Are we happy yet?
illicit/pleasures • summer/reading • cricket/excellence
9 out of 10 Australians don’t see enough colour each week

artwhatson.com.au
australia’s online art space
sign up to our free e-news today
Features

8 Are we happy yet?
The University and the Sydney Festival are partners in happiness; the new and improved Seymour Centre is their offspring

16 Astronomy’s big year
What did it mean for the University’s astronomers and fans of the stars?

19 Art in New York
How alumnus Nicholas Baume is curating the great art city

20 Cover Story
The criminalising of pleasure: Dr Kane Race argues that when it comes to recreational drugs, governments are more interested in the donkey vote than public health

27 Photo essay
The Goddess Hathor moved into new quarters this year

28 Psychology
Zoltan Torey is one of the University’s lesser known and more extraordinary heroes of the mind.

31 Music
The new music landscape is less bleak, thanks to two alumni

32 Society
Susan Ryan AO (BA ’63) explains the proposed Human Rights Act

Regulars

2 Your Letters
Luck, God, kids and Latin, whatever next?

5 Opinion
Dr Michael Spence, Vice Chancellor and Principal outlines his vision for the University’s progress

7 Nota Bene
Driver rehab is going places; Sculpture by the Sea; a family of degrees; Queen Sofia of Spain visits

10 Profile
Isaac Wong carillonneur

15 Prize Crossword
Emeritus Professor Dr Gavin Brown’s brain-stretcher. Still with added value!

24 Family Matters
Food intolerance in children; living with them in China; making a difference when you think you can’t

34 Books
The Mud House by Richard Glover; Bodysurfing by Neville de Mestre; A Book of Endings by Deborah Biancotti; Headlong: a Novel by Susan Varga; Charlie Webb and the Riddle of Mordred’s Castle by JI Arensen; Superfluous Men by Michael Wilding; William Charles Wentworth: Australia’s Greatest Native Son by Andrew Tink; Prize news

36 Sport
Stuart Clark is a champion fast bowler and much, much more

38 Grapevine
Updating your deeds, doings and whereabouts around the world

40 Diary
Events to note and enjoy
QUESTIONABLE STATISTICS

Luck, and math, are both “four-letter” words but are in every other respect diametrically opposed. The cover story by Anne Summers (“Luck is a four-letter word”, SAM Spring 2009) was important and confronting, not least because it revealed something deeper about Australia’s “obsession with gambling” and its enduring self-concept as “the lucky country”.

What this reflects is a particular kind of national innumeracy, which stymies healthy critical understanding of mathematical odds. Somewhere in our numeracy education it seems we’ve failed to develop, in a considerable proportion of the population, a comfortable relationship with mathematics as a practical utility. Depressingly, confident numeracy is often still perceived to be steeped in an elitism that characterises it as the domain of a gifted “lucky” minority. It is of more significance that this affects lives and many practical decisions, rather than perceptions about access to prestigious career choices.

Stronger collective practical numeracy would better critically evaluate: the odds of getting “lucky” and the irrationality of gambling; the odds of sustaining long term national wealth through mining rather than serious investment in education, research, and human resources; the accumulation of excessive personal debt; the ongoing effects of obscenely inflated real estate values due to investment mania versus development of affordable housing for the majority; the odds that future generations – our children – will continue to benefit from reliance on national “luck”, and, questionable statistics publicised by pollsters, advertisers, corporations, lobbyists, the media and political spruikers.

Our national characterisation as “the lucky country” has been difficult to criticise because it’s been perennially misinterpreted and confused with optimism. But there’s no escaping that “luck” is a nebulous, impractical and finite human construct that runs out, while math should be a tool of infinite practical application and appraisal for all.

Robyn Dalziell
(MSc Med [RHHG] ’04)
Castle Hill NSW

THE AUDIBLE EFF

I have been vastly entertained by the Godspoke of various authors in the past few issues. As a believer, it is good to see God getting such great publicity, especially as no argument can shake the conviction of most orthodox believers.

Here’s another thought. David Hume showed centuries ago that our most cherished assumptions, such as causality and the inductive principle, have no rational basis, being reducible to constant conjunction and psychic habitation. Put in terms of PH 101, the future is not necessarily like the past. However you cut it, physics and probability relate to the past, not the future.

