much at once.

“We frequently try to do a little bit of everything everywhere, and that can weaken our ability to bring about real change because we spread ourselves too thinly,” he says. “The evidence tell us that if we are to be effective, it is better to concentrate on a small and definite number of key areas first and do them really well.”

Now, the former activist is putting that philosophy into practice in his role as an independent adviser to the NSW government’s new Ministerial Taskforce for Aboriginal Affairs. The panel is focused on two clear goals: more jobs and more educational opportunities for Aboriginal people.

“This is a deliberate emphasis on the aspirational aspects of what we need to address,” said the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Victor Dominello, at the launch of the taskforce on 25 August. “These two areas have been identified as vital to achieving generational change.”

Intervening at the “front end of the lifecycle”, he added, is also the best way to keep young people out of the juvenile justice system and combat child abuse in Aboriginal communities.

The taskforce is chaired by Minister Dominello and brings high-profile Aboriginal leaders together with senior government officials including the Treasurer, the Attorney General and the health and education ministers.

“The fact you’ve got a third of the cabinet there means they are approaching this in a serious way,” says Professor Houston. “It’s a group of people that have responsibility for shaping the core decisions of government.

“I know how hard it can be to get Aboriginal people at that senior ministerial table, and the fact that we are there to help shape the debate is a watershed.”

One priority for Professor Houston on the taskforce will be to grow the pipeline of Aboriginal students moving into higher education: in 2009, for example, just nine Indigenous young people in NSW received an ATAR score between 95 and 100.

Remedying the situation would likely draw on a range of strategies, he says, from strengthening youth services to ensuring that Aboriginal students are supported in making informed subject choices in high school.

Bringing role models to meet students, such as Rabbitohs Ben Ross and Rhys Wesser is also on the agenda.

“There are simply too few Aboriginal people completing high school at levels that allow them to easily progress to higher education,” he says. “If we can fix this and get students completing university, they will become the new generation of professionals that will lead our community.”

One of the challenges to policy innovations, however, will be getting disparate government departments working together. Government initiatives are typically structured in silos, with education programs usually developed separately from employment programs – despite the fact that both are closely linked. Gaining collaboration between the various sectors can be difficult, says Professor Houston, due to the historic structures of bureaucracy and its processes.

Departments can also be guarded about cooperation due to tensions over who will resource programs and be held accountable for their success or failure. Finding ways to make the boundaries between bureaucratic departments more porous will be a priority.

While its focus is education and jobs, the panel will not ignore other critical issues affecting Aboriginal people, such as criminal justice, housing, youth and family services, and of course health – an area which is closely linked to employment, since people who have a job tend to be more healthy.

Whatever policy recommendations the taskforce makes when it releases its report in mid-2012, Professor Houston is keen to ensure they are based firmly on hard data.

“I’m particularly interested in getting evidence embedded in how we approach complex social questions,” he explains. “I want us to be honest enough to look at the quality of evidence for a particular proposal and say, is this based on my gut feeling or is it drawn from a very strong empirical study?”

Evidence-based policy is the key to making well-informed decisions about where money is spent on Aboriginal programs, he says, and creating real change.

“As a friend of mine always says to me, if we implement simply what we already know, we would fix 80 per cent of the problems.”
For the first time in its 49-year history, eight Indigenous science scholars participated in the Professor Harry Messel International Science School which honours excellence and aims to encourage talented Year 11 and 12 students to pursue careers in all areas of science. Since 2005 at least five scholarships have been offered to Indigenous science scholars as part of the ISS to encourage these talented students to go on to tertiary study and to work in science related areas.

Professor Clive Baldock, Head, School of Physics, initiated the increase in places for the 36th gathering of the Professor Harry Messel ISS - Light & Matter (ISS 2011), saying that it is important to ensure talented Indigenous students are acknowledged and encouraged. “We are very enthusiastic in the School of Physics to increase the number of Indigenous students studying science. The eight students who attended the International Science School really appreciated the opportunity they were given.”

The eight Year 11 and 12 students, who came from all over Australia, explored everything from photonics to particle physics, astronomy, biology, chemistry and engineering as part of the ISS2011. They were very excited about being awarded the scholarships and enjoyed spending two weeks on the Sydney campus, learning about the diversity of science while making new friends from different cultures and countries.

Rebekah Raymond (above), an Indigenous science scholar from the 2009 International Science School, and a current science/law undergraduate at the University, acted as an ISS2011 “staffie” (ISS alumni who volunteer to help the current cohort with tertiary level science and act as mentors).

“The ISS changed my life,” says Raymond. “After the ISS2009 I went back to Humpty Doo and focused on doing the best I could to get into Sydney Uni. Now I’m here and it’s great. I tell my brothers and friends back home to work hard so their dreams will come true too.”

Joelene Puntoriero, from Noonamah in the Northern Territory, was especially delighted with her time at the ISS. She was chosen from 150 of the world’s top secondary school science students to receive the coveted Mulpha Leadership Award, inaugurated by Mulpha Australia in 2005.

The award criteria state it should be presented to the ISS scholar who has shown not only a good understanding of science but who has also shown diplomacy across all cultures and an ability to bring people together.

A student at Taminmin College in Humpty Doo, Puntoriero said she was “surprised and delighted” to win the award. She was also happy to spend a media day with Dr Karl Kruszelnicki AM (MBBS ’87), “My friend was listening to Triple J radio in Darwin and she couldn’t believe it when she heard me. She called all our friends to tell them I was on the radio. It was pretty cool.”

Nick Radoll and Jineecka Klenka, both from the ACT, were also impressed with the ISS. “You get to do things you’ve never done before. It’s a great program. I’m thinking about being a doctor but it’s good to see what options are out there,” said Radoll, in an interview with Gadigal Radio host Paulette Whitton.

Klenka agrees, “My family aren’t that interested in science but they encourage me because they know I really love it. I’ve really enjoyed spending time with people who just ‘get’ science.”

The ISS scholars attend from all over Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Thailand, the UK and the USA. They take part in a variety of science activities and challenges, all planned to honour excellence in these talented students and help them to realise their scientific potential.

The ISS2011 also featured renowned scientists who donated their time to lecture. These included Dr Karl Kruszelnicki AM, Professor Sir John Pendry, the invisibility pioneer, Professor Allan Clark, Director of the Department of Nuclear Science and Particle Physics at the University of Geneva, Professor Fred Watson AM, astronomer, and ABC science journalist, Robyn Williams AM.

The ISS, funded by the Science Foundation for Physics and run in the School of Physics at the University, is a free science education program that is held biennially in July. The ISS will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2012. For more information on the Science Foundation for Physics visit www.physics.usyd.edu.au/foundation/
BLINDED BY VISION: LAMENTING LEADERSHIP

WORDS PAUL PORTEOUS (BeC ’85 LLB ’88)

Are children behind razor wire, growing inequality and crumbling infrastructure really part of someone’s vision? I would hope not, but, like a bad day at the beach, we seem to be caught in a rip that draws us towards these inevitable outcomes. In the wash-up of federal and state elections, many people lament that our politicians lack vision and leadership.

However, elections are rarely about vision or leadership; the “vision” is to get elected. To do that, politicians promise to fulfill expectations, and offer reassurance in an uncertain world. They simply reflect our desire for quick solutions – preferably ones that inconvenience us the least. This is not vision, it is just politics.

Real vision is the journey of working out how we get things right. I have a vision that Australians have the capacity to take on the harder issues such as indigenous inequality, poverty, climate change, abuse and violence. Vision is the point from where we start; it is the beginning of the engagement, not the destination.

Exercising “social leadership” in a changing environment is like being an early explorer; tracking through terrain for which there are no maps, or journeying across the oceans or deserts, uncertain of the destination. On one hand, preparation is everything – exploring the extremes of the Antarctic obviously requires a very different set of skills and equipment than traversing the Sahara. However, that preparation may lead to assumptions that limit our flexibility to deal with new situations.

In 1844, Charles Sturt’s vision convinced him that an inland sea and rich grazing lands existed in the centre of Australia. His expedition set off from Adelaide with 300 sheep and a whaling boat. A year later, Sturt was understandably despondent as his team found only desert after carrying the boat more than 1000 kilometres. Sturt’s “vision” led to disaster for his expedition, with many succumbing to scurvy, sickness and death. Suffering failing eyesight, Sturt himself was literally blinded by his vision.

Sturt could easily have been a modern manager. His approach was rational and evidence-based – after all, the rivers flowed inland and the migratory geese flew inland. He employed best practice in exploration, and Sturt and his team were also on performance bonuses, if successful.

Ironically, even as the hopelessness of their quest loomed, his companions kept reassuring Sturt that his vision was sound. They continued to seek his favour by claiming to have heard water birds or seen signs of water on the horizon. They told him what he wanted to hear and dutifully marched on, despite their diaries revealing that they had long given up hope. Sturt considered the boat one of the most important assets of his expedition but, in the end, it was a burden when faced with the reality of the desert. His conviction that an inland sea existed, and the “yes” men surrounding him, meant he became blind to evidence that contradicted his vision. Many CEOs or Minister’s office has operated along the same dynamics as Sturt’s party, their vision blinding them to reality and ending in disaster.

