At 80, Peter Sculthorpe is not resting on his laurels
**inquisitive** [in-kwiz-i-tiv]

- **adjective**
  1. given to inquiry, research or asking questions; eager for knowledge; intellectually curious: *an inquisitive mind.*

As you’re taking the time to read this, there’s a good chance you have an inquisitive mind. If you want to know more about almost anything, we have a short course for just about everything. So why not contact us today and satisfy your inquisitive mind?
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Cover: Southern Chinese Lion dance is performed to summon luck and good fortune and exorcise evil spirits. (Getty Images)
NOTHING LIKE A DAME

I think Claire Sellwood over-emphasises forensic violence on TV and has missed an important point in her article “Good Gore” (SAM Winter ’09). As she says, CGI (computer generated imagery) and make-up (graphic) artistry have “heightened the reality of on-screen violence”. But in forensic terms is it really violent or just old-fashioned make-up tarted up by means of new technology? Are forensic experts now to be accused of violence? Surely not?

In addition, I believe her numerous quotes from university scholars also overemphasise the violent nature of forensic drama programs. Dr Natalya Lusty is quoted as saying that our attraction to “screen violence and cruelty” is due partly to the removal of and obsession with “violence and death” in our lives. Could it not be that we, as an audience, are simply amazed by the cleverness of the computer-generated images – as we were with the special effects in King Kong generations ago? Lusty goes on to say that screen violence allows us to “explore the conflict that we know exists in the world” and that characters like Gil Grissom (CSI) and Tony Hill (Wire in the Blood) represent the “complexity of individuals”. I agree with the words “conflict” (the basis of all good drama) and “complexity” not because I agree with Lusty’s arguments but because now we finally have good drama between the sexes.

Denise Hunter (BA ’93).
Artarmon NSW

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should include: full name, address (not for publication), degree(s) and year(s) of graduation where applicable, daytime phone number and/or email address.

Please address your letters to:
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Letters may also be sent electronically (with full contact details) to:
d.simmonds@usyd.edu.au

Opinions expressed in the pages of the magazine are those of the signed contributors or the editor and do not necessarily represent the official position of the University of Sydney.

Space permits only a selection of letters to be published here. Letters may be edited by the editor for space or other reasons.

AGRICULTURAL SLANT

I wish to present my slant on two phrases in the letters pages (SAM Autumn ’09).

First, the definition of faith “as an illogical belief in the occurrence of the improbable”. This well defines the evolutionist but I would describe my faith as “confidence that God will do what He says He will do because history has demonstrated His power, wisdom, good character and faithfulness”. The “ancient texts” are not necessarily wrong because they are old. Rather, they are the most studied writings on earth and urge us to use our minds. Moses was a scholar who carefully recorded selected events up to his time using common knowledge (800 years is not long after the flood) and patriarchal records. Later writers confirmed those who had written earlier, as they extended the story to their own time. Even after 2000 years, we have strong historical data to confirm the reality and influence of Jesus Christ.

My career has been in experimental agricultural science. All genetic improvement I have seen has been by design of breeding programs to exploit existing genetic
variation. On the other hand, we have witnessed rapid extinction rates but no new species have evolved. We are setting up gene banks to delay the decay. I know of no evidence for any evolution (‘goo to you’ gain in genetic information) although there is plenty of disintegration of systems. I know of no evidence for an “old earth” that is not better explained by “young earth” theories.

Some have illogically assumed that if the universe is large enough and time long enough, then evolution must happen (that 0 times infinity equals 1). But the eternity of matter in an infinitely old boundless universe is just an illogical assumption. While there have not been enough creationist scientists to address every issue, many key issues have been addressed by intelligent men who accept the ancient texts as historical. There is a huge literature albeit in the “scientific peer reviewed journals” of the Darwinian era. If God is, then to require “science” deny Him by definition is illogical. Rather, Jesus always taught spiritual truth by analogy (parable) with “nature”.

Arthur Gilmour (BScAg’69) Cargo NSW

CLIMES ARE A’CHANGING

My work these days is in preparing landowners to cope with climate change. While the debate on carbon trading is mired in political brinkmanship the critical issue of adaptation has been pushed into the shadows. I would like to remind readers and the University that regardless of any action on carbon our climate will continue to change for at least 20 years.

The implications of climate change will reach into every part of our society. Because climate is the sum of episodic weather this means that extreme events can occur at any time, though their probability is cumulative. Consequently, very long forward planning is required to avoid major consequences and expenses.

There are teaching spaces in the University that on some days will be lethal, especially if air conditioning fails, as will be increasingly likely. Water for the grounds will be less available unless plans are made in redevelopment for underground storm water storages. Toilets flushed with potable water are likely to become a target of taxation. Storm damage will be more severe and perhaps uninsurable.

The time to start these preparations is now.

Greg Reid (MSc ‘78)
Murwillumbah NSW

RUMINATING ON HOT AIR

Why is it that scientists, particularly biological scientists, appear not to be asking why biogenic methane emissions, such as those from ruminant livestock, have been given the same global warming potential (GWP) as fossil methane? Livestock methane emissions are carbon neutral as they do not add carbon to the atmosphere. They involve the removal of CO2 from the atmosphere by plants, emission of methane during digestion of the plants eaten by the animals and its return to atmospheric CO2 as it is oxidised. By contrast, fossil methane adds to the atmosphere carbon that has not been there for many millions of years.

In 1992, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that the direct GWP of methane was 11 times that of CO2, the factor that should apply to livestock, and added to it the indirect effect of its breakdown products, mainly CO2, to give a total GWP of 21, the factor that applies to fossil methane. However, the GWP of 21 has been applied to all methane. This means that, when agriculture is included in the carbon trading scheme proposed by the Government, farmers will be required to buy twice as many emissions permits as would otherwise be necessary. It is odd that, to date, scientists have allowed this situation to pass unchallenged.

Dr Graham Faichney
(MScAgr ‘63) Mosman NSW

RIPOSTE TO THE RODNEYS

Letters (SAM Autumn ‘09) brought some criticism of my letter published in the Summer issue. I would like to answer some of the points raised. Rodney Enderby gives an opinion that is based on assuming far too much about what I assume. I thought at first that my poor construction may have misled him but a re-reading of my letter convinced me that it gave no grounds for the types of assumptions (at least seven) that were the basis of his contribution.
Dipping a madeleine

Pondering the question of how things change – or not – an item by Professor of Anthropology AP Elkin in the yellowed pages of The Gazette, October 1954, seems apposite. He began: “A month’s conference for the scholarly examination of the subject of Race Relations in World Perspective was held in Honolulu in June-July last … the scholars were British, American (white and Negro), Australian Dutch, French, Africaner [sic] and Lebanese, Bantu, Zulu, West-Indian, Indian, Japanese and Chinese by ‘race’, and authorities on the regions of their special researches and experiences.”

While the idea of spending a month at a conference, scholarly or otherwise, is unimaginable nowadays, the major topic is not. It was “the Negro problem” as experienced not only in the United States but also the “mixed racial problems of Central and South America, in parts of which the Negro looms large; after this, still following the Negro trail, it passed to Africa, west and east, and above all to the south, where the problems are especially tense.”

Professor Elkin went on to describe how discussion moved to the Middle East, to “Russia’s Asian empire, to South-East Asia and Indonesia and the Pacific” where he noted, “nations, new and old, developing pride of race, symbolised in resurgent tradition and political ambition as well as in genealogical continuity … they experience economic perplexities and ideological pressure, even as we all do.”

Plus ça change, as my Africaner grandmother never said. There are a couple of changes in SAM, however, and

I hope you will enjoy them. Sara Donald (BA ’93 DipEd ’95) (above) contributes the first of what will be a regular feature: Family Matters. Sara is a journalist, mother of two boys and lives in Newcastle; she knows first-hand about the work-life balance and will be exploring the things that matter to families because, of course, families matter.

Also, you’ll find Alumni Adventures. As many readers go off on expeditions and come back with fabulous stories, we thought that sharing them – and the inspiration to do something different – would be A Good Thing. In this issue: Rome, Lake Eyre and Tanzania – not all on the same trip.

Felicitously, the cover story, by distinguished alumna Anne Summers, is on luck; and as luck would have it, her latest book is reviewed in Books – where you’ll find a strong and wide selection of contenders for your attention; and the Prize Crossword is guaranteed to exercise your remaining grey cells. The rest of the mix is as eclectic as usual; the common link being that the stories and people featured here are fascinating and illuminating, as only Sydney people can be.

— The Editor
Ocean liners don’t turn quickly.

The University is academically exciting because just at the time we are formulating strategies and thinking about new ways forward, there are new people in key roles that will give the team a tremendous amount of energy. I have also introduced into my own team some critical expertise in areas such as government relations and policy advice.

Are you happy with the progress we have made over the last year? I think we have made significant progress, but I am engaged in a major process of cultural transition and this place is an ocean liner. Ocean liners don’t turn quickly.

Is there anything you would have done differently? In the best of all possible worlds we would have started the strategic conversation slightly sooner. I think that with a new vice-chancellor there’s a sense of expectation, and to have the agenda-setting conversation as soon as possible would have been very desirable.

How would you fill in your own annual appraisal? I want people to get the sense that I have spent a year thoroughly learning the business of the University, establishing the fora for the conversations we need to have, and building a team at the centre so we can have this big strategic conversation. I have some pretty clear ideas about where the University should be going and I think I have been making them clear in various ways over the last six months.

I am genuinely interested in hearing what the University community has to say about the key challenges facing us. On the administrative side I think the University has excessive layers of bureaucracy because of our multicentricity, and we need to do something about streamlining and simplifying.

The University is academically and financially strong. The question is how we more firmly occupy the high-end position that we need to occupy.
African wild dogs, otherwise known as painted hunting dogs, have a mixed reputation among Western tourists. Seen either as cute and funny or scarily savage pack hunters, the truth is quite different and was largely unknown until Kellie Leigh (PhD ’06) came along.

“The Africa bug first latched on to me in 1992, when I travelled to Southern Africa,” she says. “There was something about that soft golden light filtering through the charcoal smoke haze, and the rich smells from the grasses at dawn and dusk, that were completely captivating.”

Several years later, a commercial art career forgotten and armed with a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Biology, Leigh was back in Africa on a round-the-world ticket.

“I was looking to make contacts to get into conservation research somewhere,” she explains. “By chance I found myself in Zambia on the banks of the Zambezi. I took a job as a safari camp manager and trained as a safari guide.” She quickly acquired some grounding in the local ecology, and “learned how to deal with charging elephants, and the cantankerous old buffalo that dealt with charging elephants, and the cantankerous old buffalo that wandered into camp each night.”

Leigh was trying to work out a way to fundraise for macro-invertebrate surveys, when two packs of wild dogs began to cross her path. “They’re normally rare and elusive, as I discovered later, but suddenly they were popping up all over the place, even taking down impala in front of the vehicle I was up to,” says Leigh. “Or as they dozed close by, they would keep just a curious eye on the mad researcher clambering all over the roof of the car with a big blue tracking antenna.”

The perceived value of protected areas in Africa is integrally linked with ecotourism in most countries, and predators are a big draw card. As Leigh was to discover, the hunting dogs are intimately connected to the food chain and eco-health of these wilderness areas: they help maintain antelope diversity by preying on the most prevalent species, and that in turn helps conserve habitat diversity by preventing overgrazing from some of the more successful herbivores.

“There was also the benefit that the wild dogs are a highly social species and fascinating to study,” says Leigh. “It’s a characteristic that also endears them to the general public and makes them a flagship species for conservation. I first became aware of their social habits when I was tracking the packs not only to identify their movements and the threats they faced, but also to remove wire snares. The snares are intended to catch the legs of antelope but the dogs are particularly susceptible at neck level. If the injury from the snare became severe, the other pack members would take turns to lick the wound clean, and would call the injured dog in to feed it if it couldn’t keep up on the hunt.”

The same cooperative spirit is apparent in other ways too, Leigh found. “At the den, the pack leaves an adult babysitter or two to guard the pups while the rest go out to hunt. When they make a successful kill the pack then brings back food to the pups and for the adults that stay behind.”

During her 10 years in Zambia, Leigh’s African Wild Dog Conservation project morphed into a successful predator conservation project and non-profit Trust, partnered with WWF-Netherlands and the Zambia Wildlife Authority, among others. “I came home to Australia 18 months ago, and my current challenge is to combine my two passions, art and science, as I believe both have an important role to play in communicating the beauty and value of our environment.”

Alert; African Wild Dog by Kellie Leigh
Professor Duncan Ivison will be the University’s next Dean of Arts. He takes up the position on 25 January 2010. Meanwhile, Professor Anne Dunn continues as Acting Dean.

Professor Ivison joined the Faculty of Arts in 1999 as a Lecturer and shortly afterwards was promoted to Senior Lecturer. He left the University in 2003 for an Associate Professorship at the University of Toronto, but returned in 2006. He is currently Professor and Head of the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, having previously been the Faculty’s Associate Dean for Research.