Sure, no one expects the moon to weep blood or chickens to hatch from cabbages, nor do we regard the rising of the sun as equivalent to winning the lottery. Just don’t tell me it’s rational, is all.

Do I hear that dreaded “F” word again?

Peter Barnes (MBBS ’59)
Bassendean WA

THE LAST WORD

None of the letters published in previous issues of SAM provide a logical response to my letter published in the Autumn issue. Clearly, there is none. In the context of infinity, however, it is pertinent to quote from news coverage that the Hubble telescope has “seen some of the earliest galaxies as they were more than 10 billion light years in the process of formation” and to note that it has not yet found any boundaries. But even if boundaries were to be found, the concept of infinity remains intact for the still

Children are immune to stress but are carriers

John Fender

Illustrations by Maggie Renvoize
boundless space that by definition must lie beyond. The question of space as distinct from "faith", has and still has, sufficient interest in mankind’s thirst for knowledge to warrant the continued expenditure of huge sums of money in the exploration of the universe.

In the context of religion, all respondents appear to argue from the basis of an acceptance of the Christian Bible – an argument from within the closed mind of "faith" as distinct from the open mind, which awaits proof of the validity of any of the world’s competing religions. The parallel is the proposition of a theory and then using that theory to prove its validity. Maybe "God is" but in some other manifestation than that current at the time of the Biblical "creation", only "revealed" as a God of love by Jesus so belatedly afterwards. Meanwhile, "history has demonstrated" that this God (of "love") has tolerated the practice of human sacrifice (Christianity is based on one), pack-rape, the inferiority of women – though of course none of these is accepted in the practice of Christianity today. Obviously faith and its absence will always lie in the area of "never the twain shall meet". For my part, I hereby withdraw from the fray.

**Clyde Philip Long (LLB ’40)**
Castle Cove NSW

**ENTER THE LOONG**

I found it ironic to read, in the article by Professor Dexter Hoyos (SAM Spring ’09), that my surname features prominently in the "educated classical Latin pronunciation" for "alumnus" (uh-loong-nus) and its variants eg "alumni" (uh-loong-neel), when my surname itself is variously and constantly mispronounced often, for example, as Loong as in Waterloo and seldom, as preferred, as Loong as in Wahronga.

Incidentally, in Chinese, "Loong" means dragon, a caricature of which, co-incidentally, appeared on this SAM’s cover.

**Edward Loong (BA ’66 LLB ’69)**
Milsons Point NSW

*Ed: the cover image is a ceremonial lion – albeit rather dragonlike.*

**REALITY BITES**

Love Family Matters (SAM Spring ’09). Perfect timing for me: full time career gal having to admit defeat after returning to work with a 12-month-old in Jan ’09. I lasted until this August and have since resigned, expecting second bub any day. I just couldn’t pull it all off. It’s the first time I’ve been unemployed since school days. Bit scary but also very content that full time motherhood is the way to go. The juggling and stress of not doing any job well nearly killed me!

**Linda Fagan (BA (Hons) ’92)**
Bungendore NSW

**A NUCLEAR DETERRENT**

How relieved should one be now that the old dander-raising questions have apparently been settled, and we now have an acceptable model of family for our society? How relieved are the readers of SAM (Spring ’09) to learn that the editor does consider that “of course, families do matter”? Back in the ’70s – my days at uni – the concept of the nuclear family was under fierce attack even while the nucleus itself was splitting, so to speak. How freely we can breathe to know that the big issues and questions now are assurance that work/life can be balanced, and deeper thought is needed on school choice.

Of course we look forward to the changes in SAM, while Family Matters may mean we have to draw our own confusions. As Groucho Marx once said, “It isn’t so much that hard times are coming; the change observed is mostly soft times going.”

**Teresa Varjvandi (BA ’82)**
Balgowlah Heights NSW

**THE ANDERSON CONNECTIONS**

It was a delight to read (SAM Winter ’09) of Professor John Anderson. It brought back many memories of when I had the privilege of attending his lectures during the subject labelled "Scientific Method". We had John Passmore, who made it all sound easy. Then John Anderson took over next term and really stretched our inadequate thinking. He did not hesitate for a word during the 40 minute period and at the end of a sentence, strode out of the room as the period ended. A week later he strode back into the room and continued where he had left off. And he had no written notes. That was up to us, furiously attempting to understand his reasoning.