Through learning and discovery, we now know that there is no inland sea. Satellites and advanced mapping have provided us with new ways of seeing the land and understanding climate. However, on difficult issues we are still like Sturt wandering in the desert.

We have conquered our geographical borders but not our social ones. We are still social explorers – with all the dangers and opportunities that this brings. As we contemplate critical issues around climate change, poverty and inequality, we must do better than end up with our heads in our hands in the middle of the desert as reality catches up. Unlike Sturt’s companions, we need to draw attention to failing policies, regardless of political origin or convenience. Social leadership requires more than dutifully marching on, despite having long given up hope. It also requires more than our national pastime of just waiting for a hero, a new government or a magical breakthrough to emerge.

Unfortunately, much of the leadership practice in Australia avoids tackling difficult underlying problems. On social issues, far from being a nation of innovators, Australians are proactively apathetic.

Confronting these issues through exercising social leadership is an opportunity to bring a fresh perspective to messy issues from which others are fleeing. The trauma of people currently facing conflict, poverty and inequality is passed on from generation to generation. The values which initially helped build a nation might actually retard its progress, as the environment changes and new threats and opportunities emerge. Simply allowing systems to replicate themselves will not provide an answer. Rather, leadership requires that we intervene in systems, to make them more resilient and at the same time more responsive, not only to the challenges we currently face but also for those yet to arise.

The full article was published in the Public Administration Today journal. It can be found at http://www.social-leadership.org/Publications.html

Paul Porteous is Executive Director of the Centre for Social Leadership (www.social-leadership.org).
AESTHETICS OF THE SUBLIME
For months, Rachel Couper (BDes (Arch) ’09) and Ivana Kuzmanovska (BDes (Arch) ’09) had been collaborating on the design of a new venue for the Sydney Festival as part of their Master of Architecture degree.

After some false starts, they had come up with a bold plan for a Buckminster Fuller-inspired dome, which would house a 200-seat live performance space. Then, three days before their proposal was due, Ivana loaded up the USB drive containing their designs – only to discover the data had been corrupted and all their work was lost.

“I said the only thing we can do is just keep calm and carry on,” Rachel recalls. And so, the next morning, the women started from scratch on their plans. By working round the clock, they were able to recreate the entire structure from memory in just 48 hours.

Rachel now believes that the remake was a blessing in disguise because it stripped away unnecessary detail from their design. “I read that when Tim Winton wrote Dirt Music, he threw it in the bin and then rewrote what he could remember by hand,” she says. “It was a bit like that. We lost everything, but did that mean that what remained was essential?”

Now the final work, entitled The Spritz, has been chosen to form part of the Youtopia exhibition, a display of 30 models and blueprints for performance spaces developed by Digital Architecture Research Studio students for the 2012 Sydney Festival. The exhibition showcases how advanced digital technology is being incorporated into architectural design, with students using 3D modelling and computer scripting environments, and producing prototypes in the Architecture Faculty’s Digital Fabrication Lab. Proposed new venues were created for a number of Festival sites across the city, including the University of Sydney Quadrangle.

The Spritz is designed to be assembled opposite the Famous Spiegeltent in Hyde Park at the start of the Festival and then quickly dismantled afterwards, like the Spiegeltent itself. Its load-bearing structure is composed of 420 interlocking wooden modules arranged in a dome shape derived from the geometry of an icosahedron.

But the most memorable feature of the structure is its mirrored surface, made up of galvanized steel cones, which distort the images of onlookers like kaleidoscopes and also offer reflected glimpses of the performances inside. “Our aim was to create architecturally what Michel Foucault talks about as a heterotopia,” explains Ivana, “a place that reflects other worlds within it.”

For Lindy Hume, artistic director of the Sydney Festival, the design evokes the feeling of being inside a champagne glass. “It’s the one we fell in love with because it responds to the energy and the bubbly feeling that is part of Sydney,” she says. “It has a ‘come and enter me’ vibe: if you are looking at it from the outside, all you want to do is go in – and possibly have a drink!”

SYDNEY FESTIVAL
Another otherworldly structure created for the Youtopia exhibition is Phosphorescence of the Sea by Sean Bryen (BDes (Arch) ’09). The installation was inspired by a camping trip to the NSW coastal town of Hawks Nest, where he witnessed bioluminescent plankton at the local beach.

“The plankton lights up when it is mechanically disturbed, so when you visit the beach at night, you can see the waves glow,” Bryen explains. “You might see the trail left by fish darting through the water, and if anyone is swimming they will leave a glowing blue wake.”

In response to his experience, Bryen has designed an array of hundreds of LEDs suspended from the ceiling that form “a kind of 3D monitor” through which visitors can walk.

“The lights are governed by software which simulates a wave, and they turn on at points where ‘water’ is moving,” he says. “Just as at the beach you only see the glowing wave of the organisms responding to the wave, visitors see the secondhand effect of a simulated wave.” The rippling lights, equipped with motion sensors, also respond to the movement of visitors as they walk through the exhibit.

His design is an experiment, Bryen says, in invoking the aesthetic feeling of the sublime, something more usually associated with natural phenomena: “As technology becomes so complex and unwieldy that it is out of our control, its awesome power can also take on a sublime character.”

The Youtopia project, led by architecture lecturer Dr Dagmar Reinhardt, is part of a wider partnership between the Sydney Festival and the University, which is now in its third year. As well as challenging talented young architects, this year the Festival is also inviting University of Sydney lecturers and PhD students to try their hand at stand-up comedy, among several other collaborations.

“The city’s festival and the city’s premier university are both incubators for ideas and innovation,” says Lindy Hume. “It was sort of a no-brainer that we work together.”

Youtopia is at Tin Sheds Gallery in the University of Sydney Wilkinson Building from 12 to 26 January 2012.

Visit sydney.edu.au/sydney_festival for all Sydney Festival events at the University including details of the 10 per cent ALUMNI DISCOUNT. Check SAM’s inside cover for your exclusive discount code.

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W hen Christine Maple-Brown died in 2007 after a losing battle with bowel cancer, she was just 36. She left behind a grieving family including her husband Doug and their three children. Sadly, the experience for her loved ones is not uncommon in Australia, and the statistics are stark.

Bowel (colorectal) cancer kills some 80 Australians each week; one in 12 among us will develop this particular cancer in our lifetime. It is the second-largest cause of cancer deaths in the country, although if caught early, 90 per cent can be successfully treated. But out of the 274 cases diagnosed each week throughout Australia, 78 will be fatal.

Research and discovery are the best hope for the future and the Maple-Brown Family Charitable Foundation is to fund a new colorectal clinic at the Lifehouse Cancer Centre at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

The leadership gift of $5 million will go to the clinic, which will be known as the Christine Maple-Brown Clinic for Colorectal Cancer. In addition, a scholarship for research in the field of colorectal cancer will also be established in Christine’s name.

“We are very pleased to be able to make this gift to the University because it will enable further important research to be carried out into this all too common disease,” said Christine’s father, Robert Maple-Brown.

Accepting the gift, Dr Michael Spence, the University’s Vice-Chancellor says: “This extremely generous donation will enable our medical experts to continue vital research in an area which is affecting growing numbers of Australians”.

According to a recent report by the Cancer and Bowel Research Trust, cancer currently costs the Australian community around $2 billion per year in direct health system costs. Eighty per cent of these expenses are attributed to treatment costs. And the awareness level of bowel cancer in Australia does not coincide with its high incidence and mortality. Australians are still not aware of their risks in relation to some cancers, notably prostate cancer and colorectal cancer.

“We are indebted to the Maple-Brown family for their support and their transformational gift. Our priority is to foster research which will really make a difference to people’s lives,” Dr Spence said.

1788 AND ALL THAT

G eoffrey Lehmann (BA ’60 LLB ’63 LLM ‘82) and Robert Gray co-edited Australian Poetry Since 1788 for NewSouthBooks. The aim of the 1080-page anthology is to showcase the very best Australian poetry with an international audience in mind; hence the detailed biographical notes.

Lehmann said, “We also wanted to interest readers in the poets themselves, and encourage them to read the poets’ work sympathetically and in a context. Many of the references in Dorothy Hewitt’s long and marvellous Secret Journey could be incomprehensible to readers born after the Cold War, and we have included detailed notes on the many Russian literary figures referred to in this great poem.”

He notes: “We did not treat our target length of 900 to 1000 pages as an invitation to include a large number of poets. We initially had a target of about 120 poets, and were surprised and pleased when this grew to about 170. Our aim with a 1000-page book was to include substantial representations of the selected poets and allow some longer poems.”

With the timeline of all of modern Australia, there are, of course, many Sydney alumni. One is celebrated here:

On Removing Spiderweb
Like summer silk its denier
but stickily, o icklier,
miffed bunny-blinder, silver tar
gesticuli-gesticular,
crepe when cobbed, crap when rubbed,
stretchily adhere-and-there
and everyway, nap-snarled or sleek,
glibly hubbed with grots to tweak:

ehh weakly bobbined tae yer neb,
spit it Phuoc Tuy! filthy web!