Check out his homepage (www.personal.arts.usyd.edu.au/duncan.ivison.htm) for an overview of his research interests and publications.

SO PH I’s choice

WE HAVE A WINNER!

The winner of the inaugural Prize Crossword – drawn blindfold from the bucketful of entries by Director of the Alumni Relations Office, Tracey Beck – is John Ford (BSc ’93) of Leeming WA.

Congratulations to all entrants who succeeded in penetrating the labyrinthine mind of former VC Emeritus Professor Gavin Brown AO FAA CorrFRSE. Please try again as the prize is once again a copy of Museum – the Macleays, their collections and the search for order, featuring sumptuous art photography by Robyn Stacey and excellent historical text by Ashley Hay, published by Cambridge University Press.

Anarchic Anderson

Professor Ivison joined the Faculty of Arts in 1999 as a Lecturer and shortly afterwards was promoted to Senior Lecturer. He left the University in 1999 as a Lecturer and Acting Dean.

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SAM WINTER SOLUTION

MUPHY CPYX G U I L T

C O N T O N

PUNCHY EMBRIZED

MUSEUM

EXTENDED CLUE

PULP

EMBER TRILLOBITE

SELLERS MARKETS

If Anderson’s lectures had been garnished with “provocative references to the works of such diverse figures as Hegel, Marx, Lenin, Freud, Socrates, Heraclitus, Nietzsche, Sorel and James Joyce”, then these spectral doves came home to roost in the 1970s in a way that irreversibly burst and broadened the horizons of both Australian philosophical thinking and diverse cultural practices. The 1970s in Sydney were a great time of experimentation in unorthodox ways of living. Coming from an
In June, Sydney Festival’s new artistic director, Lindy Hume, came to the campus to announce – with the VC, Dr Michael Spence – an exciting creative initiative. For the next three years, beginning with the coming Festival in January 2010, the University is joining Sydney Festival as a Leadership Partner.

“This is a natural fit, bringing together some of Sydney’s most creative minds,” said Dr Spence. “I’m sure this strategic partnership will generate really fascinating and stimulating ideas and attract new audiences as the Festival broadens its focus.”

Hume returns to Sydney after great success as director of the Perth International Arts Festival and with a reputation as one of the best directors of opera Australia has produced. As she did in Perth, Hume’s plans for Sydney are long on innovation and imagination, which turns out to be an important and useful trait in times of global financial crisis.

“Money is short out there,” she says. “We have to make more of what we’ve got. And what we’ve got is this city and some under-appreciated parts of it.”

Research has shown the Festival that there is an eager audience in the inner west and Hume intends to make the University the virtual neighbourhood hub for that audience. Over the next three years Festival goers can expect live performances, art installations, film and music events in a range of spaces new to the Festival, including the historic Quadrangle and the newly landscaped Cadigal Green. And, of course, the Seymour Centre.

“The Seymour Centre is good, it has good bones, it’s noticeably energised,” says Hume. “It’s close to Carriageworks and makes a good connection with that and it’s one of the sites of a number on campus that are begging to be used.”

For Hume, working with the University is a natural progression from her years in Perth. “I formed a very close relationship with University of Western Australia,” she says. “It became central to the Festival and there is the same and very obvious confluence with Sydney.”

It should make alumna Lord Mayor Clover Moore happy as it picks up on her theme of a City of Villages: “There are three distinct Festival areas,” says Hume. “There’s the romantic harbour, the edgy cut and thrust of the CBD and now, the inner west – Newtown, Enmore, Leichhardt and Glebe – with the focus at the University. I think it will be very exciting and dynamic.”

More Sydney Festival news in the next issue of SAM.
Compass - showing the way

On a cold but sunny morning in June, 175 local primary and high school children gathered in the Quadrangle to greet Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard on her first visit to the University.

She came in her role as Minister for Education to launch the Sydney University Compass program and was escorted on campus by Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence.

Of Compass, a new program designed to encourage disadvantaged children into higher education, the Minister said, “This is all about this great university working with schools to ensure that the students in those schools have an understanding of what university education is about and have the potential to think about coming to university.”

The “Compass – find your way to higher education” program is funded for three years with $3.5m from the federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; $2m from the University of Sydney; and $100,000 from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

The University will partner the NSW Department of Education and Training and selected secondary and primary schools in Sydney. Outreach, mentoring and professional development programs will be developed and implemented to increase school completion rates, and raise community expectations, projects designed to help them see universities as welcoming, stimulating environments. Activities included a seminar on making the perfect chocolate bar; getting the chance to play dentist and fill a tooth; taking blood pressure and reading sugar levels; identification of animal skulls; testing model paper planes; and donning a toga to learn about the ancient myths of the Medusa.

Students also participated in various science activities, including Dr Karl’s “Great Moments in Science” talk, Nicholson Museum and Seymour Centre visits.

The Vice-Chancellor said, “All the research underlines the fact that at university, students from low SES backgrounds have excellent rates of retention and success. If Australia is to rethink the way we deal with educational disadvantage we should be giving as much attention to the issue of a student’s educational potential as we do to their educational attainment. That’s why we’re working with school students, their teachers and families to show them what is possible.”

Schools participating in Compass have identified science, maths, music and information technology as areas where the University could add value through staff capacity-building programs, and curriculum and student learning support. Compass will target parents as well as students to ensure they know about the role, purpose and accessibility of higher education, including information about financial support, and familiarity with university life.

University of Sydney Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Derrick Armstrong, will oversee the Compass program and said, “There is considerable evidence that aspirations are formed early in life and that family experience of higher education is a key factor in influencing attitudes. This is why Compass will engage with students, and the people who influence them, early in their schooling, with continuing contact throughout their school career.”

The Compass project will focus its attention on years 3, 4 and 5 in primary schools and years 8, 9 and 10 in high schools. It will engage more than 1200 students in the Kogarah and Marrickville regions in 2009 as it interacts with two secondary schools and six feeder primary schools. The program will expand into another eight schools in southwest Sydney in 2010.

Alumni Centre update

If you have been wondering about the opening of the new Alumni Centre in the Jane Foss Russell Building announced in a previous issue of SAM, please note that its establishment is on hold.

As you may have guessed, the Centre is waiting its place in the queue for funding because of the effects of the global financial crisis. Although the University is weathering the crisis better than many institutions, it has been decided that, in the short term, funds be directed away from projects such as these, and the immediate needs of teaching and learning (including infrastructure) be prioritised instead.

If you have any queries, please contact the Alumni Relations Office on (612) 9036 9222 or email alumni@usyd.edu.au.
Latin Pronunciation 101
By Associate Professor Dexter Hoyos

More arguments break out over the pronunciation of alumni, alumnus and alumna than most other vexed topics. We know quite a lot about how Latin was pronounced in the time of Julius Caesar and Cicero, which is viewed as the Golden Age, but the knowledge is not popular because it conflicts with most of the centuries-old habits in Western countries. The standard reference work is the late W Sidney Allen’s Vox Latina.

The nearest we can get to educated classical Latin pronunciation for “alumnus” etc is to say:

ALUMNUS: uh-loong-nus. (The short “a” in Latin was sounded as a short “u” in English, like the “u” in “cup”. The middle vowel is nasalised with a long “oo”, and it takes the word-stress. The short “u” in “-nus” was sounded like the vowel in our “foot” or “put”. The middle syllable should last approximately twice as long as either the first or third one.)

ALUMNA: uh-loong-nuh. (First two syllables as above, and then again a short “a” at the end. Our short “a”, like in “hat”, was apparently not used in Latin at all but was a medieval importation.)

ALUMNI: uh-loong-nee. (As above, but the final syllable pronounced “nee” as in English “need”.)

ALUMNAE (feminine form): uh-loong-nigh. (In later Latin, the “ae” sound became a long Italian-type “é” or French “é”. That’s why, for example, the Italian plural “tavole” is simply the Latin “tabulae” slightly evolved.)

We know that Latin syllables which had a vowel followed by “m” plus another consonant were normally nasalised, and the “m” itself was not pronounced. The same thing occurred when the “m” came at the end of a word. This correct pronunciation is anathema even to Latin teachers and academics, with very few exceptions, because the incorrect version has been sanctified by several centuries of mispronunciation, alas.

So classical Latin pronunciations are not the same in every respect as the common English versions, which ignore Latin practice and even evidence in favour of just getting something out. So in common English soundings the words would come out as “ah-lumm-nuss”, “-nah” and “-nee” (or in this latter case, in public school English and BBC style, “-nigh”). The legal profession goes still further and turns every Latin term into a mishmash of anglicised sounds far removed from any period of actual Roman practice. Incidentally, in the US and Canada the first “a-” does usually get pronounced “uh”, not because of any interest in Latin sounds but because of North American accents.

As a result, there’s a variety of pronunciations from classical to popular. I prefer the classical myself, but they are incomprehensible to modern listeners.

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Amri Yahya was born in Palembang in 1939 and lived most of his life in Yogyakarta, where he lectured at the Yogyakarta Public University (UNY). He gained worldwide fame as an artist whose best-known medium was batik and died in December 2004, severely depressed after a fire destroyed virtually all his work, including his first painting.

Pictured here, however, is “Lukisan Perjuangan dari Agresi Belanda I s/d Renville” (Painting of the Struggle from the First Dutch Aggression until the Renville Agreement). It hangs in Yogyakarta’s Fort Vredeburg, one of the city’s major tourist attractions, which was built by the Dutch in 1765 near the Sultan’s palace. The fort houses a museum and has an eclectic collection of historical artefacts and dioramas of the revolution.

The painting is of particular interest to alumni visitors as it commemorates the support given by Sydney University Labor Club to the Indonesian Republic during the revolution. The picture’s four quarters depict crucial events in the independence struggle. Top left is a scene from what became known as the First Military Aggression. On 20 July 1947 the Dutch, claiming violations of the Linggadjati Agreement of November 1946, launched a “police action” to destroy the fledgling Indonesian Republic. Top right: this action raised a storm of protest around the world, including demonstrations in Australia. The best known occurred on 25 July 1947. The day before, the University’s Labor Club had hosted a talk by Muriel Pearson, better known as K’tut Tantri. She lived in Indonesia and was a staunch supporter of the revolution. In 1960 she wrote Revolt in Paradise, her life story, which was extremely popular in Australia and can still be found. K’tut Tantri had remained in Indonesia throughout the Japanese occupation (she was known to the Allies as “Surabaya Sue”), and became a confidant of Sukarno and other Indonesian revolutionary leaders. K’tut Tantri gave a fiery speech at the University, painting a graphic picture of Indonesia’s fighters: “...ill equipped to fight against the planes and tanks of the Dutch. Their army is dressed in rags and has little more than bamboo spears...there are few doctors or hospitals and they are acutely short of medical supplies.”

Next day Labor Club students and other supporters of the Indonesians (including wharf labourers) demonstrated outside the Sydney offices of the Dutch Consulate-General in Margaret Street. The NSW police were heavily-handed in dealing with a possibly Communist-inspired event; it was widely reported in Indonesia and inspired the young Amri Yahya.

Photo by Rachma Safitri

Bottom right: The negotiations, brokered by the UN Security Council, between the Dutch and the Indonesians held aboard the USS Renville anchored in Jakarta Bay in 1948. The agreement was an unsuccessful attempt to resolve disputes following the breakdown of the Linggadjati Agreement. The Republican delegation was led by then prime minister, Amir Sjarifuddin, with prominent Christian politician, Johannes Leimana, as deputy. The subsequent Round Table Conference of August-November 1949 was held between the Indonesian Republic and the Netherlands as the disputing parties, under the chairmanship of a neutral power, the United States. To represent them, the Dutch chose fellow colonial power Belgium, while the Indonesians chose Australia, rather than, as many expected, the newly independent India. The conference led to a formal transfer of sovereignty to Indonesia.


New tunes for business

Once upon a time there was an MBA, and everyone was very impressed. Then Warwick Fairfax got one from Harvard, came home to Australia and soon generated the joke: How do you start a small business? Answer: give Warwick Fairfax a big one. This led to the question: if he has an MBA, what does that mean? Answer: someone has to come bottom and still scrape through. Then came the GFC and suddenly nobody was very impressed by highflying finance and business types anymore.

Enter the EMBA. Devised by the University’s Faculty of Economics & Business, the new degree – Executive MBA – is probably what it should have been all along: the business degree for grown-ups.

“We all agreed that if the Faculty were going to create an MBA, it was going to be something very distinctive that business really needed,” says marketing scholar and curriculum deviser, Professor Chris Styles.

The EMBA is integrated in its approach to leadership: rather than treating disciplines such as marketing and finance separately, students must solve problems holistically as they would in business. The degree also emphasises the real-life context of business problems, rather then exploring them in isolation, and maintains a global focus.

Another factor that sets the program apart is to whom it is targeted: “It’s definitely not for everyone,” says Professor Styles. “We work in partnership with companies to identify their most high-potential future leaders who would get the most benefit out of an accelerated leadership program. We expect they will have around 10 years of executive experience.”