One of the stories circulating about him then was of his sitting in the Quadrangle with the cryptic crossword in front of him when asked could we have the paper after he finished the crossword? He handed it over saying he had finished the crossword and didn’t need to write it down. A man I’m sure that none of us will ever forget and regret that many of us really were not able to understand his philosophy.

**James LO Tedder (BEc ’51)**
Grassy Head NSW

**A CARTESIAN OOPS**

Perhaps you have a policy of publishing corrections in a later issue: I was pleased to see my piece on Anderson published [SAM], and especially pleased you put it under its own rubric.

However, my second last sentence was slightly mangled: “Where success and effectiveness, influence and tradition, usefulness and efficiency are the...”
editorial

This year is the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Great Hall and it was my privilege and surprise to write the script for the show that celebrated the event. Theatre director Antoinette Sampson and I collaborated to conjure up the ghosts of Sydney’s past and present: William Charles Wentworth, Frances Merewether, James Blacket and James Barnet, John Challis and various unnamed citizens (including typically anonymous women!) who promenaded on the lawns, much as they did in 1859. It was a chilly but memorable September night and I sincerely thank those of you who enjoyed it, were inspired by it – and let us know.

Buildings are part of history, but the people who occupy those buildings are what keep history alive. Two letters arrived simultaneously to reinforce that thought. Eleanor Holmes (nee Putnam) (BA (Hons) ’58) wrote of her mother Margaret Joan Holmes (nee Read) 1909-2009, who attended the University from 1927-32, completing two years of Arts before four years of Medicine, graduating BSc.

“Her conservative worldview was called into question by two lecturers ‘Jimmy’ Bruce (History) and Camilla Wedgwood (Anthropology),” writes her daughter, “and she became a convinced pacifist. She was elected to the first SRC and worked for the Settlement. She married fellow Med student T.A.G. (Tag) Holmes and they had six children. She actively championed many causes including Aboriginal empowerment, recycling and the environment, debt-forgiveness for poor nations, humane treatment of asylum seekers and independence for East Timor and West Papua. In her 90s she maintained a vigil outside Kirribilli House in protest against our entering the war in Iraq. She was optimistic as well as compassionate, saying ‘We must have hope, because unless we have hope we have nothing.’”

Margaret Holmes was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2001, recognising her lifelong work for peace and justice, particularly her founding of the NSW branch of the Women’s International League for Peace and Justice, an organisation formed in 1915 to promote non-military resolution to conflicts.

The second letter is from Dr Grosvenor Burfitt-Williams (MBBS ’46) who writes “I thought it might be of interest that it is 100 years since women medical graduates were given equal status with male medical graduates when appointments were being made to resident staff to Sydney hospitals.

“My mother, Mary Burfitt, was one of those appointed to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, others were appointed to Sydney Hospital, they were Elizabeth Hamilton-Brown, Alexia Maclean and Clara Smith. I believe there were seven women who graduated, the greatest number in any one year up until 1909 and for many years afterwards.

“An attempt was made to curtail women doctors’ treatment of male patients. Sir Thomas Anderson-Stewart, Chairman of the Board of RPAH and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine told the women they were qualified and he would not allow any attempt to stop them doing their duty as doctors. The following year, my mother was the first woman to be invited to remain on as a Senior Resident at RPAH. At the Australasian Medical Congress in Sydney in 1911 she presented a paper ‘A Preliminary Report on the Bacteriology of the Blood’, one of the earliest accounts of blood culture from living patients.

“At the end of her second year she became a Resident at the Crown Street Women’s Hospital, to gain obstetric experience. On completion, she embarked on what would become a large general practice at 222 Glebe Point Road. She also established the pathology department at Lewisham Hospital and served for many years as Honorary Pathologist and Honorary Physician to in-patients. In 1921 she married Grosvenor John Williams (MB ’16 MS ’16) and they had three sons who also graduated in Medicine.

“Mary Burfitt retired from general practice in 1924 and practiced as a Consultant Physician for the next 20 years. She played a prominent part in establishing Sancta Sophia College, having taken part in deputations to Archbishop Kelly to secure his support. She served on the College Council for many years. She also served as President of the University Catholic Women’s Association and advocated that it should combine with the men’s Newman Society, which later happened. She supported Medical Women in their endeavour to establish the Rachel Foster Hospital and is commemorated in the Mary Boyd Burfitt Scholarship in Microbiology at the University.”