Les Murray (BA ’70 DLitt ‘01)
From that iconic metal chaise longue to a Qantas first-class lounge and the pod-like beds in the pointy end of the A380; from a plastic dish-rack, to luxe timepieces, to urban streetwear, Newson’s design is a seemingly ubiquitous force on the global landscape. He swaps time zones in private jets to attend client meetings between Asia and Europe, occasionally stopping off at his London offices and home – in Victoria, a surprisingly un-cool area of the inner city – to reconnect with his creative team and his fashion magazine stylist wife and two young children, all housed within the same innocuous building.

From here Newson is devising a unique commission, even by his own standards, Sydney’s New Year’s Eve fireworks, or rather, the concept for the entire evening, including, of course, whatever special effect the Harbour Bridge will feature. He is circumspect about the project, downplaying expectations. “I hope to add a sense of coherence to the occasion,” he says and looks almost surprised when asked if he is ever fearful when tackling the unknown.

“I am not intimidated, just curious. I’ll try anything, I’m pretty intrepid,” he says. That sense of ‘just have a go’ may date back to his days at Sydney College of the Arts, when he was a loner and, by his own admission, “driven”.

Academic distinction was never part of his game plan, after having been expelled from school. “I was not a team player. In fact I chose art school precisely because it was an environment for individuals,” he says matter-of-factly, adding that he has not maintained contact with any of his peers. “I gravitated towards the mature-age students because they were more focused and didn’t want to just party all the time; although of course, being an art student I also dyed my hair red.”

Relishing the opportunity to gain experience in fabrication, Newson started out with jewellery and silversmithing, focusing on the practical and technical aspects of construction. “I think it’s really important when you are starting out to make things for yourself. As a kid I was always taking things apart and putting them back together: bikes, go-karts, clocks.”

Of his form-meets-function approach, he says, “I always knew I wanted to be more than decorative.”

“The college was a place that let me get on with it and be independent. On the other hand when I wanted to do some aluminium welding, there was always someone around at weekends who was willing to help.”

From the get-go, metal was his favourite material and has become closely identified with some of his distinctive pieces, such as the riveted aluminium Lockheed Lounge, an astonishingly curvy, mercury blob-shaped chaise longue that graced a Madonna
video and earned the highest price paid for a piece of furniture by a living artist when auctioned in 2006 at Christie’s. There is also a blade-like nickel surfboard, exhibited at the Gagosian Gallery in New York in 2007, which performed beautifully when tested in the ocean off Chile and Tahiti by a champion tow-in, big wave rider. “I do like demystifying things,” he says quietly.

Perhaps Newson’s interest in designing watches and exquisite hand-blown glass timers for his Ikepod collection springs from the fact that time presents him with endless challenges: there are simply not enough hours in the day for all the things in his diary or his life. Our conversation falls victim to this at the first hurdle. His pristine white headquarters thrum with silent focus as engineer colleagues pore over models and computers. But Newson is running late, and there will be no second chance to catch up; his schedule is already over-booked weeks ahead, the tyranny of being white-hot much in evidence.

What does it feel like to have every hour accounted for? Newson simply shrugs that he is a gun for hire. “My job is to be a problem-solver and trouble-shooter. Every project is a technical experiment and a way of teaching myself about materials, processes and techniques…”

It’s something of a relief to see that his office is not anally tidy. It has none of the sterility of some style fascists. He works at a small circular table with a lime-green surface and does not insist colleagues maintain minimalist work areas, devoid of family photographs and personal mementoes.

At any one time Newson juggles half a dozen projects, jotting down ideas with a pen in a sketchbook that never leaves his side. Later, software translates his concepts into 3D. When it comes to transport, he’s not only the creative director for Qantas, overseeing everything from lounges to luggage tags, but has also designed a bike, the interior of a space rocket (and yes, he’s booked a ride on one of the earliest spaceflights), planes, boats and a car but so far, no train. (If we are ever to get a very fast one, adding his name to the mix would give the project international prestige and perhaps attract finance.)

One thing we are unlikely ever to see is a city or any kind of urban development bearing the Newson signature. “I hate most urban planning,” he says, flaring into a moment of vehemence. “I mean, look at Canberra. I am not a fan of contemporary architecture.”

Currently, in development are a phone for a Japanese client, his first camera, bathroom fixtures for Caroma and a cooler for Dom Perignon.

Next year sees the launch of a monograph on his work, to be published by Taschen and featuring previously unseen photographs, unreleased prototypes and sketches.

In October Newson took advantage of a lightning trip to Sydney to meet with the NYE creative team. He has given few clues as to his intentions except to hint that there may be a symbolic object as part of the concept, a baton of some kind that gets handed on to the next artistic director – he can’t elaborate yet. So much of Newson’s work is protected by confidentiality. Many prototypes (such as the handsome Hex table for Italian furniture company Magis in his boardroom) never go into production.

Sustainability is a personal priority. “I’ve always wanted to make things that last and are timeless,” he says, which may explain why to date, he has not designed a container for a bottled water company.

With the Sydney NYE project, Newson is making an exception. Transience is an inherent quality of fireworks, celebrating the ultimate “temporary effect”. It may be an anomaly in his portfolio of now almost automatically classic designs, but one senses that even an impermanent Newson creation will somehow withstand the test of time.
If education is expensive, try ignorance!” So reads the hand painted sign above the doorway of a stationery shop, along one of the dusty roads of Dodoma, Tanzania.

My husband Roy (MNutrDiet ’79) and I are on our second visit to Dodoma. We have twice been able to use our long service leave to come and teach for a semester at St John’s University. As dietitians, we have taught nutrition and biochemistry in the Schools of Nursing and Pharmacy. We have both been blessed with a first-class education in Australia, and we felt that to share it in Tanzania would be a sustainable way to use the short time we had available. It has been a wonderful and eye-opening experience in very many ways.

St John’s is a relatively new university, set in the campus of what was once a secondary school. The school was founded in the 1950s by the Anglican Church, taken over by the Tanzanian Government after independence, and returned to the Anglican Church, to found a new
The educational elite of Tanzania. However, the percentage of students who go on to tertiary education is as a consequence, minute (0.27% students).

There are many barriers to education in Tanzania, including family poverty, distance to the nearest school, lack of teachers, other demands on children’s time (work around the home or land) and lack of electricity in the home.

According to recent reports published by the US Department of Labor’s Bureau of International Labor Affairs, less than 60 per cent of children aged 5 to 14 attended school in 2000 but, according to Education and Vocational Training Minister, Professor Jumanne Maghembe, quoted in The Guardian newspaper, in 2009 most students did not pass the national exam to move on to secondary school, so only a very small percentage receive secondary education. Anecdotally, I have heard that about six per cent of students attend secondary school. And because secondary education is compulsorily taught in English, after a primary education in Swahili, there are suddenly major barriers to learning.

At St John’s therefore, we are teaching the educational elite of Tanzania. However, their lives are often stories of hardship, struggle, pain and abuse. We have huge admiration for them, that they have reached university at all, for what they have endured to get here and for what they endure still to secure their tertiary education.

Students are often mature-age, with sometimes decades of work experience behind them. They have spouses, children and grandchildren, whom they have left behind in order to gain their degrees. Often, families are hundreds of kilometres away, and it may require a bus trip of up to three days to get home. Most students receive government loans for their fees, which have to be repaid whether they pass or fail, so the pressure to pass is high. A small portion of the loan (about $A3.50-$A7.50) is available for daily use – all food, personal expenses, stationery, photocopying and so on. Students either live on campus, mostly in small dormitories of six bunks with shared bathrooms, or off campus, boarding in nearby houses. On campus, they have no opportunity to cook, so they are reliant on the canteen or nearby “home cafes” for every meal. Their food choices are limited and of poor nutritional quality.

Their first-year program is very full, with up to 40 contact hours per week. They are learning in English – their second or third language. There is little time to digest and absorb lessons, and studying in their rooms is difficult because of the noise around them. It is common to find students studying in groups under trees or in empty classrooms, late into the night. Those who live off campus walk home in the pitch dark on uneven tracks and roads. Power cuts are common, interrupting lessons and studies. Students also look after their families’ many problems by phone. They suffer worry and despair, and are often too far away to help.

One student we know lives with his wife and four small children in one room in a house off campus. The room has a curtain for a door and one small window high in the concrete wall. There is a double bed and, resting against the wall during the day, a single mattress, on which the children sleep. They have a kerosene lamp; their few cooking utensils are stacked against the wall. They cook on a small charcoal stove in the front yard with the others who live in the house. Their toilet and washing facilities are out the back. Nine families share this house in similar conditions. Yet every day this delightful, 40-year-old man arrives in an ironed business shirt and trousers, at 7:30am, to attend chapel before starting classes at eight. He leaves campus when the library closes at 10pm. To go home for the holidays with his family, he will travel three days on the bus. They cannot afford to go home more than once or twice a year.

Students are often sick. Frequently they are diagnosed with malaria or typhoid, often both. They seem to attend classes regardless, unless they are extremely ill. Often students have musculoskeletal conditions that confine them to bed for days in crippling pain. Their friends bring them food and if they are lucky they have a hot water bottle for the pain. They may be able to afford the physiotherapist at the local hospital, but often they cannot get there. Death and dying is common and they are thankful to survive another day. When a relative is sick or dying, they may spend a day in town waiting in a queue at the bank for money for medications, and miss a vital class or test. Or, if they can afford the fare, they may miss a whole week of classes to take a bus back home to attend a burial ceremony or support their families.