Students first complete online modules, to fill knowledge gaps, then undertake intensive schooling in management disciplines. They go on to explore concepts of leadership across a range of different fields, from military and philosophical to dramatic and musical perspectives, accessing experts across the University. For example, creativity in leadership is learned by improvising jazz melodies at the Conservatorium, while learning how to structure a logical argument from scholars in the Department of Philosophy.

Three key modules are organised around identifying new opportunities, growing opportunities, and renewal. “We chose this way of organising the course because different skills and knowledge get used depending on your point in the business life-cycle,” says Professor Styles.

“The skills you need to build a new team at the start of a project are very different from those you need if you have to fire people when turning around a business.” Each of these takes students to a different location, exploring new opportunities in Bangalore, growth in Silicon Valley and renewal in France’s tradition-bound wine industry. They are thrown in the deep end, co-ordinating a local business project and attending related seminars taught by members of the Faculty as well as local experts.

“We hothouse the students, accelerating their exposure to a wide range of strategic problems across different countries that might take years to experience as a manager,” Professor Styles explains. “But rather than just teaching you how to do business in India, we get you to experience doing business in India yourself, giving you the true business context.”

Limited opportunities exist for companies to sponsor places for their managers in the current EMBA program. Phone (02) 9036 5334 or email c.styles@econ.usyd.edu.au for information.

New tunes for business
Sara Donald (BA ’93 DipEd ’95) begins her exploration of all things family: how we do it, what we think about it, where work fits in, what children mean, the role of grandparents and in-laws in family life. In this issue she reviews a major new book on school choice and talks to alumna-working mother Leona Djung

Enrolling in university is an exciting moment. And then what? Full of hopes, ideals and expectations we embark on an uncertain journey. For some, there is a hazy sense of what we want to achieve. Others have definite goals and ambitions.

Speaking to alumni about why they chose a particular degree, then looking at where they are now, offers a revealing glimpse at the trajectories of life.

Alumni who are involved in the raising of children may have seen career plans take a detour. Focusing on a family’s demands while maintaining participation in the workforce can be a tricky balancing act, especially for women.

Reflecting on how other alumni manage (or managed – hello grandparents!) to combine a career with the complex needs of family life is a poignant reminder that our uncertain journeys continue long after we walk out of the Great Hall, degree in hand. And then what?

Leona Djung (nee Leung) was born in 1975 and educated in Hong Kong before moving to Australia with her family when she was 10. She did her HSC at Turramurra High in 1993 and graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1997. She responded to Family Matters’ questions:

Expectations of your degree?
To be honest, I had no idea what I wanted to do. My father had a strong influence on my choice. I thought that I wanted to do something practical and health related; I was full of ideals and I thought my skills could take me to third world countries where I could offer my help.

Where are you now?
I am married and we have a baby girl. We live in Switzerland and I work in Regulatory Affairs, for Roche, a Swiss pharmaceutical company based in Basel. We have been here for nearly four years.

Pivotal points in your career?
After my degree I chose to go into the hospital system rather than retail pharmacy. Subsequently I went for a position in a specialty area, as a renal pharmacist. Certain things in the public sector began to frustrate me and caused me to look elsewhere for opportunity.

How do you balance work and baby?
Thankfully, my company allows flexibility in hours and working arrangements. After Genevieve was born I had eight months off before I was meant to go back to an 80 per cent load; at the last minute, I asked if I could do a 60 per cent load for the first couple of months. On an 80 per cent load I will be working one day from home. I’m lucky because my sister and mother will be coming over to help out during the childcare holidays.

Future plans?
We are unsure about how long we will be in Switzerland. Now that we have a child we need to consider her when we are thinking about where to live and work. We may move back to Australia when Genevieve is old enough to start school.

School Choice

In our Newcastle street of about a dozen children we are the only parents who send their kids to the local school. Other parents have chosen the Catholic school, the nearby low-fee Christian College and other public schools out of our area.
Because we were new to the area when our children were born we didn't know of the bias against the local school. It was only when my children were at preschool and there was a big chart on the wall asking you to put your child's name against the school they were to be attending that I realised few other parents were choosing the local school. Why was that?

Outside, the school looks wonderful. Beautiful old timber classrooms with views out to the channel, air-conditioning, spacious grounds, play equipment, a council oval next door for sport, committed teachers, a fantastic principal and a bus route along our street to take the boys to and from school.

Inside, and from our experience, after more than six years, we have nothing but good reports and I feel sorry for the other parents in the street who listened to ill-informed gossip about it not being the “right” school.

Watching them load their kids into the car every morning for that frenzied drop-off has often made me wonder whether they think it’s worth it. But after reading the recently released book School Choice – How Parents Negotiate the New School Market in Australia (Allen & Unwin $32.95) I can only think it’s a resounding yes – parents will do anything to secure a place in the school perceived to be the best.

Based on a four-year research project funded by the Australian Research Council and written by Associate Professor Craig Campbell, Dr Helen Proctor and Professor Geoffrey Sherington of the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University, the book is compelling reading.

Overwhelmingly, the focus is on the anxieties, aspirations and strategic planning of parents who want the “right” school for their child.

Included is a table showing the two main reasons given by parents for choosing a secondary school, in Sydney, in 2006. In order these were: the school’s reputation and the proximity to home. At three and four were “academic quality” and “religious reasons.”

Part II analyses interviews conducted with 63 parents or caregivers. The authors “wanted to know what these middle-class urban Australians had actually done and thought about in choosing a school and the degree to which their plans had succeeded or been frustrated.”

Some anecdotes are revealing: “Mary and her husband decided on a government school – but not the local comprehensive. Her rejection of this option was based on personal observations, ‘seeing the students’ and reading ‘reports in the paper’.”

Another parent, who chose to send a son to the local comprehensive high school, qualified her choice by saying “I would probably send Ned out-of-area, or even boarding school” if they had lived in a “poorer area”.

As high school looms in the next couple of years for my oldest son we will soon be discussing the “which high school?” question at the school gate with other parents in School Choice to justify our final decision. SAM

Contact Sara: sara.donald@bigpond.com
On Australia’s policing and punishment of Indigenous Australians.
By Dr Thalia Anthony (BA ’99, PhD ’05, LLB ’06)

On 5 February 1836 “Jack Congo” Murrell, an Aboriginal man, was tried in the New South Wales Supreme Court for the wilful murder of Jabbingee, another Aboriginal man. At trial Murrell protested that he was not guilty, but nevertheless, if he were to be tried the applicable law was his customary law. He claimed that his own people occupied New South Wales before the King of England occupied it, therefore, his people were rightly regulated by customary law, rather than the laws of Great Britain.

What ensued was the landmark decision of R v Murrell, Sydney Gazette, 6 February 1836, in which Justice Burton declared that before colonisation, Australian land was “unappropriated by anyone” and thus was lawfully taken into “actual possession by the King of England”. The King’s laws applied to everyone, including Aboriginal people. Furthermore, Aboriginal people had no recognisable laws, but only “practices” that “are consistent with a state of the grossest darkness and irrational superstition”. And not, therefore, entitled to be recognised as “sovereign states governed by laws of their own”.

From R v Murrell, two key assumptions emerged in the Australian criminal justice system. First, the Anglo-legal system would trump Aboriginal laws. Second, Aboriginal people were to be viewed as equal before the Anglo-Australian law. These assumptions have shaped the Anglo-Australian legal system’s engagement with Indigenous people ever since. The impact has been dire. Deprived of the capacity to regulate their own social systems, Indigenous communities have struggled to retain control. At the same time, the assumption of equality has been proven false. From the early colonial period, Indigenous people have been disproportionately criminalised.

Despite the modern era of legal recognition in the guise of native title, Aboriginal peoples’ criminal laws continue to go unrecognised. In the past there have been latitudes for Aboriginal culture in criminal sentencing. In other words, customary factors relevant to criminal behaviour could reduce a sentence. However, even these leniencies were being wound back with the reinvigoration of Justice Burton’s ideas of so-called equality before the law.

The previous and current Federal Governments opine that Indigenous people receive unfair advantage in criminal sentencing. In 2006, then Indigenous Affairs Minister, Mal Brough, stated that Aboriginal offenders “hide behind” a veil of customary law. In the same year, former Prime Minister John Howard echoed Justice Burton in R v Murrell, that Aboriginal law should be suspended in favour of “Anglo-Australian law” that provides protection to “every citizen of this country”.

This led to drastic measures to curb judicial discretion. In 2007, the Federal Government passed legislation to remove cultural considerations. Sections 90 and 91 of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Act 2007 (Commonwealth) provides that for bail and sentencing, courts “must not take into consideration any form of customary law or cultural practice”. This legislation signals the end of Aboriginal law in sentencing factors for the Northern Territory and (due to similar provisions) Commonwealth offences. It is likely to lead to even higher rates of imprisonment for Indigenous people.

Throughout Australia, Indigenous people are over-represented in the criminal justice system. They are subject to higher levels of policing, higher charges, arrests and incarceration rates and longer periods of imprisonment. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 2006, 24 per cent of Australians in custody were Indigenous, while 20 per cent of deaths in custody were Indigenous Australians. Indigenous adults were 13 times more likely than non-Indigenous adults to be imprisoned, according to the 2009 Productivity Commission Report. The imbalance is greater still for Indigenous women. In 2006-2007, Indigenous women comprised 31 per cent of women in prison custody (ABS) and were 21 times more likely to be imprisoned compared with non-Indigenous counterparts.

The chief apparatuses of criminal justice – policing and punishment – were central to colonisation. The police were crucial to Indigenous removal from their land and cultural dispossession. Police were also responsible for the administration of the protection regime, which was governed by the Aboriginal Acts. These Acts provided for a network of “protectors” to police every aspect of an Indigenous person’s life. It was an offence to leave a designated area (such as a mission or government settlement), marry, work, receive cash welfare or wages and practice traditional laws, customs and ceremonies without permission from the Protector. According to Eugene Kamenka and Alice Tay in 1993, it was the policeman-protector “who brought in the Aboriginal suspect and the witnesses on the neck chain, who rounded up Aborigines for removal to institutions, who expelled them from towns and who helped the missionaries restrict access of the parents to Aboriginal children.”

Policing was also vital to the enforcement of assimilation, including the removal of Aboriginal children. Assimilation was introduced in the mid-20th century when policymakers realised that Indigenous people were not dying out. The objective was to integrate Indigenous people into the dominant non-Indigenous society, albeit at serf level. Aboriginal people were forced into work without pay and into towns.

In 2001, criminologist Russell Hogg argued that the end of control through the Aboriginal Acts marked the
Police will be drawn to people singing in the streets, eating late night kebabs or unaware of a wardrobe malfunction.

beginning of control by the criminal justice system. In the 1970s, Indigenous people increasingly moved out of settlements and into towns, putting them in the purview of urban policing. This led to a steady increase in imprisonment numbers. Hogg writes that “administrative segregation” gave way to “penal incarceration” as a mode of Indigenous regulation.

When Indigenous people moved into towns, their engagement with the criminal justice system was often triggered by public order offences. Vagrancy and public drinking laws had a particularly punitive impact on Indigenous people who were classed as outsiders or the “undeserving poor,” according to Elizabeth Eggleston in 1976. Today the over-representation of Indigenous people in custody continues to be for public order offences, especially offensive language and behaviour. Seventeen per cent of Indigenous offenders compared with eight per cent of non-Indigenous offenders had a public order offence as their principal offence, according to the NSW Bureau of Crime Research and Statistics in 2006.

The consequences are often fatal. Australian Institute of Criminology figures from 2005 reveal that just under one quarter of Indigenous people who died in police custody in 2002 were there for public order offences. This figure excludes those people who were in custody for public drunkenness – which is described by policymakers as “therapeutic custody” – rather than penal custody. Indigenous people are currently 42 times more likely to be in custody for public drunkenness than other Australians.

The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody identified the connection between over-policing and deaths in custody in 1991. Recommendation 86 of the Report was that the “use of offensive language in circumstances of interventions initiated by police should not normally be occasion for arrest or charge”. However, this has not been addressed by policymakers and law enforcers. Consequently, the number of Aboriginal deaths in custody continues to rise. The high profile death in custody of Mulrunji on Palm Island in 2004 illustrates that police continue to inappropriately arrest for offensive language. On the night in question, Mulrunji insulted a police officer and was arrested on a public nuisance charge. Forty minutes later he was dead in the police station with a black eye, four broken ribs and a ruptured liver. The case is now the subject of a third inquiry after findings were held to be flawed. In finding Senior Sergeant Hurley responsible for the death, Deputy Coroner Christine Clements initially noted, “The arrest of Mulrunji was an inappropriate exercise of police discretion.”

Despite the evidence against charging and prosecuting public order offences, policing of such offences continues to expand. Most recently in May 2009 the NSW parliament gave police the powers to move on people who are “slurring” their words. If suspected inebriated persons do not comply with the move-on direction, they can be arrested and charged with a criminal offence. The laws amend the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act to lower the threshold from “seriously” drunk to “noticeably” drunk. The amended law was a lively topic on talk-back radio, with callers suggesting that police will be drawn to people singing in the streets, eating late night kebabs or unaware of a wardrobe malfunction.