Virginia Woolf said, “For most of history, Anonymous was a woman.” Not this time.

– The Editor
Reach for the stars

Dr Michael Spence, 
Vice-Chancellor and 
Principal

Over the past year, I have been listening to the University community, to distil a statement of our collective purpose. One formulation seems to have been widely accepted. It is that we “aim to create and sustain a university that will, for the benefit of both Australia and the wider world, maximise the potential of the brightest researchers and the most promising students, whatever their social or cultural background.”

That may all sound rather generic, but in fact it makes a number of important claims.

First, it positions us as a high-end research institution, a home to the brightest researchers. Second, it assumes that the particular type of social contribution that we have to make is that which can only be made by “the brightest researchers and most promising students” and not by others. Third, it is agnostic about the nationalities of our researchers and students, looking for the greatest talent wherever it is to be found. Finally, as regards students, it is inclusivist in its assessment of intellectual ability, focusing on their promise at the point of entry, and not merely on their track record of performance.

If we are to achieve this purpose, there are a number of obstacles that we will have to overcome, especially those that staff have identified in our recent survey. We need to release resources away from bureaucratic administration, and into salaries and infrastructure. We need to find ways of better facilitating the cooperation of our academic units. We need to make it easier for external organisations to deal with the University. We need to take more strategic control of its size and shape. We need to find ways of identifying students of promise and of improving the student experience both inside and outside the classroom. Finally, we need to find a small number of large scale, flagship, inter-disciplinary projects – projects that can harness the energies of the University in collaborative endeavour.

The University is travelling well and I have been heartened by our improvement in the recent international rankings, but if we are to achieve the ambitious statement of purpose that is informing our strategic planning process, it is clear that we will need to do even better in at least these areas of our life together. Do send a message via the email: vccontact@usyd.edu.au if you have any views about these issues. We are currently consulting widely as we prepare a strategy green paper for discussion in the first part of next year. Sydney is a great institution and by harvesting the collective wisdom of the University around our statement of purpose and the challenges that we face, I am convinced that we can make it even greater. SAM
Worlds collide at Driver Rehabilitation, at the University’s Cumberland Campus. Here, at the Faculty of Health Sciences a highly skilled team of occupational therapists combine research, practical application, education, engineering and training to offer a variety of services that, for a number of individuals, result in the long cherished outcome of independence and mobility.

Beth Cheal, Acting Manager of Driver Rehabilitation enjoys this field of occupational therapy: “Our work here gives us a great feeling of achievement, there is so much we can do for people with physical disabilities. Our clients tell us stories about their reliance on disabled taxis which are hideously inconvenient, always late and very expensive.” Driver Rehab has allowed many to get behind the wheel and most importantly, according to Cheal, “Allow them to feel like everybody else.”

Paul Christo, now 53, suffered a broken neck at age 15. A diving accident resulted in a C5/6 injury that rendered him a total paraplegic. After extensive physiotherapy Christo regained the use of his arms, but not his fingers. For many years his Commonwealth Rehab report stated “driving is not an option.”

“This infuriated me,” Christo says. “I knew I could do it. I had to somehow fight the system.” It was only after meeting Cheal in 1995 that Christo says he received, “A new lease of life. Beth could think outside the square, she literally reinvented the wheel for me. I got to go to places I could previously only dream about.”

Christo’s ability to drive has allowed him to work part time and help others with advocacy issues.

Cheal’s work also involves advising engineers on vehicle modification, training driving instructors and teaching therapists. Other services offered by the Centre include fleet vehicle assessment, pre-employment driver screening, older driver programs and ergonomic pain management.

While much can be done to help clients with physical disabilities get on the road, those with cognitive problems, for example brain injury or stroke victims, present a greater challenge for the team at Driver Rehab. Occupational therapist Lynn Kay has recently completed a PhD after a decade practicing at Driver Rehab. Kay’s observations and understanding of the complexity of clients’ medical conditions have led to the creation of a computer program that can predict the driver suitability of people with cognitive impairments.

According to Kay the drivers they see can be described as falling into three distinct groups: “The safe, the unsafe, and a middle group who require extensive testing. The available standard neuropsychological tests don’t predict well how those in the middle group will perform when driving.”