Despite all these obstacles, they strive to succeed: education is so important. Some are backed by whole village communities, willing them to succeed. Others are trying to escape the village. No matter their motivation, my husband and I are full of admiration. Their stories are often heartbreaking, full of sadness and challenges overcome. Their resilience is remarkable.

What cost education? It depends on the currency.
Mining and landscape in the Pilbara
Mining booms usually prove to be periods of heightened economic effervescence that suddenly fizzle out. At the height of these frenzied times, experts predict that they will go on forever and politicians spend the money like drunken sailors.

Prime Minister John Howard (LLB ’61) did it in his last three years in office – a $334 billion windfall received, 94 per cent of it spent. When the economy turned down in 2008 as a result of the global financial crisis (GFC), Labor then went into debt to the tune of $107 billion. We’ll be paying off this debt for a decade.

State governments are no better. They collect royalties – which are actually a share of capital – but they spend this capital like there’s no tomorrow, and then they run to Canberra with a begging bowl when the boom ends.

Key factors are at the heart Australia’s failure to properly manage its resource wealth: a mistaken belief that the nation has endless amounts of resources, which leads to complacency about the need to tax our resource extraction more effectively, and to save windfall revenue for when the boom ends, and for when the resources run out.

First, life expectancy: iron ore recently became Australia’s single biggest export earner. It is forecast to earn $65 billion in export revenue this financial year, having overtaken coal for the first time ever. Prices of iron ore have increased tenfold during this boom, which is encouraging massive investment in new capacity.

Over the past decade, our reserves of iron ore have fallen from 100 years to 70 years, and now companies are putting in place investment to double or even treble production over this decade. So that figure of 70 years should be divided by two or even three to provide a reliable indication of the extent of our iron ore luck. Companies might extend their known reserves, subject to native title negotiations, but the increased production is more than offsetting any increase in existing reserves.

The outlook for gas is even more misleading. Australia’s geological survey agency, Geoscience Australia, estimates our offshore reserves at 63 years...
at current production rates. This estimate ignores the fact that resource companies have signed contracts to treble production this decade, and to quadruple it over the next 20 years. The amount of gas sold for export is expanding even faster – four times this decade, six times over the next 20 years.

Gas exports, sold as liquefied natural gas (LNG), could soon be earning as much as coal or iron ore. Current export sales are around $10 billion, so a fourfold increase this decade will push export earnings to around $40 billion. Given that long-term export contracts have been signed and are locked in for the life of the projects, we should be dividing the life expectancy of gas by a factor of three this decade, and four over the next 20 years.

The outlook for some of Australia’s other minerals is even shorter. They say diamonds are a girl’s best friend and that they last forever, but by the time a girl born in 2011 turns 20, Australia will have no diamonds left unless new reserves are found. Manganese resources will also be exhausted. Gold, now our third-biggest mineral export, will be gone by the time she turns 30, and silver and zinc by the time she turns 45 according to estimates from the national geological survey agency, Geoscience Australia.

Resource companies are finding more gas, but as soon as they find it they sell it off. Woodside’s Pluto gas field on the Northwest Shelf is a classic case in point. Discovered in 2005, it is now about to go into production after the company engaged in fast-track development that involved importing most of the steel fabrication from China.

But the same can’t be said for minerals. The last big find in Australia was Olympic Dam in 1975. Since then, we’ve not had what Geoscience Australia’s Dr Ian Lambert calls a “world-class, greenfields deposit”. The days of turning up an El Dorado are over.

Given that our known resources have shorter lives than we think, our tax policies should reflect the inherently non-renewable nature of extractive industries, which sadly they fail to do. This is a big failing on the part of federal and state governments. Treasury analysis shows that the non-mining sector actually pays higher rates of tax than the miners.

State government royalties don’t keep up with profits during mining booms because they are levied on the value of production. These impost are truly medieval in their origins and design. New South Wales has more than 90 different types of royalties. They range from 6.2 per cent for underground coal to 8.2 per cent for open cut. Some minerals incur a 4 per cent royalty, while others incur a cents per tonne levy. It is a truly archaic mishmash that robs the people of this state of the revenue they deserve.

These are the same mining companies running television ads that promote their “generosity”.

The federal government has tried to reform minerals taxation, first by introducing a resource super-profits tax, which was knocked off by the big three mining companies (and along the way they also helped removed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd from office). These are the same mining companies running television ads that promote their “generosity”.

But the compromise negotiated by Prime Minister Julia Gillard after Rudd’s removal will barely affect the big mining companies, though smaller operators will pay more tax. The Mineral Resource Rent Tax (MRRT), which comes into effect in July 2012, only taxes iron ore and coal and it offers scope for significant tax minimisation by the bigger companies.

Treasury modelling shows that even with the MRRT, our taxes on coal will be below those of comparable mines in Indonesia, and taxes on iron ore will be below those of Brazil. The bottom line is that both state and federal governments are not capturing a share of the super-normal profits being generated by exploiting the finite wealth of the people of Australia.

These relatively low rates of tax have encouraged a stampede of investment causing an array of ill effects elsewhere in our economy. Australia currently has one of the biggest pipelines of new investment in the world – $170 billion of new projects now being built, and another $250 billion at an advanced stage of planning. In fact, while the mining sector is worth just 10 per cent of our economy, this financial year it is on track to soak up 70 per cent of all new investment.

This explains why there is a housing shortage during these boom times. In my book, Too Much Luck, I quote Treasury advice to Treasurer Wayne Swan arguing that the boom has drawn investment away from the non-mining economy. The Treasury minute to Wayne Swan said: “It is certainly true that much of the ‘heat’ in the housing market in recent years has been reflected in prices, with investment activity remaining subdued. But this has also been a period where strong profits in the mining sector have fuelled an investment boom that has drawn resources away from sectors such as housing.”

A flood of investment in the mining sector, and a drought in the rest of the economy, best explains why people outside the mining sector feel like they are doing it tough. Investment is the engine of growth, and without it, things start to unravel.

Without having proper taxes in place, Australia won’t be positioned to save some of its boom-time bonus for when commodity prices fall back to earth; and for when the resources begin to run out. Norway, which arguably has the best policies in the world, taxes its petroleum industry at a nominal rate of 70 per cent, and it has no trouble attracting investment.

Copper-rich Chile, which has a similar level of resource dependency to that of Australia, was able to quadruple its resource funds during the last boom to more than $20 billion; worth more than 10 per cent of national income. Chile created a significant buffer against a global downturn. When the GFC came along it was able to use part of its fund to weather the downturn without going into debt. Had Australia saved the same relative share of income we would now have a fund worth $130 billion.

Even without extra revenue from a new tax on mining, state and federal governments are likely to receive significant windfalls in coming years as all of the new capacity comes on stream, and our
politicians are lining up to spend the lot.

There’s got to be a better way to manage this money. Australia needs to develop a sustainable rate of expenditure for its resource revenue. One model, adopted by the PNG government, involves “spending the average”. That is, simply define the average share of mining-related revenue over a long period, such as 20 years, and make this the spending limit. When revenue rises above this average, it is automatically saved in wealth funds designed for specific purposes. When it falls below the average, we can draw on the funds to boost the economy.

Australia’s Treasury officials have been working with the PNG government to set up three funds to manage revenue from the country’s huge liquid natural gas (LNG) project. The funds are designed to address three objectives: infrastructure needs, future endowment and stabilisation (managing the boom and bust cycle). But the same advice has not been applied to the LNG billions that will be collected by state and federal governments in Australia. This failure is best explained by a great sense of complacency and a mistaken belief about endless amounts of resources.

Two decades ago Norway decided to start planning for the end of its boom. In the space of 15 years, it has accumulated almost $US600 billion in savings, even more than Saudi Arabia’s oil fund. A country of fewer than five million people – about the same population as that of Sydney – already has the world’s second-biggest sovereign wealth fund.

At the present rate of saving, Norway’s fund will double by 2020, and it will most likely keep doubling every seven to 10 years as compound interest kicks in.

Norway’s fund has already proved enormously beneficial to present-day Norwegians, even though the main aim is to hand wealth to future generations. A study by the National Institute for Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) found that Norway had consistently generated trade surpluses since the 1980s, whereas Australia had accumulated deficits. Norway’s management of its natural resources had generated US$150,000 per person more in international financial assets than Australia had managed to accumulate.
The fund also helps Norway to maintain a diversified export base. All of its assets are invested in foreign currency, thereby taking considerable heat out of the kroner. Despite its significant oil revenue, the resources sector only accounts for half of the country’s export earnings. Norwegian exports are still affordable by other countries, and include world-renowned products such as smoked salmon and cheese, but also ships, pulp and paper products, metals, chemicals, timber and textiles.

It is pretty clear that when compared to best practice around the world, Australia falls well short.

The Norway model has now been adopted by Australia’s near neighbour, East Timor, which in the space of six years has already accumulated $US8 billion. It is equivalent to Australia having saved $2 trillion over this period.