But the real impact will be on Indigenous people. According to an Ombudsman review of the move-on powers in 1999, there was a very high incidence of police directions in parts of NSW with substantial Indigenous populations. The use of such powers has been described by Dennis Eggington, CEO of the Western Australian Aboriginal Legal Services, who conducted a study on the powers, as “ethnic cleansing”. In 2009, Eggington said these powers have the effect of removing Aboriginal people from public places. Move-on powers – like most public order offences – set in train a sequence of criminal processes that punish Indigenous people disproportionately to their alleged crime. The “slurring” laws will have the likely effect of increasing the policing and punishing of Indigenous peoples in the absence of a crime.

The paternal style of the old Aboriginal Acts re-emerged with the Northern Territory Emergency Response Act 2007 (Commonwealth) and its control measures in Indigenous communities. The Federal police and military mobilised to bring Indigenous communities under the control of the Commonwealth Government in mid-2006. The regulation of Indigenous people under this Northern Territory Intervention has entailed the universal quilting of Indigenous welfare income, reclaiming Indigenous land, prohibitions on alcohol and pornography and mandatory health checks and contraception.

Contrary to media reports and government rhetoric – that the Intervention sought to support victims and reduce Indigenous crime – the increased policing of Indigenous communities in the NT has not targeted

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Redfern under the auspices of the Street Beat program, set up under the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 (NSW) to ensure the safety of Indigenous youth. It is run by outreach workers and volunteers to provide safe transportation for young people at risk, offer support systems to divert Indigenous youth from the criminal justice system and help families in crisis.

Community policing has been described by Chris Cunneen in Conflict, Politics and Crime (2001) as a space for self-determination to operate in Indigenous communities. According to Harry Blagg, community policing plays an important role in social control and has been effective in reducing crime levels.

Without a legitimate space for Indigenous forms of crime control and social regulation, the criminal justice system will continue to manage Indigenous people’s lives rather than address crime problems. This has been an overlooked and tragic consequence of the NT Intervention. It is also evidenced by ongoing deaths in custody. The horrific circumstances of Mulrunji’s death have still not been addressed systemically, or nationally. Last year, Mr Ward, a traditional man who was deeply respected in his Ngaanyatjarra community in Western Australia, died after enduring a four hour journey in the bare metal cell pod of a non-air conditioned prison van, in temperatures above 56C. He was being taken from Laverton to Kalgoorlie to be charged with a drink driving offence. He should not have been arrested in the first place.

A rethinking of a legal domain with Indigenous forms of policing and social regulation could set the basis for a final departure from Justice Burton’s rulings in R v Murrell almost two hundred years ago and the ongoing shame of deaths in custody.
Two brothers, same profession, different directions. John Shand explores

Two hours with the Scott brothers is like laughter therapy. Phil Scott (BA Hons Mus '74) makes a living from being funny. If his brother Craig (GradCert HE '00) leans on his wit professionally, it would be to put fellow band-mates and nervous students at ease. A leading bass player, he is Chair of Jazz Studies at the Sydney Conservatorium. Phil's writing, acting, composing, singing and piano playing, meanwhile, have enlivened stages and TV screens for three decades in everything from The Gillies Report to Priscilla Queen of the Desert : The Musical, via annual editions of The Wharf Revue.

Having risen to the top of quite different trees, the brothers remain remarkably alike, sharing not only a sense of humour, but also an innate humbleness and an easy friendship.

Their childhood home was not especially musical. Their father, Bruce, (who also studied at Sydney University) was an arts administrator and their mother, Janet, played a little on the household piano. Phil was tinkling on this before Craig (two years younger) was born, showing sufficient promise to have lessons. Craig also learned piano, but apparently lacked Phil's flair. “And of course,” he says, “I had the typical small child’s approach to practising – which I’ve managed to retain!”

They went to Balgowlah Boys High, a school which also produced shock-jock Stan Zemanek and one Nation founder David Oldfield. There Phil participated in Gilbert and Sullivan and occasionally performed classical piano, although the music was least dear to his heart was Broadway.

Craig took up bass when he was 15, and a big influence on both brothers was hearing the Jacques Loussier Trio 40 years ago in the Town Hall, which encouraged Phil to try his hand at jazzing up the classics for piano and bass. If Craig’s bass teacher despaired that his aversion to practice meant he would never amount to anything, this intensive playing with Phil compensated.

In 1971 Phil went straight from school to the University to study musicology. “I should have done composition,” he says. “Maybe I was late, and the composition classes were full.” His already broad knowledge of music was further expanded by a course ranging across Indonesian gamelan to modern Polish music, with Ross Edwards and Peter Sculthorpe among his tutors.

Asked what impact the degree had on his subsequent career, he replies he would have said “none” until recently. “But now I write classical CD reviews for Fanfare magazine, and I need to know what I’m talking about technically, so I guess I must have learned something and remembered it.”

Phil’s thesis (1st class Honours) on Benjamin Britten prompted an unexpected response. “I have a framed letter from him, praising the work and telling me to come to his Aldeburgh Festival some time. I never did and he died in 1976.”

Perhaps oddly, he never involved himself in student theatres or music. “I was a bit reticent, really,” he says. “Hard to imagine!” He laughs, but you sense that subterranean layer of shyness that often lurks beneath those who strut our stages. He emerged clutching a BA with Music Honours. He then bounced from being Sculthorpe’s PA to 2MBS’s first program manager, and on to being Marian Street Theatre’s musical director, where he used Craig on bass “until he became too important and too busy.”

“Last week,” rejoins Craig.

The latter finished school with no clear career intentions. He tried history at NSW, lasted three months and spent the rest of the year pumping petrol. Next stop was Alexander Mackie College to do music teaching, a course that turned out to contain three times as much physical education as music. “If they’d told me that in advance I would have gone into arc welding,” he says. By this time (1975) he and Phil were doing a show at the Music Loft in Manly starring Jill Perryman, and he found himself working six nights a week. “It just seemed like a good idea to go with the bass,” he recalls, “and not go with teaching other people’s children to not appreciate music.”

In the early 1980s Phil, who’d always wanted to be an actor, veered away from being a musical director towards writing, acting and comedy. “I’d always written stuff,” he says, “particularly satire and lyric parodies. I wrote a satirical account of a school excursion to some factory when I was in Year Five, which was confiscated. I had to come up to the headmaster’s office, and he said, [adopting stern voice] ‘I’ve read this thing, and it’s very amusing, but don’t let me catch you doing it again.’”

Through his friend Patrick Cook, the cartoonist, he hooked up with comedian and satirist Max Gillies in 1983, when he also began performing one-man cabaret. When ABC TV picked up what became The Gillies Report, Phil was “swept along”, leading to extensive television work on shows including Good News Week and The Dingo Principle.

While continuing to work with Phil, Craig attended evening classes at the Conservatorium, and was soon playing in bands with the doyen of local jazz drummers, Alan Turnbull. “Alan yelled at me from the word go,” says Craig. “He never stopped being on to me about playing with him and listening, to the point where sometimes I was almost incapable of playing: I was shaking like a leaf.” Turnbull, however, saw the promise, and rightly believed Craig could cop the flak.

Then in 1980 the phone rang. “A voice said, ‘This is Don Burrows. Is Craig Scott there?’ I thought it was a friend, and I said, ‘Yeah, right,’ and hung up.” Burrows rang back; Craig apologised, and, after an audition, found himself in Burrows’ band for more than a decade.

The relationship with Turnbull continued in this band, and it was with Turnbull and pianist Paul McNamara that Craig played one of the most exciting concerts this writer has witnessed: accompanying the great American saxophonist Joe Henderson at the Baselton in 1982.
Craig’s ability to perform at such a thrilling level reflected his increased knowledge, artistry and facility. “I’d love to do that gig now, knowing what I know,” he says. “Then again, being mystified and excited was good, too.”

When Phil encountered actor/writer/comedian Jonathan Biggins on The Dingo Principle they struck up an immediate rapport, mounting shows at Woolloomooloo’s wonderful Tilbury Hotel, including the venue’s biggest hit: Three Men and a Baby Grand. Created by Phil, Biggins and Drew Forsythe in 1990, it went to Edinburgh, London, and on to television.

Craig began teaching at the Conservatorium in 1985, bolstering his academic credentials with a Master’s degree in the 1990s, and becoming Chair of Jazz Studies in 2004. Although the way he had learnt jazz – on the job – ostensibly seems a world away, he sees parallels: “The way we do business here is still a master/apprentice situation, because we all play with students. We talk about music. We do basically many of the same things that I did sitting in the back of Alan Turnbull’s car at the back of the Regent after a gig ... And there is a place in everyone’s life for that academic discipline.”

It must be true: Phil’s daughter, Phoebe, is currently completing her PhD in (Vietnamese) Art at the University, while is ex-wife Lorna is a GP and also a Sydney alumna. Having had four novels published, two musicals produced and one CD released under his own name, Phil is constantly busy. “It’s actually a very slow process, writing with other people,” he observes. “It’s better to write quickly, and say, ‘What about that?’ and people can change it.”

Craig, who laments the lack of a dedicated jazz venue in Sydney, still performs, including with his own quintet. Despite all the collaborating, the pair has never played jazz together. “Too busy in the left hand,” is Craig’s dry assessment of his brother. Yet as they clown around for the camera, you can see why they have always liked to work together. Craig, for instance, did a few spots on Three Men and a Baby Grand, including once dressing as an angel to play Angels from the Realms of Glory.

“I think some of it’s on YouTube,” says Phil.

“My kids delighted in telling me that,” Craig replies. SAM
n the last day of the 2009 financial year around one third of the adult population of Australia purchased at least one ticket in the country’s largest-ever lottery, which was advertised as having the potential to deliver to the winner an amazing $90 million. The lottery was so popular that around 10 million tickets were sold, pushing the proceeds of it to $106 million. The prize was shared between two people who wisely opted to remain anonymous. (Although how one would conceal from family and friends suddenly being $53 million richer would require a great deal more ingenuity than picking the winning numbers.)

On the day of the lottery a radio station in Darwin contacted me. They wanted to interview me about an essay I had written, *On Luck.* Why, the announcer asked, are Australians so obsessed with the idea of luck? It was a clever take on the day’s biggest story, to pull back from the frenzied queues at newsagents and ask the bigger question: what’s going on here?

After all, there have been endless articles telling us that we had a better chance (1 in 20 million) of being canonised, and quite promising odds (1 in 11,500) of winning an Oscar, whereas the chances of winning this lottery were 1 in 45 million. In fact, “LOTTO is the only form of gambling where the chances of winning are only very slightly improved by buying a ticket,” commented a blogger on the Sharesguru website, a space generally devoted to information about the stock market but which on this occasion hosted a forum on the unprecedented lucre offered by the lottery.

Undeterred, the optimists lined up to hand over something in the order of $170 million (60 per cent of the take is returned as winnings), in the hope of getting rich quickly and with little effort.

It has always been thus. Australians have had a get-rich-quick mentality ever since the first white toe tested the waters of Sydney Cove. Our appetite for gambling, which our forebears must have brought with them, soon became naturalised. In 1808 a visitor to the colony observed, “To such excesses was the pursuit of gambling carried among the convicts that some have been known, after losing money, provisions, and all their clothing [sic], to have staked their cloaths upon their wretched backs, standing in the midst of their associates naked…”

Losing their shirts did not discourage the convicts from gambling and nothing in the past 211 years has deterred the exponential growth of our love of a chance for easy money. So much so that Australians today are the greatest gamblers on earth. We spend (and hence, also lose) more per capita than any other nation. Our losses for 2005-06 (the last year for which figures are available) totaled $17.5 billion – or $1122 for every man, woman and child in this wide brown land. Our gambling losses exceed household savings, by a long shot.

As a country we are profoundly addicted to the idea that we are lucky. When Donald Horne published *The Lucky Country* back in 1964 we embraced the term with ardour. We ignored the fact that Horne had used the term ironically

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**Luck is a four-letter word**

The Australian attitude to luck is bizarre and has to change, writes Anne Summers AO (PhD ’79)
– to jolt us out of our complacency and alert us to the need for major change. Instead it has become a cliché for the way we want to see ourselves. You hear it everywhere: we say it out loud, standing around the barbecue, the seafood plentiful, the wine chilled, the sky blue. In all sorts of conversations, in Qantas ads, from the mouths of travellers returning from overseas trips full of complaints.

“We are so lucky,” people say, pointing to our relaxed and comfortable lifestyle, the physical beauty, our lack of major social tensions or economic polarisation, our relatively benign climate, the protection afforded by geographic isolation and island status. These claims do not withstand close scrutiny, but they are central to the romance that luck defines us and drives us and that we are somehow blessed. Within this narrative, while there may be losers, they are the exceptions that confirm the rule. As a country, we are lucky.