Even closer to home than East Timor, Indigenous communities around the country have been salting away their mining boom royalties into trust funds that are designed to pay dividends after the minerals have been exhausted. One of the best examples is in Cape York, but others can be found in the Pilbara communities. Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has been telling other resource-rich communities to follow suit, even though her own government doesn’t practise what she preaches.

It is pretty clear that when compared to best practice around the world, Australia falls well short. This is in spite of Australian academics having produced some of the best thinking for natural resource management in the world.

Professors Ross Garnaut and Anthony Clunies Ross invented the resource rent tax (RRT) three decades ago, which is now considered best practice around the world.

Professor Bob Gregory of the Australian National University identified the phenomena of “Dutch disease” well before The Economist magazine bestowed its catchy name. Dutch disease is a bit like the two-speed economy except that in this scenario the fast-moving resources sector actually cuts into the growth of the non-mining economy by driving up the exchange rate and the cost of doing business.

There is more than a touch of hypocrisy involved as Australia tries to set itself up as a model for the developing world. The federal government is developing plans to set up a “centre of mining excellence” at a West Australian university with the aim of training bureaucrats from the developing world.

Sydney University’s Graduate School of Government has now been running courses since 2008 for officials from Africa and Asia. Since 2008, 76 officials from 18 African and Southeast Asian countries have taken GSG’s courses in sustainable revenue management and extractive industries management. Curtin University has also been rolling out similar programs (one that looks almost identical to GSG’s).

GSG’s programs are funded by development agencies including the AusAID and the World Bank.

Some of the recent participants were five officials from East Timor who found that many of the examples in their course were in fact taken from their own country.

Former WA Premier – now Professor – Geoff Gallop, who is teaching part of the GSG course, says the University has packaged its law and governance expertise to produce a course for public servants from developing countries.

Gallop teaches government strategy, community consultation and issues management. He highlights Western Australia’s experience in developing legislated state agreements for mining projects as an instrument that could be applied in developing countries.

Asked if Australia is such a good model without measures such as a sovereign wealth fund, he says: “We are pretty good … [but] not without blemishes. There are issues; obviously, the mining tax is an issue. Sustainability planning has been pretty good in Australia.”

Paul Cleary, is a senior writer at The Australian, a PhD research scholar in public policy at the ANU and author of Too Much Luck – the Mining Boom and Australia’s Future, Black Inc $24.95.
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You can also mail this information to Helen Loughlin, Faculty of Education and Social Work, Education A35, University of Sydney NSW 2006.

The Chancellor’s Committee Gift Shop has a wide range of University memorabilia with the new logo and some remaining sale items with the traditional coat of arms, such as:

- Glassware
- Mugs
- Pens
- Ties
- Books
- Keyrings

The Chancellor’s Committee is a volunteer group that raises funds for scholarships and University projects.

Visit the Gift Shop webpage for a link to our latest brochure: sydney.edu.au/ccs/shop

Or visit the Gift Shop located in the Quadrangle Clock Tower.

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Christopher Brennan (1870-1932) was called Australia’s finest poet in his time and more recently praised for introducing une sensibilité française dans la littérature australienne, according to Simone Kadi in Christopher Brennan, poète, (Université de Nanterre 1994). He is commemorated by the Brennan Building and will be remembered in the Sydney University Graduate Choir’s December concert, for which Music Director Christopher Bowen has composed works to accompany several of his poems.

Brennan’s association with the University began in 1888 with his study of Classics and Philosophy. From 1909 he taught French and German and was Associate Professor of German and Comparative Literature from 1920-25.

While studying in Germany from 1892 to 1894 he discovered the poetry of the French Symbolists, which influenced some of his work. His brief correspondence with Mallarmé was significant, demonstrating a mutual esteem, and his 1898 tribute to Mallarmé includes a reference to L’Après-midi d’un faune.

Christopher Bowen tells of his journey with Brennan: “I first became acquainted with the poetry of Christopher Brennan in February 2009, during a memorial service for Lady Joyce Black in the Great Hall of Sydney University.

“On the last page of the order of service was a poem entitled Sweet Silence after Bells, and I was immediately struck by its beauty of language, imagery and the powerful music lying beneath the surface of the text. I set the poem to music and the work received its premiere later that year. So began my relationship with one of Australia’s finest poets and as I further explored his poetry I became increasingly astounded by its universality.

“I am moved by the music within his words, by their alliterations, their subtle rhythms and phrases that describe emotions in such a tender and profound manner. Such beguiling lines as ‘I am so deep in day, I am shut out of mine own heart’ and ‘My heart was wandering in the sands’ lead the reader into a subterranean world which never loses contact with reality; and it this resulting tension that attracts my musical instincts and provokes the creative juices.

“For me, as a composer, a poem must not only invite interpretation of the text through the intellect but be able to involve the senses through its colour and atmosphere. One has to feel its text, taste its language and absorb its essence.

“I experience these qualities in Brennan’s poetry and to merely evaluate his worth as a poet within the confines of the Antipodes is a grave injustice to a man who deserves greater recognition.”

I saw my life as whitest flame
light-leaping in a crystal sky,
and virgin colour where it came
pass’d to its heart, in love to die.
It wrapped the world in tender harm
rose-flower’d with one ecstatic pang:
God walk’d amid the hush’d alarm,
and all the trembling region rang
music, whose silver veils dispart
around the carven silences
Memnonian in the hidden heart-
now blithe, effulgurant majesties.
Towards the Source: 13 (1897)

For performance details: see Diary pages
Holding concurrent positions as Chair in US Politics and Director of Research and Research Training at the US Studies Centre, Sydney University, and Bacharach Professor of International Studies at the University of Washington, Margaret Levi’s high-profile political science pedigree spans both sides of the Pacific. Less well publicised is her passion for Aboriginal art.

Levi’s connection to Australia is longstanding, dating back to 1984 when she ventured here to work on a social justice project through the ANU. During this time she met anthropologist Diane Bell, and not long afterwards she acquired her first Aboriginal painting. Levi and husband Robert Kaplan have collected Aboriginal art ever since, crisscrossing the Pacific, and Australia, in search of prize pieces. Pondering their journey together and the people they’ve befriended along the way, Levi remarks, “Our world has been unbelievably enriched”.

Today, the Levi and Kaplan Collection is one of the foremost private collections of Aboriginal art in the United States and Australia, with more than 100 highlights to be showcased in a dedicated exhibition titled Ancestral Modern at the Seattle Art Museum in 2012. In 2007, the Museum established a permanent gallery dedicated to Australian Aboriginal Art (the first major US gallery to do so) with donations from the Levi and Kaplan Collection, of which the couple is enormously proud, especially as the context is contemporary and the institution’s commitment is serious.

Meanwhile, for Levi, signalling the US Studies Centre’s representative diversity, and thereby the diversity of US studies (which span politics and policy, economics and business, culture and society) is crucial. In essence, diversity represents the philosophical underpinning of the Centre’s mission and vision, with Levi stressing, “Our broad focus brings a range of Americans here whom Australians might find interesting, and in the process teaches Americans about Australia”. To this end, Levi’s interests and connections in the world of Aboriginal art have played a significant role in the Centre’s teaching program and related events.

In the first year of her appointment, the Centre developed a seminar in association with Professor Roger Benjamin of the University’s Power Institute of Fine Arts (also home to a fine Indigenous collection) around the repatriation from the Seattle Art Museum collection of an Aboriginal sacred stone, known as a tjuringa. While curator, Pam McClusky, generated the motivation for the return, Levi capitalised on the momentum, earning positive PR for the Centre’s promotion of cultural issues common to Americans and Australians.

Opportunism, according to Levi, is key to the dynamism within the Centre’s program. “We are very opportunistic. As long as ideas are good enough to initiate a process, and can be justified as having an important US dimension, as well as popular interest, we’ll pursue a range of programs.”

In 2010 the Centre supported the 17th Biennale of Sydney opening symposium.
Social justice issues are an important motivating factor for Levi in her collecting efforts.

In 2011 the Centre sponsored Alan Michelson, a Native American artist, to speak at the Adelaide Film Festival and in Sydney in conjunction with the exhibition Stop (the) Gap/Mind (the) Gap, organised by former National Gallery of Australia Senior Curator of Aboriginal Art, Brenda Croft. Levi envisions a place in the US Studies Centre program to continue to engage with ideas beyond social science or American foreign and trade policy that draws on the perspectives and experiences of Native American peoples in the US.

As Director of Research and Training at the US Studies Centre, Levi is also keen to import American talent and research methodology, particularly in the areas of quantitative methods and qualitative approaches using formal analytic theory, which she sees as lacking in Australian PhD training.

Professor Faye Ginsburg, David B Kriser Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Centre for Media, Culture and History, New York University, is among the Centre’s 21-strong international academic advisory committee. Levi manages the Social Science Methods and Approaches to Research Training (SSMART) program at the US Studies Centre. In June 2011 Ginsburg led a qualitative analysis workshop for SSMART on Cultural Studies, with a focus on vulnerable populations, including members of Indigenous communities.