Why did we embrace this term so ardently? There have been many other books about Australia that have used other phrases to describe us, but none has had such enduring power. We want to think of ourselves as lucky. It accords with the sentimental view we have of ourselves. It has been a consolation for us to think of ourselves as lucky, when we could just as easily have concluded the opposite. We could have believed we were unlucky to be so far from Europe and the United States, for never having gone through the nation-building exercise of a war of independence, for not having the challenges of a smaller territory or a larger population. Perhaps because we have always secretly harboured the fear that Australia Felix is a self-reinforcing myth, and that we needed to camouflage our insecurity, we seized upon Donald Horne’s term as if it were a life raft; and we have floated, more or less comfortably, upon it for the past 40-odd years.

It became our legend. We placed our faith in a gambling term. We made a decision, in effect, to take a flutter on the future. It was very seductive to think of ourselves as graced, as Godzone. It also helped us cope with adversity, such as drought or fire or bank failure, as we could console ourselves that these were unusual and temporary aberrations to our normal run of good luck.

It led us to develop a wry and laconic humour that has become a distinctively Australian way of dealing with misfortune. In his classic stories of Dad and Dave and Mum, barely scratching out a living on their selection, Steele Rudd told of ruinous events with a sardonic humour. At the same time, especially for our governments, it justified complacency, and failure to notice the profound changes occurring in our region and in our world. We encased ourselves in a self-satisfied cocoon of contentment; secure in the belief that luck would see us through.

Nowhere is this more evident than in our attitude to Australia’s prodigious mineral and energy resources. Nothing irritated Donald Horne more than people’s easy assumption that he had been referring to the nation’s resources when he used the term “lucky country”. In fact, he wrote in 1976, “When I invented the phrase in 1964 to describe Australia I said ‘Australia is a lucky country run by second-rate people who share its luck. I didn’t mean that it...
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had a lot of material resources, although this was how many people used the phrase at the time of euphoria about Australia’s mineral exports’.

In mid-2008, when I was writing *On Luck*, and Australia was in the midst of another, seemingly endless resources boom, few commentators, especially those writing in the financial pages, could resist using the phrase. Even as they were warning that we were likely to repeat history by squandering the benefits of the boom, these writers still used the language of luck to describe our conundrum.

Of course the boom ended swiftly, late last year, another casualty of the global financial crisis. Within weeks of *On Luck* being published, my gloomy prognosis on how we would most likely mismanage this boom became irrelevant. I had reported, citing the *Australian Financial Review*, that in the four years from 2004, the federal government had enjoyed a $334 billion rise in tax revenue, most of it through the mining boom. What did we do with this windfall? Did we put it into desperately needed infrastructure to, say, improve roads or schools or our digital highway? No, we didn’t. Did we quarantine it from having an inflationary impact on the general economy and emulate Norway or Alaska, two other resource-rich states, by placing it in a sovereign fund and spending only the interest? Of course not.

Instead, the Howard government returned 94 per cent of this $334 billion to the population in the form of tax cuts and other direct payments. The punters lapped it up, of course. It was another example of our luck. We spent the money as fast as it came in, splurging on plasma televisions, overseas holidays and investment properties, pushing up inflation (and the value of our homes) and interest rates in the process. We spent as if the boom would never end, not believing for a moment that it could. Even when the financial crisis put an end to the party, we tried to tell ourselves that we were insulated from the worst of it, that we were still lucky.

“For much of this year, Australians believed that, once again, we were the lucky country. We had better regulation. We had more responsible banks. We had an export-driven economy based on the unassailable rise of the developing world on our doorstep,” wrote Ian Verrender in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in December 2008. “How quickly those beliefs have begun to unravel. Now our big banks reluctantly have begun to own up to the sort of reckless lending practices undertaken by their American and European counterparts.”

The federal (Rudd) government had to guarantee all bank deposits, to throw billions into the economy in the form of stimulus packages designed to keep us spending and to borrow heavily to finance the infrastructure programs it had committed to the previous budget, before everything went pear shaped. But despite the best efforts of the federal opposition to alarm us about the huge levels of debt the government has racked up, we don’t really believe we are in trouble. For Australians, the glass is always half full. (Usually of sauvignon blanc, the new preferred national drink).

Our propensity for eternal optimism is constantly reinforced. Our unemployment rates are not as high as predicted; consumer spending is on the up; China’s economy remains relatively robust. So what’s to worry about? It takes a lot for Australians to look on the dark side of things. So much so that our leaders are taking remarkable steps to try to force us to face the future differently.

Earlier this year, Reserve Bank governor Glenn Stevens, in a speech entitled “Road to Recovery”, told us it was time to get realistic about how we can thrive in future: “We cannot achieve effortless prosperity either on the back of ever-escalating mineral prices or simply by bidding up the prices of our houses,” he said. “It is as well to realise that”.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd was far more blunt. In a long and remarkable essay published in late July 2009 in both the *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*, he said we had no choice but to abandon our lucky country mindset. “In the past, Australia relied almost exclusively on the rollercoaster of the boom and bust of the mining sector on the stock market,” he wrote. “Instead, Australia needs to build stable foundations for growth by reforming the economy to enhance long-term productivity growth, the only reliable driver of long-term improvements in national living standards”. In other words, we can no longer rely on luck and, in this case, luck is essentially a metaphor for our mineral resources.

Instead we are being told we have to shift in a quite fundamental way how the Australian economy operates and, concomitantly, how we think about ourselves. No longer able to rely on luck, we are going to have to roll up our sleeves and get to work, build ourselves a very different sort of economy. Will we be able to do it?

We have never avoided the hard work that was needed to build the nation but we have chosen to represent ourselves differently: as the beneficiaries of good fortune rather than of honest toil. We want to think of ourselves in a certain way, and it is this attitude that will be very hard to shift. We seem to need to believe that our wealth was acquired effortlessly, perhaps so the rest of the world would see us as an antipodean paradise.
Such an influx could not fail to have a dramatic impact. The population rose from 11,738 in 1841 to 540,322 in 1861. Antipodes. Most of the increase occurred in Victoria where the country, on both the land itself and on the conduct and morality of the people.

Being a nation of immigrants, most of us are descended from people who came to Australia hoping to improve their circumstances; but nowhere was this more the case than with those who rushed to NSW and, in even greater numbers, to Victoria, hoping to get rich quickly. In the 10 years between 1851 and 1861 the population trebled as fortune hunters flocked to the antipodes. Most of the increase occurred in Victoria where the population rose from 11,738 in 1841 to 540,322 in 1861. Such an influx could not fail to have a dramatic impact on the country, on both the land itself and on the conduct and morality of the people.

Henry Handel Richardson’s epic goldfields trilogy, The Fortunes of Richard Mahony, brilliantly described this impact. Australia Felix, the first novel, described the physical and psychic ruin that befell so many of the diggers. So much of who we are was formed in those two decades: the iconic term “digger”, our hatred of authority as encapsulated in the 1854 Eureka Stockade rebellion, our reliance on bureaucracy in the form of the diggers’ licenses that prompted the rebellion; the fluidity of our class system which accepts and even applauds the idea that people can, through sheer luck, become wealthy overnight.

Another interesting aspect of the Australia of the gold rush period was the preponderance of Chinese. In 1861, one in 30 of the population was Chinese, with huge numbers having travelled from southern China to Xin Jin Shan, or New Gold Mountain, as opposed to depleted California – the old mountain. These days, the Chinese are still intimately involved in the extraction of Australia’s mineral resources, but in a far more corporatised way.

There can be no doubt that the gold rushes had an important and not necessarily positive impact on the evolving Australian character. “Balaarat [sic] was a Nuggety Eldorado for the few, a ruinous field of hard labour for many, a profound ditch of perdition for Body and Soul to all,” wrote Raffaello Carboni, the Italian writer who provided the only eyewitness account of the Eureka Stockade. He could have been describing us today. We became obsessed with money early in our history and this obsession has never left us.

We are far more interested in the material than the spiritual. Even before the gold rush, Charles Darwin observed that Australians’ only interest seemed to be money, but it was in the goldfields that we began to see our national fortunes as being inextricably bound with what lies beneath, and to be unperturbed by the precarious nature of such wealth. All you need is a bit of luck: to locate the stuff, be able to dig it up, find customers for it, hope that prices don’t collapse and other nations don’t undermine us; that the boom lasts far into the future. We acquired this way of thinking early in our history, and it will be very hard to discard.

As is our national obsession with gambling which, of course, has nothing at all to with luck. Gambling is all about odds and most forms of gambling involve odds that are so stacked against the punter that you wonder why anyone bothers. Two-up is the only game that delivers anything at all to the players. Everything else involves a cut for the house, a commission for the seller in the case of lotteries and, the biggest player of them all, state governments which in 2006 took in a staggering $4.6 billion from all forms of gaming. No one is more addicted to gambling than our governments, whose take has doubled in the past 20 years and will continue to increase so long as Australians ignore odds as long as one in 45 million and insist on believing they have a chance of winning. Kevin Rudd might be urging us to stop thinking we’ll get lucky and start getting seriously productive but his state counterparts have a stake, and a very high one, in our ongoing romance of our luck. And if the massive response to the lottery on 30 June is anything to go by, it will be very difficult to make us give it up.


All footnotes and references are included with the online version at the SAM website.
n the brilliant January dawn of the northern winter, a group of 20 students and interested participants arrived in the eternal city to undertake the 2009 Classical Rome Summer School. This course — run by the Department of Classics and Ancient History — examines the physical fabric of the ancient city: its topography, art, architecture, history, and their later reception and use in the middle ages, Renaissance and early modern periods. Over 18 days and nights, participants live in Rome, visit archaeological sites (many of them still in the process of excavation), examine monuments, and experience some of the most extensive and exquisite museum collections in the world. In the evenings, a series of lectures offer historical and cultural context for the development and meaning of the city and its monuments. An extension tour gives the option of four further days exploring the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, as well as Naples and the Coast of Campania. For the duration of the course in Rome, participants stayed in Trastevere, a neighbourhood south of the Tiber whose prominence in the medieval period is still attested by its evocative cobblestone streets, narrow alleys, and basilicas spanning the fifth to ninth centuries. Trastevere is also (very importantly) the location of a number of excellent restaurants and cafes — it is a favourite destination for Romans at night and on weekends — and an easy walk to the historical and archaeological centre of the city. In the Classical Rome Summer School, participants map the development of the city’s urban space against the backdrop of a number of historical, social, and political contexts. Two enduring factors were the exponentially increasing wealth that Rome’s empire brought into the city, and the ongoing competitive self-representation of aristocratic politics. As the influx of wealth from the Mediterranean empire reached its apogee in the first centuries BC and AD, the previously ad hoc development of the republican city gave way to its most famous and influential public spaces: the Forum Romanum, the imperial Fora, the many privately sponsored porticoes, and structures built to house spectacles, such as theatres, circuses and amphitheatres. Individuals, such as the emperor or a prominent politician, often sponsored public monuments, ensuring their name, resources, and reputations were permanently...
commemorated in these benefactions to the city. To this day, the Pantheon bears witness to the wealth and power of Marcus Agrippa, who commissioned and gifted to the people the original Pantheon from his own funds (and on his private property), as part of a scheme of buildings celebrating the emperor Augustus (31 BC-14 AD). A theme, which emerged quickly in our stay, was Rome as a palimpsest — a city continually and creatively in dialogue with its own past, a community overlaying and reinventing its own urban space with the concerns of new periods and cultural influences. This ongoing use can be seen in the Borsa, the Roman stock exchange, whose northern façade still preserves a second century AD temple to the deified emperor Hadrian (ruled 117-138 AD). On a smaller scale, the streetscapes and urban spaces determined by ancient buildings, such as the Stadium of Domitian (built in the 90s AD and giving the Piazza Navona its distinctive shape), and the Theatre of Pompey (built in the 50s BC and still visibly influencing the streets west of the Campo dei Fiori). Similarly, bicycles propped against the Pantheon and concerts held in the Colosseum continually remind us of the remarkable privilege of modern Romans, whose daily life is adorned by these breathtaking and fundamentally important buildings.

A perfect example of this complex and continuing dialogue was found on the site of the Basilica of San Clemente near the Colosseum. On this site, a Roman house from the republican period was built over by an apartment block and a larger house in the first century AD; in the third and fourth centuries, a Christian church harmoniously co-existed on the site with a temple to the pagan god Mithras; by the late fourth century, the site had become a basilica; the current basilica, replete with medieval mosaics, was converted into its present form in the 12th century. The site has thus been in continual use for more than two millennia, and all of its phases are accessible to the visitor who descends a sequence of stairs beneath the church through the levels of its excavations. At its lowest level, some 12 metres below the modern street level, the sound of continually gushing water from the Roman-built cloaca (drain) — still operating as it has done for thousands of years — echoes throughout the site.