Levi’s research focuses on how best to create organisations and states that serve their populations well, in turn receiving popular compliance with taxes and regulations. She cut her teeth and made her career writing Of Rule and Revenue, which explains the conditions under which states fulfil a fiscal contract with their citizens. The book includes a case study on the Australian tax system, which Levi notes, “empowers the federal government in ways that would not occur in the US”. When pressed for her views on the Howard Government’s Northern Territory Intervention of 2007, Levi acknowledges that the effort to reform longstanding failures – Aboriginal disempowerment, poverty, disease and housing – is praiseworthy, but the way Howard went about solving it “was unfortunate – all elbows and knees – and no attention was given to the research or the complexity of the situation”.

Social justice issues are an important motivating factor for Levi in her collecting efforts. The place of art within Australia’s Aboriginal communities’ cultural revival and economic survival has been well documented, and social justice has recently become an important element of government arts policy; indigenous art in particular. Levi and Kaplan are not alone among American collectors in being aware of the poverty of many Aboriginal artists and their families, and they make a point of buying through art centres or dealers with reputations for paying their artists well.

The hierarchies and complexities apparent in the Australian market around provenance and the issue of ethical buying are not broadly known outside the country. As collectors ranked among America’s

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1. Seattle Gallery
2. Robert Kaplan, Dorothy Napanangka and Margaret Levi
top 100 by *Art and Antiques* magazine two years running. Levi and Kaplan feel they have a responsibility to make socio-political issues a part of their dialogues with other collectors. Kaplan comments: “When we give talks we usually raise these issues, and to people who are coming over here. We’ve always felt an obligation to let the American public see high-quality Aboriginal art, as opposed to the travelling roadshows. This has been an impetus for us holding exhibitions.” Levi’s postscript is that the message is filtering through slowly.

Efforts to promote Aboriginal art in public institutions have been hindered by the continued perception among American audiences of its ethnographic status, and in the current economic climate, where arts budgets have been severely constrained, institutions are reluctant to chance taking on a show that won’t guarantee revenue. Levi hopes the upcoming exhibition of their collection at the Seattle Art Museum, which is being co-curated by McClusky and former NGA Senior Curator of Aboriginal Art, Wally Caruana, will break through this barrier.

Key to this is having a strong focus on art criticism. Early PR lauds it as “a major exhibition unlike anything seen at an American museum” and the accompanying catalogue will be published by Yale University Press. Levi and Kaplan are hoping for some federal government sponsorship for the exhibition and its possible tour, including related educational events and symposia, and visits by artists. Australian Ambassador to Australia, Jeffrey Bleich, are both honorary patrons. The museum believes “their role is significant in validating the importance of this landmark exhibition and Seattle Art Museum’s ongoing commitment to bringing modern and contemporary Australian Aboriginal art to the forefront of public attention”.

To date the federal government has sponsored very few major touring shows to the USA, the NGA’s *Culture Warriors* being the most recent exception in 2009. More common is support for touring Aboriginal art to Australian embassies and High Commissions through DFAT in partnership with Artbank, the national organisation devoted to acquiring contemporary art and making it publicly available for rental. Most recent tours, however, have largely focused on Asia and the Pacific and the diplomatic circuit won’t generate the same profile as a significant public institution.

The US still holds the world’s major wealth and is the greatest source of potential new collectors for Aboriginal art. More government effort needs to be made to shore up the long-term health of the Aboriginal art sector, which has suffered dramatically from the fallout of the GFC in comparison to the non-Indigenous art sector. In the interim, we can be grateful for the passion of collectors such as Margaret Levi and Robert Kaplan who’ve become de facto cultural ambassadors for Aboriginal art in the US.
HIDDEN FROM HISTORY

It was early in 1939 when William Dakin, Chair of Zoology at the University of Sydney, was approached by publisher and patron of the arts, Sydney Ure Smith. World conflict was looming and Ure Smith wanted to discuss the subject of camouflage with an expert in animal concealment and deception. His particular concern was how to bring modern art and design to the service of home defence. What evolved from their meeting was the formation of the Sydney Camouflage Group, and when war was declared later that year, its members, comprising artists, designers and scientists, were already embarked on a campaign to camouflage Australia.

Among the group was University architect Leslie Wilkinson and a wide representation of leading modernists including Frank Hinder, Max Dupain and Robert Curtis. They called themselves “camoufleurs” and persuaded Prime Minister Robert Menzies they possessed superior knowledge of camouflage for Australian conditions. Dakin was promoted to the role of director for all military operations to work in consultation with artists and advise army, air force and navy on methods and design.

To say the military found his appointment controversial is an understatement; it led to a war inside the war. Camoufleurs were civilians working for, but not part of, the armed forces and they looked highly conspicuous in civilian clothing on military sites. In the context of macho military culture their role was further undermined by the perceived effeminacy of their title and by a prevailing view that camouflage was a passive approach to warfare. Before long, the clash between civilian and military authorities became public and it was left...
to Eric Ashby, Professor of Botany at the University, to argue in the _Sydney Morning Herald_, “camouflage is still regarded in some quarters as a hobby rather than as an instrument of war”.

Sydney University became a hub of research and Dakin’s professorial offices were converted into the NSW Directorate of Camouflage. Female students were taught the art of weaving camouflage nets, and lecture theatres were filled with air force personnel learning the physics of shadows. The University’s sandstone and redbrick buildings served as backdrops for experiments with camouflage colours, and Dakin, with the help of Hinder, Curtis and Dupain, researched and wrote a book, _The Art of Camouflage_, which was issued as a secret document for the armed forces in 1942. University staff moulded themselves to wartime culture. Frank Hinder was struck by how it affected Camilla Wedgwood, the Principal of the Women’s College. She was a pacifist who early in the war attempted to dissuade her students from making camouflage nets; by the end of the war she was a colonel in the army.

Before 1942 camoufleurs concentrated on civil camouflage for the eastern states in preparation for a potential Japanese attack. William Dobell, for example, worked as a labourer, disguising Sydney’s airfields as market gardens and building papier-mâché animal decoys. Max Dupain planted fake gum trees around bomber hideouts designed to look like innocent houses and shops. But the field of camouflage was not foreign to artists: as with cubism, modern design, and trompe l’oeil painting, camouflage was a problem of space, light and colour. The aim was to conceal facts in a broader visual background.

When the war moved into the South-West Pacific, research focused on how to protect soldiers in the jungles of Papua New Guinea. Max Dupain and Bob Curtis volunteered for deployment to the island of Goodenough in Papua to operate a camouflage station. Their mission was to persuade troops to use Skintone Commando Cream and turn their pink European skin black, and to wear green uniforms instead of the louder khaki. In peacetime Papua New Guinea was the heart of the western artist’s dream of surreal, primitive Oceania. But in wartime, Goodenough Island meant malaria and sickness, monstrous insects, and the psychological disintegration known as “going troppo”. If Dupain felt initial enthusiasm at the idea of transferring to Papua New Guinea, it was drastically altered by the experience. He wrote:

“I dearly wanted to return to the studio and start a civilised life again. The unstable wartime years, the grudging adaptation to ever-changing surroundings, the thousands of impressions both good and bad of varying environments, all added up to long-term shock.”

The story of Australia’s WW2 camoufleurs has received scant recognition, half-hidden by greater interest in the heroic work of official war artists. Camoufleurs were part of the production of war, not the act of making art for commemoration, remembrance, or protest. Their day-to-day war labour therefore could be seen as antithetical to modern art’s essential anti-war position. But once war descended on Australia there was little choice but for everyone to contribute. Ideological, psychological and moral positions on art and war were suppressed as individuals transformed themselves into servants of the war enterprise. For six years the camoufleurs of WW2 tried to juggle the demands of war and studio, and for the most part their history has – like the objects they disguised – been obscured from view.
THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT’S SHOE
Prudence Black
NewSouthBooks $49.95

Dr Black, an honorary associate in Gender and Cultural Studies at the University, reveals all and more about the history of the women of civil aviation. Now disparagingly known as “trolley dollies”, they were once among the most glamorous workers on the planet (actually, mostly above it).

Tracing the tradition of the quasi-military uniforms from the beginnings of civilian air travel – ex-air force pilots desperate to keep flying – Black illuminates a world that is now as distant as Jane Austen. Advice from the 1963 Qantas training manual, for instance, suggests a night a week to take care of vitals such as hair and nails and surplus hair removal, and ends: “The next morning you will not only feel healthier and cleaner, but look a different person. There is a virtuous feeling knowing you and your possessions are spick and span and you will make certain your weekday matches the mood of the orderliness.”

This kind of conscientious attention to one’s personal grooming was required if one was to display “feminine achievement” and be in the running to win the Miss Air Hostess Quest. Thirty years earlier, however, Grenville’s new novel continues her exploration of themes taken up in The Secret River – inspired by research into her ancestor, Solomon Wiseman of the ferry – and takes the story forward another generation.

Sarah is a compelling character and Grenville occupies her skin with conviction. Raised on the Hawkesbury in the relative comfort of her father’s successful settling and merchanting, nevertheless Sarah’s life is – by today’s standards – brutally hard. Her youthful love for half Aboriginal Jack Langland is early thwarted by a socially ambitious stepmother; instead Sarah marries up – stolidly respectable Anglo-Irish gentleman John Daunt – and they make a life perilously close to the “limits of location” – the lower Hunter region.