Excursions outside Rome include visits to Ostia Antica, the ancient harbour of Rome, whose apartment blocks, taverns, and necropolis provide valuable evidence of the everyday life of ordinary citizens: a world so often obscured by the grandiose monuments of aristocrats and emperors. Students also visit the republican sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia in Palestrina, 30 kilometres east of Rome. This cult centre represents a colossal tour de force of Hellenistic and Roman architectural styles. It ascends a hillside in a bravura use of brick-faced concrete (then a cutting edge material) over seven separate levels to the shrine at the peak. In the second half of the course, the influence of Roman art and architectural forms is traced throughout the churches of the Medieval and Renaissance periods. Churches such as Saint John Lateran (once the private property of the Roman family the Laterani), St Peter’s, and Santa Maria Maggiore all draw on their pagan and secular predecessors, and reconfigure expressions of power to leverage the position of the papacy within the city at varying points in its history.

The final day is wholly devoted to a walking tour of the baroque city; it is enough merely to scratch the surface of this infinitely rich period of Rome’s history, and provides an introduction to the profound achievement of Borromini (1599-1667) and Bernini (1598-1680). The importance of baroque hydraulics is reflected in the city’s many fountains and in the development, in the 17th century, of areas such as the Campus Martius and the Quirinal Hill in the north east of the city. We finished this last day – and the course – in the Borghese gallery, admiring among its many other treasures) its four Bernini sculptures, Apollo and Daphne (1622/3); Aeneas, Anchises, and Ascanius (1619); Proserpina (1621-2); David (1623-4).

Roma. Non basta una vita (“a lifetime is not enough”). And yet, the Classical Rome Summer School offers its participants an ideal and intensive orientation to the classical city, its culture, and its legacy.

Dr Paul Roche is a lecturer in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University. He teaches Latin and Ancient History, and writes on Roman epic and Imperial Rome. The Department next offers its Classical Rome Summer School in January 2011. For further details contact Paul Roche (paul.roche@usyd.edu.au) or Kathryn Welch (kathryn.welch@usyd.edu.au).
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SOME HIGHLIGHTS

• Four nights in Istanbul, exploring the imperial Byzantine tradition and visiting key sites such as the Hagia Sophia and the extraordinary mosques that were inspired by it.
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Russian-born tour leader Marina Campbell provides in-depth historical and cultural commentary on the tour and uses her Russian heritage to provide unique insights and experiences. Marina holds an MA in Russian Studies from the University of NSW and has spent many years teaching Russian language and culture at the University of Sydney. She has led many successful tours to Russia and Central Europe.

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Travelling with a true purpose – beyond just getting there and lying in the sun, that is – could be a sign of maturity, or chronic fidgets. Either way, it’s a condition that lends itself to exploring the specialist travel options offered by the University’s CCE (Centre for Continuing Education). The choices border on the bewildering but most of us have a secret passion or freely admitted penchant for something: uncovering Etruscan – ceramics, snapping a rare Hartlaub’s Turaco, nibbling pomegranates in Isfahan: who doesn’t itch for the unknown and untied?

Coming up in the next 18 months: art and archaeology in Spain with Chris Carter; Moros y Cristiano, anyone? Or Syria and Jordan in October 2010 with Dr John Tidmarsh? On the other hand, as someone brought up in the Kenyan bush, it’s hard to go past Robin Nichols’ photographic safari in March 2010. Few could fail to be awed by the landscapes, histories and wildlife of the African continent. The diversity – north to south, east to west – is incomparable and there is a strong temptation to try to do too much. An itinerary that leaps from country to country, culture to culture and climate to climate may look good on paper but unless there is time to spare – six months, say – to properly experience the contrasts, the grasshopper tourist risks coming home with a memory stick full of images of... um, well, was that blur Botswana or a lion or an anthill?

Nichols is well known to CCE students of his digital photography classes and photographic weekends. So an expert guided tour of some of the less trammelled but more magnificent parts of eastern Africa is a heady prospect. The trip begins in Nairobi at the Karen Blixen Museum and the Giraffe Centre. Blixen’s Out of Africa is the classic real life romances of colonial Kenya (she “hed a farm vunce in Ahfrikah”) and her house is White settler life in microcosm. The Giraffe Centre is a major conservation enterprise, dedicated to the rare Rothschild Giraffe, which may or may not be a separate species from Reticulated and Masai giraffe (jury out at the moment) but is distinctively different: creamy pelt with warm golden-brown markings.

Next stop is Amboseli, at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro. It is not as over-run with tour buses as the Masai Mara and is a photographic gift with the mountain, hundreds of species of birds and all the most sought after big game to pose picturesquely at dawn and sunset.

Across the border into Tanzania is Lake Manyara National Park where the black-maned lions prove that big cats do climb trees. Nearby Kirurumu Lodge is where photos are critiqued via laptop each evening between admiring the endless views across the river gorge, or enjoying the safari life in a luxurious walk-in tent with all mod-cons (Karen Blixen never had it so good).

Two of the destinations of a lifetime, no matter how many have been there before, are the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater. You might think you know about them courtesy David Attenborough, but nothing can prepare you for the real thing. Take time to pay attention to the less fashionable inhabitants of these parts: Wildebeest with their goofy long noses and amazing desire to walk hundreds of kilometres back and forth on annual migration; various antelope that may look alike at first glance but are all different and exquisite. And, of course, the most remarkable design jobs of all: the Zebra. They are as opinionated and playful as most mid-size horses and the black and white stripes of each are unique.

Had enough of wildlife and wilderness shots? The final destination is Zanzibar. The name itself evokes romance and mystery and the island, although well and truly discovered by western tourism thanks to Sting and Bryan Ferry, doesn’t disappoint. It has been successively colonised over the centuries: Omani Arabs, the Portuguese and finally the British all used it as a garrison and base for their trade in slaves and ivory from the mainland and the island-grown crop: sweet-scented cloves that never quite overcame the stink of misery and blood.

The island’s older buildings, including the Sultan’s palace and the cathedral with its remnant artefacts from its time as the centre of slavery, lend themselves to photography, as do the relics of another culture. From the 1970s the island was blessed with “aid” from communist bloc countries and dreadful but strangely photogenic crumbling buildings are the souvenirs. The Red Colobus monkey is also worth tracking down for its beauty and rarity; a long lens and patience may be rewarded; these two accessories are possibly the most useful to take on any African trip.

To register your interest and receive information as available, call (02) 9364790 or email ccetours@usyd.edu.au.
Earlier this year, there were excited media reports of the flooding of Lake Eyre and the subsequent arrival of countless birds using some kind of avian telepathy to know that conditions were right for nesting. Companies running outback tours were quick to respond (neatly capitalising on the GFC-assisted trend towards travel within Australia): “See Lake Eyre in flood – once-in-a-lifetime experience” was the tenor of the ads in travel sections of newspapers, with offerings ranging from one-day charter flights to longer tours with land trips to the Lake and visits to other remote regions. It was the second of these two options that attracted a friend and myself and we signed up for a five-night light plane trip visiting Mildura (Victoria), Marree (the jumping-off point for land trips to the Lake) and Innamincka in South Australia, Birdsville and Bedourie (Queensland), and Bourke (NSW). The first disappointment came before we took off from Bankstown Airport: we would be unable to land at Lake Mungo, because of a sodden landing strip. We did however fly low over the dry lake so we could see the celebrated Walls of China at close range.

Our group of 16 was divided between two small planes, Piper Navajos with a seat layout allowing everyone a window. We took it in turns to sit up front with the pilot, an experience which – as well as affording a great view - was inspiring for the complexity of the pilot’s take-off and landing routines, and flying skills. We dined – superbly – on our first night at Stefano da Pieri’s in Mildura, a culinary peak from which there could only be decline as we progressed into steak-and-chips country.

From Mildura we crossed the attenuated oval-shaped Lake Frome, its white salt bed punctuated by areas of pinkish sand and blue ribbons of water from recent heavy rains. An island of scrubby green vegetation presented a startling contrast. It was also our first experience of what proved to be the highlight of this trip, namely, seeing the landscape from a small plane at low altitudes, in contrast to the distant view from a jet at tens of thousands of feet. It’s a privilege that few have enjoyed, and blows away the idea that outback Australia is one big undifferentiated desert, unchanging and boring. Once past Lake Frome we flew across the northern end of the Flinders Ranges, with their ranks of brown-red peaks stretching into seeming infinity. On to Marree, a town once a major stop on the Ghan and now primarily a centre for passing travellers, ranging from airborne blow-ins like us to grey nomads in massive Winnebagos. Life in Marree centres on the gracious old two-storey pub, enlarged to meet recent demand with a dozen or so demountables transformed into motel units. Locals – an apparently even mix of whites and Aboriginals – stage a nightly guitar sing-along under its overhanging veranda.

And so to the focus of the trip: Lake Eyre. It should be noted that the 2009 flood peaked at a mere 1.5m in late May, only a quarter of the maximum recorded depth of 6m. Floods of the latter dimension have occurred, on average, a couple of times in a century, so it could be said that some tour operators were rather overstating their case. Moreover, by the time we were bussed out there, in early June, the lake was evaporating fast, much to the disappointment of many in our group, who had expected a vast expanse of swimming-pool-blue water. (The Lake Eyre Yacht Club – yes, seriously! – website reports that the smaller South Lake was completely dry by 18 June.)

There was a marked lack of birds, apart from a few forlorn gulls that looked as though they’d rather be at Bondi. An recent 7.30 Report item showing huge flocks of nesting birds had fuelled visitors’ expectations, but the birds favoured the upper reaches of the vast Lake Eyre Basin, north of Birdsville, where large lakes had appeared in January as a result of monsoonal rain. This was confirmed later when we saw thousands of gulls feasting on fish.
of pelicans nesting at Lake Machattie – a stunning sight from the air.

Bedourie’s “Simpson Desert Oasis” sounded alluring: but the reality was a few motel rooms supplemented by demountables with a moulded shower recess and a minuscule, theft-defying TV on a wall bracket so high that watching was like looking through the wrong end of a telescope; and a large communal bar/dining room serving immense slabs of steak and mountains of chips to resident road workers. You knew you were in the outback at Bedourie …

Because of the distance we covered the trip involved a lot of sitting: on tour buses, on riverboats in Mildura and Bourke, and of course on planes. More opportunities for walking would have been welcome (not for everyone). And refuelling stops, though vital, took time. However, a second landing in Birdsville was an opportunity to have another cup of the best coffee of the trip, at the Birdsville Pub. Birdsville also features the terrific Working Museum, a staggering collection of memorabilia ranging from antique radios and bowser to 19th century water pumps and a classic corner shop, fully stocked with nostalgia-inducing contents for anyone over a certain age. Reckitt’s Blue or Dr McKenzie’s

Menthoids, anyone? While our experience was confined to one tour company, from talking to other travellers it seems that thoughtful planning and customer service may have taken a back seat in the effort to wring maximum profit out of our Lake experience. Better current information in advance would have helped lower unrealistic expectations, and there were some avoidable organisational glitches, like unbooked accommodation. Anyone simply wanting to see Lake Eyre might have done as well to take a day trip by light plane or helicopter, and earlier in the “flood” period.

But on the longer trip, the compensations were many: the swollen Coopers Creek and Diamantina River – two of the main feeders of Lake Eyre – with ribbons of green after the long dry snaking along delta-like tentacles; the endless red sand ridges of the Simpson and Strzelecki Deserts; and the bleak beauty of the Sturt Stony Desert. As mesmerising landscapes unfolded, it was impossible to tear your eyes away from the constantly changing colours, deep red to pale pink to warm brown; the stark white salt pans, the grey-green and khaki of the dotted vegetation, and the delicate patterns made by plants, wind, water and erosion. The ultimate effect, like a series of brilliant, gently overlapping Aboriginal paintings, will remain imprinted on my mind for a long time.

Additional info

Our baggage allowance was 9kg, packed in a soft bag to easily fit into the planes’ holds, which were in the wings. My luggage weighed 8kg and comprised two pairs of slacks (one on, one off), socks and underwear (minimal, could be washed en route), a warm sweater, one drip-dry shirt, three long-sleeved T-shirts, a reversible quilted jacket (worn constantly), boots and walking shoes (one of these would have been enough), pyjamas and minimal toiletries. It was very cold at night, but it was possible to keep warm by layering some of these components. I wore everything I took except a pair of gym leggings, included with a view to exercising every day. Ha ha. Before we left everyone had to be weighed with their luggage, and we suspected that a couple of obese passengers rather skewed the situation for the rest of us: several people had to exchange their bags for lighter ones provided by the airline, or even remove some contents. Personally, I was glad the airline was strict about the correct total weight.
How to lubricate the machine

Dr Anthony Grant is a pioneer in the field of coaching psychology; he talks to a suddenly twitchy Caroline Baum

When you are about to interview a psychologist, you suddenly become aware that every behavioural trait could be a significant clue. Or perhaps not.

A pair of giant dilated pupils watches over Dr Anthony Grant. He bought the two abstract images from Ikea and jokingly interprets them as the eyes of an Invisible Big Brother. They loom over the visitor amid the usual jumble of books and papers typical of someone struggling to keep up with their topic and general admin without the benefit of an assistant. Staring as if in mid-psychotic episode, (we are in the Psychology Department, after all) the eyes are not nearly as distracting as a large mountain range of Toblerone, which sits on a bookshelf daring Dr Grant to resist it. Clearly, whatever else he is, Grant is not a serious or credible chocoholic or he would have succumbed long ago, unless this is some aversion therapy experiment.

One thing is immediately apparent. Dr Grant is a very busy man. An appointment to meet has to be booked a month in advance and during our time together, there are several interruptions from students and colleagues. As the founder of the world’s first university unit devoted to the field of coaching psychology, Grant is something of a pioneer and advocate for a much misunderstood and sometimes maligned field of research and practice. The era of self-help has spawned a multitude of people without any qualifications who call themselves coaches. Grant, who consults with senior executives and large companies, believes that his course, which is only available at postgraduate level, provides the legitimacy and credibility clients require. “In the 20 years since this field emerged from the US, some of the cowboys have mercifully disappeared,” he says. “But it’s still an unregulated profession, like selling diet pills.”

At first glance, Grant might seem an unlikely candidate for an academic position, having left school in the UK at 15 to take up carpentry as a profession after a stint as a street sweeper. But with parents who were followers of the mystical teacher Alexander Gurdjieff, perhaps Grant’s professional destiny is not quite so surprising after all. After running his own business as a contractor, he made the transition to a career in sales and marketing before beginning tertiary studies as a mature age student. He came to Australia 20 years ago because his dad suggested it to him; and the University Medal certificate he was awarded in 1997 is proudly displayed on the wall of his office in the Psychology Department.

Currently, between 50 and 80 students take Dr Grant’s course ever year. “The intake is capped, but interest is growing,” says Grant, who teaches four days a week and consults one day a week. “This year 60 per cent of students are female; that is generally the case when we have a lot of students who come from the human resources sector. We also attract a lot of mid-career professionals who do the course to leverage their specific expertise in the finance or legal sectors. And of course it spills into other personal growth stuff, which is about bringing rigor and critical thinking to coaching.”

Dr Grant’s main focus of interest is in looking at organisational issues of stress in the workplace, staff retention, personal motivation and leadership. “It is still the case that most organisations work in a rule based mechanistic way which is over-
engineered. A university is a perfect example of this. I think the modern workplace needs more autonomy. Centralised control stifles creativity. Coaching can lubricate parts of the machine,” he says, though he’s not presumptuous enough to apply this remedy to his own institution.

“I adhere to the mantra of the 12 step program as used by Alcoholics Anonymous: ‘God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change’,” he says, a cheeky laugh punctuating his persistent south London accent. But he adds, on a more serious note: “That saying has applications in this field: we look at the positive acceptance of powerlessness and personal vulnerability which can lead to a personal wake-up call that brings about change. It’s about learning how letting go of control can mean you gain control. The Dalai Lama is very good at recognising what we call ‘choice points’ in terms of what you can change and letting go of the outcome. We are wrong to see acceptance as weakness, but that is a very western notion.”

He thinks the much talked about dilemma of so-called work/life balance is over-stated.

“If your work is your calling, you make no distinction between it and the rest of your life. It’s not an either/or dichotomy,” says the father of two boys who says that his idea of relaxation is “writing papers – seriously – as well as playing loud, rather bad blues guitar and camping or skiing with the family.” (Grant’s wife, Georige, is a social worker).

Grant does not think some jobs are inherently better than others.

“I’ve worked digging graves and emptying bins and my experience is that the people doing those jobs are happier than some of the lawyers I work with.”

Asked to nominate the people who inspire him in his field, he gives a typically idiosyncratic answer.

“Gurdjieff for his integrative thinking and early use of mindfulness in everyday life, Ken Sheldon for his book Optimal Human Being and finally Keith Richards, because if anyone personifies resilience in their personal and professional life, it’s him!”

Not that Anthony Grant would necessarily encourage students or clients to adopt such an extreme lifestyle. On second thoughts, maybe he would.
THE LOST MOTHER – A STORY OF ART AND LOVE
ANNE SUMMERS
ISBN: 9780522856354
MUP $34.99

The investigative story is a natural for a stickybeak journalist and Anne Summers (PhD '79) is a journalist and researcher of unrelenting curiosity. She discovered more mysteries than she anticipated, however, when she decided to track down the provenance of a small portrait of her mother, the then 10-year-old Eileen Hogan.

The journey began on her mother’s death in 2005 when Summers inherited the picture, painted in 1933 by a “C Parkin”. Over a period of several years and after many dead ends, blind alleys and other dispiriting hiccups, Summers eventually uncovers not one but three fascinating stories of 20th century women.

The first is her poignant discovery of a mother she had known mainly through a filter of long held antagonism. The second is of the extraordinary circumstances of the portrait’s genesis and of C Parkin’s identity: actually Constance Stokes and once a major figure in Australian modernism. The third is the enigmatic, rich Russian émigré, Mrs William Mortill, who bought the picture from the artist and was only parted from it by war and misfortune.

Being real life, rather than fiction, there are more loose ends and questions than neat endings and answers and these add to the book’s interest. Summers’ method also draws in the reader; she openly speculates and imagines possible solutions before dutifully returning to the often daunting but always captivating hunt for clues and the revelation of unsolved mysteries.

Still at large, perhaps, is another Stokes portrait of young Eileen, painted at the same time, which Summers has not been able to trace. Then there is the more important story of Constance Stokes.

This book (by an author who says she knows little about art) has rescued one of the finest Australian artists of the early 20th century from undeserved obscurity; Stokes fills the book with colour, light and shade because – ironically – she is the most accessible of the three. It’s also a straightforward book and a reader cannot fail to be moved by Summers’ honest appraisal of herself and her relationship with her mother and their history together.

THE BLUE PLATEAU: A LANDSCAPE MEMOIR
MARK TREDINNICK
ISBN: 9780702237102
UQP $26.95

When he tree-changed to the Blue Mountains in 1998 Mark Tredinnick (BA ’84 LLB ’86) could not have anticipated quite how deeply the region would take him over and seep into his being. Or perhaps he did, his “credo” – published on his website www.marktredinnick.com.au – begins “I believe in landscape, and I believe in literature. I believe, though it sounds strange to say so these days, that places teach us how to live right; I believe that they show us, if we let them, how to speak well; and I believe that the struggle to improve our sentences, to make them lean and honest and humble, is the struggle to improve ourselves, and, by that means, the world. I am a fool for places, you see …”

This means that the book is not about the Mountains so much as the mountains are about who we are, why we are and when we are – whatever it is we think all those things might be.

Listen to this: “If a place is your life, if it is the very words in your mouth, and it is taken, what do you say, and who are you then, and where? You grieve, you fall silent, you pass. Or you weather and you scatter like so many of the plateau’s first people among the townships of the plateau’s current incarnation, and you carry on.”

Tredinnick is a fine writer, essayist and poet and the book contains elements of all these. It is by turns magical, moving, pragmatic and loving. His powers of observation and analysis are thrilling and, although (because?) the writing is detached and spare, the emotion it provokes over and over – tears pricking and lump in throat – is powerful.

It’s tempting to quote more passages – because each page presents something exquisite and original to share – but none would do justice to the whole, which is a unique and glorious portrait of an incomparable and often misunderstood part of the country.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WINE
EVAN MITCHELL AND BRIAN MITCHELL
PRAEGER PUBLISHERS
$44.95
ISBN: 9780313376504

“Truth and beauty by the glass” otherwise known as in vino veritas is at the heart of this passionate historical
exploration by son Evan (BA ’88) and father Brian (BA ’71 PhD ’76).

Their quest is exhaustive and no source or possibility is left unexplored. From Camille Paglia to Seneca via Al Pacino and Shakespeare, the Mitchells discover something apposite, funny or wise in their research.

This is a unique way to experience wine (and you get the feeling that a lot has been experienced in the writing of it) and like so much of the best product, it’s well worth savouring at leisure.

Evan has been a sommelier and a wine educator; his dad is a psychologist, between them they come up with outrageous and charming ideas about wine and its many lives.

Take the description “flat”, for instance. This begins with mouthfeel and digresses rapidly to EM Forster and Aspects of the Novel. And so it goes. Cognitive dissonance plays a part at some point, but as the narrative tends to make you want to reach for a bottle and glass, it’s difficult to recall exactly where.

HENRY LOVES JAZZ
STEPHEN LACEY
MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PRESS
$23.95
ISBN: 9780522856804

Stephen Lacey (BA ’92 MA ’96) is 40-something when his wife Marianne tells him she’s pregnant. Like many men in similar circumstances he breaks out in hives. His mother isn’t sympathetic but then, she had endured Robbie Williams videos on TV in hospital while recovering from a heart attack, so she’s unlikely to be moved by her son’s panic attack. Then Henry is born and everything changes.

This would be a familiar scenario to many once reluctant parents, but Lacey injects his neurotic soul searching and voyage of domestic discovery with a determinedly daggy style and rough-handed sense of humour. (Does anyone say “fair dinkum” any more – other than Kevin Rudd, that is?)

Lacey’s style is unadorned candour: take it or leave it. If you go along with him it’s an entertaining and often cheerfully illuminating ride and a well observed picture of life in contemporary Australia, with a twist.

Once again the prize for the winning entrant is this beautiful Museum – the Macleays, their collections and the search for order by Robyn Stacey and Ashley Hay. So start solving now! Send your completed entries to The Editor, SAM, Room K6.05, Quadrangle A14, University of Sydney NSW 2006. First correct entry out of the bucket will win.

Prize Crossword
By Emeritus Professor
Gavin Brown AO FAA CorrFRSE

ACROSS
1 Vary grade for late assignment? [9,5]
9 Sour, in no state to describe night life [9]
10 Plant producing nitrogenous waste when denied nitrogen! [5]
11 Minor official concerning first lady [5]
12 Underfoot hazard from pit angle [9]
13 Adopted soothing word in short-lived passion [8]
15 Less cautious bishop embraces tennis star [6]
17 Funny funny men of great significance [6]
19 Island murder involving tip of Levantine instrument [8]
22 A catalogue comprising opprobrium follows Middle Eastern scholar [9]
23 Bird round about another bird [5]
24 Yellowish – green sort of semi-transparent material [5]
25 Coat from wild animal trapped in net [9]
26 Vague – describes most of pie or what then remains [14]

DOWN
1 Upping – uppity chap though in charge constrained by defined allocation [14]
2 Against holding Channel Islands’ old flag [7]
3 Shorten, make smaller and extract [5]
4 Religious figure guides an altered character formation [5,3]
5 Small shapeless mass discovered in returned Apollo dust [6]
6 The Greek Medusa disguised as servant [9]
7 Satellite explorer in heavenly sign language [7]
8 Fiery spinner – whip that woman into playing partner’s list [9,5]
14 26 pair correct wrong article about philosopher [9]
16 Airline to put on old jumbo perhaps [8]
18 Warrior Queen after minor change in old Lombardy [7]
20 Rugby player not selected, move in dispute [7]
21 Perverted critic leaves a sour taste [6]
23 Roman senator gives shelter for priest [5]

Answers in Summer issue of SAM
There has always been a great divide in Australia between those who love rugby (either union or league) and those who love AFL (Australian Football League). New South Wales’s passion has typically been for rugby but, in recent years, this dominance has begun to wane and AFL participation and attendance has grown significantly. In Sydney we already have the Swans. Could the introduction of a second AFL team in NSW mark the end of the Barassi Line?

Professor Ian Turner, in his 1978 Ron Barassi Memorial Lecture, first suggested the concept of the Barassi Line. It referred to a dividing line running from Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory, south through Birdsville, Queensland, through southern NSW north of the Riverina, bisecting Canberra and on to the Pacific Ocean at Cape Howe on the border of NSW and Victoria.

The imaginary line represents a dichotomy in our sporting culture: Australian Rules football being the most popular football code to the west and south of the line, with the rugby football varieties (league and union) the most popular codes on the other side. At the time it was first used, there were no professional teams or leagues located on each code’s opposite side of the line.

The Barassi Line was named after Ron Barassi, Jnr. His father played 58 games for Melbourne in the Victorian Football League (VFL) from 1936 to 1940 when he enlisted to fight in World War II and was killed at Tobruk in 1941. His son became a star player for Melbourne and Carlton, and a premiership-winning coach with Carlton and North Melbourne. He believed in spreading Australian Rules around the nation with an evangelical zeal. He foresaw a time when Australian Rules football clubs around Australia, including up to four from NSW and Queensland, would play in a national league with only a handful of clubs based in Melbourne. At that time the VFL consisted of 11 clubs in Melbourne and one in regional Victoria, and Barassi was largely ridiculed. He went on to become a major supporter of the relocated Sydney Swans and in 1993 became their coach.