The combination of Grenville’s research and her instinctively empathic attitude towards Sarah and her inner life give the novel an irresistible depth and richness. Every page is a revelation yet there is never a hint of the didact, nor of the traditional historian; instead, a writer at the height of her considerable powers sweeps the reader along to conclusions both satisfying and plausible. True romance: tough, beautiful and honest.

AN EYE FOR ETERNITY – THE LIFE OF MANNING CLARK
Mark McKenna
MUP/Miegunyah Press $54.95

McKenna, a research fellow at the University, eminent historian and award-winning author, is frank about the subject of this close to 800-page, lucidly written life. Of Australia’s most popular and controversial chronicler of itself, he writes that Clark, “pushed beyond the particulars in order to write history that revealed universal truth – not historical fiction but fictional history”. Which is a neat way of dealing with the great man’s tendency toward the dramatic, in all things.

The problem with history is that it’s supposed to be about certainty and therefore – being history – rarely is, nor could it be, as it’s the creation of humans. And one of the oldest human traits is storytelling. It’s not too fanciful to see the genesis of The History of Australia in this letter from a 23-year-old Clark: “I feel quite convinced that Australian history has been betrayed by historians. I believe quite passionately that Australia is a ‘weird’ country and that its weirdness has never been portrayed except in landscape painting…”

As a biographer, McKenna is thorough and reasonably uncompromising. Clark’s own “weirdnesses” aren’t ignored, nor are they gnawed to death. His flaws and foibles actually make him worth reading about. Whether his Communism (yes or no) needs to be defended is debatable. Clark wrote to a friend, “Just because 1917 fell into the hands of spiritual bullies, that does not mean we should give up the hope of stealing fire from heaven.” Indeed.
THE MAN WHO LOVED CROCODILES – and stories of other adventurous Australians
Marg Carroll
Allen & Unwin $32.99
Carroll (BA ’69 MTCPlan ’77) has been up to her elbows in rural life since she returned to Central NSW after university. It would be easier to list what she hasn’t done than what she has done and is doing, but running the family farm at Molong with husband Bill hasn’t kept her from adventures. These have led to a couple of books: *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives* and *Reinventing the Bush: Inspiring stories of young Australians*. She has also met and been enthralled by other, older Australians whose stories she now tells in this interestingly illustrated book.

In the foreword, Australia’s favourite older pin-up Maggie Beer writes, “I found myself on the verge of tears at times, and laughing out loud at others, as I read these stories.” It’s true: a delightful collection of characters, laughter and wisdom.

WHICH OIL?
Richard Michell
Veloce Publishing $24.99
Handily, the subtitle “choosing the right oils and greases for your antique, vintage, veteran, classic or collector car” immediately reveals whether or not you are likely to want this little book. The author (BE(Chem) ’69 PhD ’71) drove around uni in an MG TD and now owns – and drives on a daily basis – a Porsche 912, a Lancia Beta Spider and an Austin 7. Anyone similarly inclined will hurl themselves on this book with gratitude and enormous interest.

DEsert FISHING LESSONS – Adventures in Australia’s rivers
Adam Kerezsy
UWA Publishing $34.95
Living and working beside Lake Cargelligo in the middle of the Murray–Darling Basin meant that freshwater fish scientist and aquatic ecologist Kerezsy (BA(Hist) ’90) could see, daily, the many problems that afflict the river system and its inhabitants. It caused him to get in his 4WD and begin exploring the relationship between the vast inland arid zone, its waterways and the fish that live in them.

His PhD was on the distribution and movement of fish in the virtually unknown rivers of western Queensland and the Simpson Desert and, through this book, you too can find out about the secret life of fish. How can you resist a Lake Eyre Hardyhead, a Cooper Creek Turtle, or a Silver Tandan? Do you know the difference between a red- or blue-claw yabby and why one is good and the other not? You will, and you’ll also form a relationship with the waterways of the inland that could change the way you think about the wide brown land.

THE TRANSIT OF VENUS – 1631 to the present
Nick Lomb
NewSouthBooks $49.95
The author (BSc ’69 PhD ’75) is Astronomy curator-at-large at the Sydney Observatory and Powerhouse Museum, and with this book he has given us the essential guidebook to 6 June 2012. If you missed the transit in 2004 it’s important to see this one and be the full bottle on what it all means: the next pair of transits will not happen until December 2117 and 2125.

The book is a treasury of rare photography, historic illustrations and all the information you might need. The layout is bizarre, however, and takes a little getting used to: skipping pages to continue a feature doesn’t come naturally, so keep your wits about you.

ON SHAKESPEARE
John Bell
Allen & Unwin $39.95
Bell AO OBE (BA ’73 Hon DLitt ’96) is a true believer when it comes to William Shakespeare. He has dedicated the past 20+ years of his life to the man’s plays, and his company is a powerhouse of practical and spiritual enrichment for actors, director and audiences. If there is another living Australian actor, director or academic who knows as much about Shakespeare, it’s impossible to imagine who it might be.

Bell understands the plays and the playwright from the inside out: as an actor and director, and that’s what makes his book such a pleasure and also important for both crafts. He’s been there, done it and often more than once or twice. Learn a lot and be entertained too.

THE MAGIC OF IT
Michael Wilding
Arcadia-Press On $24.95
Emeritus Professor Wilding (DLitt ’96) has a wicked sense of humour and delicious ways with words, as befits a teacher of English and Australian Literature and creative writing. His latest novel follows the benighted progress of Plant, hired as a private detective of sorts by book dealer Mac Arber on behalf of Archer Major, a supercilious academic. The action moves from sandstone Sydney to Oxford in search of the author of threatening letters. The prime suspect is an objectionable sort named Revill, but he ends up dead.

Like so much of Wilding’s fiction this is about place and language as much as the plot itself, and the humour the author finds in academe and its pretensions.

ALL REVIEWS
DIANA SIMMONDS
25 NOVEMBER
Annual ST Lee Lecture: Taking Aim at Non-Communicable Diseases in Asia/Pacific
Turquoise Room Lvl 3, Sheraton Towers Singapore Hotel, 39 Scotts Road, Singapore, 6.30-7.30pm
With guest speaker Professor Robert Beaglehole, followed by a cocktail reception hosted by the Dean Professor Bruce Robinson. RSVP essential by 11 November online at www.alumni.sydney.edu.au/stlee_2011. For further information, visit www.facebook.com/sydneyalumni.singapore

8 DECEMBER
The Inaugural Warren Hogan Memorial Lecture
Eastern Avenue Auditorium
6pm
With guest speaker Glenn Stevens (BEc Hons ’80), Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia and Chairman of the Reserve Bank Board, the Payments System Board, and the Australian Council of Financial Regulators. For further information contact economics.enquiries@sydney.edu.au

16 APRIL 2012
GOLDEN GRADUATES LUNCHEON
The Great Hall, 12.30pm
Three-course luncheon with entertainment and an address by the Vice-Chancellor. Open to all pre-1962 alumni and their friends; $80 per person.
For further information and registration, visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/golden or contact the Alumni and Events Office on +61 2 9036 9278 or alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au
The Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund supports medical and scientific research and promotes co-operative work between the University of Sydney and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It has established the Blue Sky GRANT program, to support the development of novel ideas.

Because of the strength and number of applications received, the Trustees have decided that two awards, each of $100,000, will be made to the following projects:

Characterising a unique substrate for expansion and differentiation of mesenchymal stromal cells for use in regenerative medicine

Chief Investigators:
- Prof John Raske, University of Sydney and RPA Hospital
- Prof Dan Gazit, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Project Summary:
“We have recently shown that blood-forming cells respond favourably to being grown on an elastic bed or “nano-mattress”. In this Blue Sky project we will test the potential of our “nano-mattress” to enhance the ability of other human cells found in the bone marrow to make bone and connective tissue, such as tendons and cartilage, for applications in diverse diseases including those affecting the heart, joints, bones, and immune systems.”

AND

Identifying novel factors for improving liver regeneration in the elderly

Chief Investigators:
- Prof Yehudit Bergman, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Prof Jacob George, University of Sydney

Project Summary:
“Working in mice models of human cancers, we have shown that pregnancy induces the rapid growth of liver cells, accelerating liver regeneration and reducing mortality. In this Blue Sky project, we will identify the factor(s) generated during pregnancy which induce this regeneration, and will explore their ability to reduce mortality, and the mechanisms of their action on liver cells. Our aim is to identify therapeutic options for humans requiring resection of liver tumours, whether primary or secondary.”

Enquiries
Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund
University of Sydney, F13, NSW 2006
Phone +61 2 9351 6558
Email szcuf@anatomy.usyd.edu.au
Web www.szcuf.org.usyd.edu.au

OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

A number of our national and international alumni chapters run social events for alumni on a regular basis. Visit the chapters’ websites at alumni.sydney.edu.au/chapters to find out what is happening in your local area.

Are you interested in starting up a local chapter or online group? Contact Andrea Besnard in the Alumni and Events Office at andrea.besnard@sydney.edu.au or +61 2 9351 1963

AND THERE’S MORE...

Not all our events make the SAM publishing deadline. Keep an eye on our web pages and make sure that your contact details are up to date (you can do this online at sydney.edu.au/stayconnected) so that you receive our monthly eSydney email newsletter, as well as invitations to events in your local area.