Recently AFL has increasingly focused on regions behind the Barassi Line, particularly in metropolitan areas (its “developing markets”) where the league has traditionally struggled. The league has granted concessions to teams based in these regions, investing large amounts of development funding. As a result, participation is increasing in NSW and has almost doubled from 2005 (60,862) to 2008 (113,348). And a gradually increasing number of national league players have been produced from formerly unpromising territory, mostly due to interstate migration trends and developing grassroots participation, especially Cairns, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Many Victorian AFL clubs are now aligning themselves with NSW-based clubs in an effort to strengthen the pool of young players from NSW entering the AFL Draft. “These development squads are definitely improving the standard of the Sydney AFL. Well-run squads with quality coaching are very important in an environment which suffers from a lack of quality coaches and resources as well as a relative lack of competition,” said Jason McLennon, President of Sydney University Australian National Football Club (SUANFC).

Sydney University Australian National Football Club’s inaugural Under-18 program, the “Colts” was unveiled this year – supported by a new relationship with Collingwood Football Club. A step towards long term plans for success, this alignment will enhance SUANFC’s high performance pathway in developing elite youth talent.

Other Victorian AFL clubs that have aligned themselves with Sydney clubs include Melbourne with Pennant Hills, Essendon with North Shore and Hawthorn with the Baulkham Hills Junior Club. Two Western Australian clubs are also formally aligned with Sydney clubs – Fremantle with Balmain and West Coast Eagles with East Coast Eagles. Meanwhile the Sydney Swans have made the understandable decision to remain unaligned and “open to all” developing players in NSW.

“The NSW talent pool is being strengthened through more kids in Sydney having exposure to AFL clubs such as the Swans and Collingwood and having their...
AFL is now the most attended sporting league in Australia.


New Flames
By Shari Wakefield

With the recent departure of captain, Alicia Poto, for the European Basketball League, some foresaw the ACUVEE Sydney Uni Flames struggling to make the final series. But after the recent signing some significant talent, the Flames look set to make quite an impact in 2009-2010.

“Our first goal is to make the finals,” said Karen Dalton, Head Coach. “Once we are there anything can happen. Last season was a rebuilding year for us, but it gave us opportunities for younger players to gain experience with valuable court time; and we are hoping to see their continued development this season.”

Of the returning players, Eva Afeaki [pictured] will play a pivotal role. Afeaki has not only proved her ability on court for the Flames, but also represented Australia in the Opals tour of China and Europe in May. She is keen to make the 2012 London Olympic team. After solidly improving her perimeter game, Afeaki combines her outstanding athletic physique with excellent three-point accuracy, making her the opposition’s nightmare to mark.

Newcomers include Perth Lynx MVP (Most Valuable Player) and WNBL All Star 5 member Deanna Smith, WNBL Point Guard veteran Deanne Butler and rebounder Ellie Manou.

Welcomed back is former Flame and 07/08 WNBL MVP Natalie Porter, who returns after playing for Lavezzi Parma in the Italian League and the Eurocup.

After a season in which the Flames often failed to score vital points in tight matches, the team is now heavily stacked with players who can make every basket count. Dalton said, “We have some great scorers in Deanna Smith, Eva Afeaki and Natalie Porter. They are all good leaders and we have an experienced point guard in Deanne Butler.”

With the possibility of four of the starting five being new recruits, let’s hope the stars align and this special group of players gels quickly.
2000s

CHRIS BALDWIN (BA '04) Since graduating, I have furthered my education with a Masters Degree in Physical and Health Education. Have taught in both Primary and Secondary Schools in NSW and QLD. Now lecturing at the Australian Catholic University in Sydney whilst undertaking my PhD candidature at Monash University, looking at the Life World of the Sports Referee.

RYAN JUNEE (BCom/BE '03) With two friends he went to Silicon Valley and founded Omnisio, a video annotation and mash-up technology start-up in October 2007. Six months later, they launched it to the public and were immediately snapped up by Google-owned YouTube, for an undisclosed sum and ongoing employment for all three. Omnisio lets people add speech bubble annotations to videos, tag people and lets people add speech bubble annotations to videos, tag people and synchronise them with PowerPoint presentations for easier sharing.

LAURENCE LOCK LEE (PhD '08) integrated.

features, while others are being adopted by Google-owned YouTube, for an undisclosed sum and ongoing employment for all three. Omnisio lets people add speech bubble annotations to videos, tag people and synchronise them with PowerPoint presentations for easier sharing.

2010s

WEMPY DYOCIA KOTO (MInternatStud '99) His career began in 1997 at American Express in Australia. Since then he has worked for some of the world’s leading communications agencies including Young & Rubicam, OgilvyOne WorldWide and Wunderman in a remit spanning Europe, North America, Australia, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Now experienced in television, print, radio, direct and digital marketing, I’ve led and contributed to global, regional and national campaigns for Fortune 500 brands including American Express, Citigroup, Samsung, BT, Microsoft, LG, SAP, Sony, Palm and Nokia. Born in Indonesia, raised in Australia and formerly resident in Hong Kong, Singapore and London, Wempy is now resident in San Francisco. As Global Business Director at HMX Media, Wempy leads the communications agency’s international business efforts and digital practice. He enjoys surfing and living under the California sun.

1990s

GABRIELLE PREST (BA AppSc (Nursing) '92) I've had a very fortunate career in cancer nursing, completing my conversion degree in 1992 at USyd, a certificate in cancer nursing at the then NSW College of Nursing in the late 1980s, and later completing a Masters Degree in Public Health at UNSW in 1998. During all the years of study I worked in all manner of positions and domains in cancer nursing, with perhaps my most rewarding career role being part of the establishment Board and staff to set up the Leukaemia Foundation as a not-for-profit organisation in 1999. I left the LFNSW as state manager in 2008 to take up the role of Director for Professional Services at the College of Nursing. Now more than ever is a challenging and rewarding time to be a nurse and to be part of the health care system in Australia.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR (MCom 1999) completed Masters part-time while working full-time for the Commonwealth Bank in the learning and development (L&D) space. The qualification enabled me to progress my career in L&D by providing the commercial acumen/strategic elements required for a career in the financial/professional services industries. I have since worked for several organisations: Aussie Home Loans, AMP, PMI Mortgage Insurance and Deloitte - taking the skills and confidence I gained from MCom program with me.

In mid 2007 I founded the not for profit L&D Professionals Forum, designed to provide networking and professional development opportunities for corporate L&D practitioners. I schedule four events each year and rely on the generosity of corporate Australia to host the events. The Forum started with a distribution list of 12 which has now increased to more than 160 in Sydney. On March 8, 2009 – International Women’s Day – I was awarded joint finalist in the Australian Centre for Leadership for Women 2009 Leadership Achievement Award for Women for founding the Forum.

In February 2009 I started my own business, Star Source, which specialises in Learning and Development (L&D) resourcing. We are in the business of providing the best possible L&D resources for our clients. If you are looking for a new training provider, a contractor for a specific assignment or are recruiting your L&D team, Star Source can help you.

1980s

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1980s

Dr JOSEFA CABREDO-BERCES (DIPTEFL '84) After her studies at Sydney, she held various positions such as Dean of the Institute of Communication and Cultural Studies, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, Director of the Language Center; Dean of Student Affairs and Head of Languages and Humanities Department of Bicol University, Legazpi City in the Philippines. She has published and co-authored Save your Lungs, Save your Life; Mastering Correct English Pronunciation and My Way to College Freshman English. At present she’s the Director of Cabredo Speech Clinic and Review Centre which conducts reviews for TOEFL, IELTS, TSE and Oral English Proficiency Programs in Legazpi City.

JAMES EDWARD FISCHER (BDS '80) having completed a four-year Bachelor of Science (Wilkes 1970) in the USA before attending the University, Dr Fischer was awarded a Doctorate of Business Administration in April 2009 by Southern Cross University. The title of his thesis was “Key areas of small business...
Mandelbaum Alumni Event, 29 November, 7-11pm, Cost: free. 385 Abercrombie St, Darlington.

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Spring ’09

MANDELBAUM HOUSE INAUGURAL ALUMNI FUNCTION
Calling former residents for the launch of the Mandelbaum House Alumni Association. See your old room, staff and, of course, friends. For further details: www.mandelbaum.usyd.edu.au/alumni or email Audrey Roby (nee Reecht) at alumni@mandelbaum.usyd.edu.au. If you can’t attend, please visit our website so we can keep you in touch with future events.

BRIAN HARVEY (BA ’52) has had a long career as a TV producer for the ABC. Forty years ago he was in charge of the ABC’s televising of the Apollo 11 lunar landing and moonwalk. It was a full-scale studio production with a host and expert commentators to set the scene before crossing to Houston Control prior to pictures being received live from cameras on the spacecraft and moon’s surface. The ABC team has gathered for an anniversary lunch every five years since and the ABC itself returned to film the 40th celebration.

WARREN PENGILLEY (BA ’59 LLB ’62) was awarded an AM in the 2009 Queens Birthday Honours for “service to the law as a practitioner, regulator, academic and commentator in the areas of trade practices and franchising”. He has retired to Daylesford in Victoria.
26 SEPTEMBER
What Kind of Settlement?
Grace Karskens, Lecturer in History at the University, draws on her new book The Colony to explore the transformation of a campsite at Sydney cove into a town that has become Australia’s largest city. Blackheath History Forum
4pm (refreshments from 3.30pm)
Blackheath Public School Hall
info: www.blackheathhistoryforum.org.au

30 SEPTEMBER
Sydney Ideas Key Thinkers Series
Kurt Godel and the Limits of Mathematics – Professor Mark Colvin, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Sydney Centre for the Foundations of Science.
7 October: Pierre Bourdieu on Feminism – Dr Kate Huppatz, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Faculty of Education and Social Work
14 October: Mary Wollstonecraft and the Enlightenment – Professor Helen Irving, Faculty of Law
21 October: Confucius and the First Emperor – Professor Jeffrey Riegel, Professor and Head of School of Languages and Cultures, Faculty of Arts

1 OCTOBER
Designing Educational Spaces
Looking at the needs of schools in relation to effective built environments for learning and development.
New Law Building, 6.30pm, free.
Inquiries: Sue Lalor (612) 9114 0941 or slalor@arch.usyd.edu.au

8 OCTOBER
The US, China and Australian national interests in the 21st century
Professor Geoffrey Garrett, United States Studies Centre
5.30pm; free; venue and information from infosocialscience@usyd.edu.au

4/5 NOVEMBER
Sydney Peace Prize
Award and Gala Dinner (4th) and Lecture (5th)
2009 recipient is John Pilger, outstanding journalist, author and documentary maker.
Award Dinner: 7 for 7.30pm
Maclaurin Hall; bookings and information: (612) 9351 4468 or spf@arts.usyd.edu.au
Lecture: 8pm, Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House;
bookings: (612) 9250 7777 or www.sydneyoperahouse.com

17 NOVEMBER
Graduate Connections Breakfast
“Unaccountable passion: how the arts defy the hubris of managerialism” – Professor Andrea Hull OA
Andrea Hull (BA ’69 DipEd ’70) recently retired after 15 years as director of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA). She was previously CEO of the WA Department for the Arts.
Where: The Tea Rooms, Queen Victoria Building; 7.15-8.45am;
Alumni $45 pp, non-alumni/guest $50 pp; table of eight $320
limited parking on campus.
Registration and information: (612) 9356 9278 or www.fhs.usyd.edu.au

REGISTRATION ENQUIRIES TO CLAIRE HANNAH (612) 9356 5184 OR rsvp@usyd.edu.au

25 NOVEMBER
Under The Radar - The Secret Life of Ruby Payne-Scott, Radiophysiologist
Biography by Prof. Miller Goss and Dr Richard McGee of the School of Physics graduate who became one of Australia’s first paid female physicists at the then Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIIR) in 1941. She had to resign when her marriage was discovered (pregnancy gave her away). A fierce advocate of women’s rights and of interest to ASIO - she was a member of the Communist Party of Australia – her story was virtually unknown.
Her children, Fiona and Peter Hall, will launch the book.
Book Launch: 6pm-8pm, The Great Hall. Free.
RSVP to Alison Muir (612) 9036 5184 or rsvp@usyd.edu.au

29 NOVEMBER
Mandelbaum House Inaugural Alumni Function
Calling former residents for the launch of the Mandelbaum House Alumni Association. See your old room, staff and, of course, friends.
For further details: www.mandelbaum.usyd.edu.au/ alumni or email Audrey Roby (nee Reech) at alumni@mandelbaum.usyd.edu.au
If you can’t attend, please visit our website so we can keep you in touch with future events.
7-11pm, Cost: free.
385 Abercrombie St Darlington.
Invigorate your week

artwhatson.com.au

Australia’s online art space. Be inspired every week by leading artists and galleries when you join artwhatson’s free e-newsletter.

Graham Kuo, Shades # I (detail), 2008, oil and acrylic on canvas, 229 x 351 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Wilson Street Gallery.
Collect handicrafts, jewellery and fabrics like nowhere else.

Fabulous packages and incentives only in Visit India Year 2009, at http://visitindia2009.incredibleindia.org or www.incredibleindia.org