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HEATHER PORTER (BEnvSc (Hons) ’01 MEnvLaw ’04) is currently Director of Sustainability Services for Renewable Choice Energy in Boulder, Colorado. Spent the past seven years working in sustainability throughout the USA after graduating. Speaking at a variety of US conferences, looking to take career pause soon to reflect on current state of business, the health of our planet and restorative processes. Enjoy reading about the various USyd Alumni. Will provide further updates soon.

VINOD, DUGGIRALA (GradCert HlthSc ’01) To all the respected members of alumni association, I recently acquired Canadian Citizenship, I am proud to be a new Canadian, I thank all the teachers and mentors who guided me and helped me achieve this status.

VALERIE KHOO (BEc ’91) started as an accountant, is a former features director at Cleo magazine and taught her first course, Magazine Writing, to six students in 2005. Since then her Sydney Writers’ Centre has grown out of all recognition, offering 39 courses covering all aspects of business and creative writing through an interactive website and premises in Milson’s Point. She is 2011’s Telstra NSW Micro Businesswoman of the Year and is on track to welcome her 10,000th student early in 2012. www.sydnevriterscentre.com.au

MAXENE MEISTERMAN LORRAWAY (MA(Ed) ’86) As a student I learned so much about working hard and reaching goals. I am a survivor of non-Hodgkins lymphoma after a bone marrow transplant in 2002 at Royal North Shore. I am part of the Team in Training program and I walk half marathons as often as I can. What inspires me are the people I walk with who are also cancer survivors. They give me strength and courage all the way. The “team” coaches one another to do our best and to achieve the goals of helping the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Society and crossing that finish line. It is truly an amazing experience to cross the line after the ordeals we all had to go through to even just stand up and smile again. I know first hand I am making a difference. Find out more at http://pages.teamintraining.org/ma/wdw12/maxene

SRP 1960-70 REUNION
A reunion of SRC Presidents from the late ’60s and early ’70s was held on a private cruiser that circumnavigated the island of Corsica for eight days in July. We were each accompanied by our wives and in order of office bearing we are:
Geoffrey Robertson (BA ’67 LLB ’70 LLD ’06) human rights lawyer, Alan Cameron (BA ’68 LLB ’71 LLM ’77) former Chairman of ASIC, Jim Spigelman (BA ’67 LLB ’71 LLD ’04), former NSW Chief Justice, Percy Allan AM (BEc ’68 MEc ’71), former Secretary, NSW Treasury, Chris Beale (BA ’68 LLB ’71), managing partner, Allinda Capital Partners, New York and former head of CitiGroup Project Finance.

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1970s

**DAVID GRELLEMAN (BA (Geology) '72)** I have been in the oil industry drilling wildcat wells all over the world since graduation. We have lived and worked in many countries, including Syria, Pakistan, Albania, PNG, the Philippines, China and the USA. We are currently living in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and drilling in Somalia. If any alums are in Addis I would very much like to get together.

**PAULINE LYLE-SMITH (BA '67 LLB '70)** has served on many Boards and Committees. She is currently Chairman of the University of Sydney UK Alumni Association and a Trustee of the Friends of the University of Sydney. Pauline is a Board Member of the Britain- Australia Society and Chairman of the Cook Society for 2011. The Cook Society (named after Captain James Cook) was founded in 1969 on the initiative of the former Prime Ministers of Britain and Australia, Alec Douglas-Home and Robert Menzies, with the aim of promoting Anglo-Australian relations at a high level. Recently, Pauline became the first Australian to be appointed Lady Mayoress of Hammersmith and Fulham, with Cllr Frances Stanton, Mayor.

1960s

**ALISON BURRELL (BA '63)** after graduating, left Sydney to study and work in Europe, gaining an L-es-L (Sorbonne), BSc (Econ), MSc (Econ) and PhD at London University. She lectured at Wye College (London University) for 14 years, was Associate Professor at Wageningen University (Netherlands) for 15 years, concurrently edited the *European Review of Agricultural Economics* for 14 years and also had spells of several years each at the OECD (Paris) and the European Commission (Luxembourg). Following retirement from Wageningen and until this year, she worked as a researcher for the European Commission, based in Seville. This year she was made a Fellow of the European Association of Agricultural Economists in recognition of her research, teaching and services to the agricultural economics profession in Europe.

1950s

**GEORGE MCFARLANE (BSc '50)** I have just published the second edition of my book *100 NOT OUT – Lessons in Business Survival from Australian Invincibles*. It is an eBook and can be accessed, along with my other publications on www.georgecmcfarlane.com.

1940s

**ALAN BARCAN (BA ’46 DipEd ’47 MA ’54 Med ’58)** and his daughter DR RUTH BARCAN, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Gender & Cultural Studies, are celebrating his 90th birthday and a double launch of their most recent books, respectively, *From New Left to Factional Left: Fifty Years of Student Activism at Sydney University* (Australian Scholarly Publishing) and *Complementary and Alternative Medicine: Bodies, Therapies, Senses* (Berg, 2011).

**BARCAN-ALIA**

**CALLING ALL 2002s**

Director of Alumni Relations Tracey Beck has announced the launch of Sydney10.

“It’s an all new annual reunion for alumni who graduated or completed their degree ten years ago,” says Ms Beck. The inaugural celebration, on 29 March 2012, will bring together graduates from 2002 for an entertaining evening of reminiscing, socialising and connection.

“There will be plenty of opportunities for alumni to reconnect with classmates from their faculty or school, as well as entertainment, great lucky door prizes and a special ‘Decade’ cocktail Ms Beck promises.

So, if you completed your degree or graduated from Sydney in 2002, come and join the fun. “We look forward to welcoming you back for Sydney10,” says Ms Beck.

What if you graduated more than 10 years ago? “Don’t worry – there are plenty of other events for alumni of all ages happening throughout the year,” says Ms Beck. “And if you graduated less than 10 years ago, your time will come!”

Watch the events page at sydney.edu.au/alumni, and check out the Diary Dates at the back of this magazine. And visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/sydney10 to register your interest.
CROSSWORD

WINNER

The prize for the first correct crossword, drawn out of SAM’s hat is Australian Poetry Since 1788, co-edited by Geoffrey Lehmann and Robert Gray for NewSouthBooks. The 1080-page anthology showcases Australian poetry – 170 poets in all – with the aim of interesting readers in the poets and their lives and times. And the first correct entry out of SAM’s hat came from John Ford (BSc ’93) of Leeming WA.

SAM JULY SOLUTION

CH A I S E  M A R A T H O N
A L L  C  V  N  C  A
S O L V E R  B I R D D O G S
H E  L  M  D S  X  S
F O R E P L A Y  M O D U L E
L G  T  I  S  S  P  R
O V E N  N I G H T B A G
W  E  R  R  Y  B  W
S C H E H E R A Z A D E
L  A  C  T  T  L  R
T  I  Z  O  D  I  C  S C U L L I O N
I  O  C  H  H  O  N  U
N A R G H I L E  O  F  F  A I R
E  E  E  L  U  R  S
S T R E S S E D  E S T A T E

OOPS!

gizmo apologises for the howler – 16 down – in his last puzzle.

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www.facebook.com/sydneyalumni

BY GIZMO

ACROSS

1 Feeble trick involving king and pawn (8)
5 Degenerate finds energy beginning to fade at carnival (6)
10 Turner, in poor health, shuns hospital (5)
11 Part of poem about Bertie almost aroused Casanova (9)
12 They keep on seeing things! (9)
13 Biblical altar boy, suffering sciatica, ignores spasm (5)
14 Coached to recite tense (6)
15 Scottish football team made up of foreigners? No way! (7)
18 After Cinderella’s debut nearly everyone left turned into a water chestnut (7)
20 Beef stuffed with pork’s beginning to cause sickness (6)
22 Majestic gelding taken out by Mark into a field (5)
24 Prize essay is incorporated into fortune-telling (9)
25 Top hat too fashionable to be a matter for controversy (3,6)
26 Train from The Strand - not second class - picking up Tory leader (5)
27 Round thing served in place of dessert (6)
28 They take over from loan sharks, maintaining pressure (8)

DOWN

1 Above average babe nearly loses key at Stonehenge? (6)
2 Cry of a curlew at being maltreated (9)
3 When left alone by English, foreign engineers improve plant (7,8)
4 It’s wrong of one to get drunk swallowing entrees of lime-infused champagne (7)
6 Government member - it’s strange to find one in church (7,8)
7 Mounting anger starts to cause animosity on heath (5)
8 Trouble on train (8)
9 Type of blood found on addict identifies possible torturer (6)
16 In exile, Romeo’s cut to be elaborate (9)
17 Withers of wild horses, including two colts (8)
19 Tree in university removed (6)
20 American lass is touching bottoms - could be up for suspension! (7)
21 Disease like this has unknown origin in Peru (6)
23 Essential oil an ingredient of great taramasalata (5)
For the benefit of future generations, 2011 Eureka Prize winner Professor Ben Eggleton is developing ways to slow down the speed of light and develop technology that could ramp up internet speeds a thousand times faster than today’s networks.

Become part of the University’s work as we explore new frontiers of knowledge across a wide range of areas including science, health, sport, art, culture, business and education.

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