The existing tests are also expensive: $500 for pensioners and $1000 for those with private health insurance. Kay’s test has been welcomed by GPs who currently have the unenviable job of making recommendations regarding their patients’ ability to drive. Kay says, “It is a very emotive issue for families; doctors tend to err on the side of letting people drive. Our society sees driving as a right rather than a privilege.”

The RTA, too, is supportive of the test that Kay would one day like to see available in every doctor’s waiting room. The touch screen assessment avoids the use of a mouse, has a facility to measure insight and replicates on-road conditions.

Kay, who is now seeking funding to further develop the program, says her work in Driver Rehab is “very rewarding. For everyone you tell they can’t drive, there is one you can tell that they can. This changes lives and does much to relieve social isolation.”

Find out more: http://www.driverrehab.com.au or ph: (02) 9351 9217
Retiring Dean of Engineering and IT, Professor Greg Hancock AM (BSc '68 BE(Civil) '70 PhD '75 DEng '03) is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to degrees from the University. It began with his father, James Hugh Edward who, he says “studied Mathematics under Professor Carslaw in the 1920s for a BA but left to complete his actuarial qualifications through the Institute of Actuaries in London; so didn’t actually graduate from Sydney.”

Other members of the Hancock clan are: Prof Hancock’s late sister Lorna (BVSc '67), his wife Sue (BA '75) and their children Amy (BEc (Hons) '02 MLLR '05), Olga (BA '99 LLB (Hons) '01 MIntStudies (Hons) '09) and Edward (BE (University Medal) '06 BSc '07).

Edward is now doing a DPhil at Oxford while Professor Hancock will no longer be reading all the names – as he has at the 24 graduations over which he’s presided since 2003.

A work by Master of Architecture Honours student Nicholas Elias, part of his Honours thesis, was one of three site-specific pieces at the 2009 Sculpture by the Sea exhibition (29 Oct -15 Nov).

On Tamarama Beach, A Symbolic Inscription of the Imaginary, takes the phasing techniques used by composer Steve Reich and applies them to an architectural context.

Elias says, “Sculpture by the Sea is a great example of how Honours work can make the transition from theory to tangible structures, and how research-based design can be at the forefront of architectural thinking in Australia.”

Construction of the piece was completed with funding from the Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning. “I think it is important to support projects such as these that give our students an opportunity to showcase their talents to the community,” says the Faculty’s marketing manager, John Elliott. “We are formalising a program to fund student works for exhibitions such as this and the recent Vivid Sydney piece, Lumenocity, to encourage more students to participate in future.”

Sculpture by the Sea 2009 featured 114 sculptures from Bondi to Tamarama. Some 500,000 people visited the exhibition.

All in the family

Congrats, Jack!

First featured in SAM two years ago – when his brainchild, AIME, was beginning to make waves – Jack Manning Bancroft (BA (Media & Communications) ’06) has been named the NSW Young Australian of the Year 2009.

The award recognises his work in establishing the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience, now operating out of the Wentworth Building. It has a team of 13 on five university campuses. It has provided mentoring to more than 500 high school students from years 7 to 12 and, in August this year, the scheme went national. Manning Bancroft predicts that in five years AIME will reach 3000 high school students and recruit 3000 mentors.

The NSW recipients of the Australian of the Year Awards will join recipients from all other States and Territories as finalists for the national awards, to be announced on 25 January 2010 in Canberra.

Photo right: Diana Simmonds

Sculpture by the Sea

A work by Master of Architecture Honours student Nicholas Elias, part of his Honours thesis, was one of three site-specific pieces at the 2009 Sculpture by the Sea exhibition (29 Oct -15 Nov).
The life of the mind

Are we happy? Is it a question we should be asking? What does it mean anyway? January at the University is the time and place to ask these and other questions, writes Diana Simmonds

Sydney Festival artistic director Lindy Hume says the University is a key element in her new approach to the traditional Sydney summer event. Major events are scheduled for the Great Hall; and the Seymour Centre is to be a new festival “hub”. Hume and Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence share a vision for the relationship between the University and its city. Hume’s planning with the University, for 2010 and beyond, is part of what she calls “the recalibrated optimism” she feels about the “post-economic crisis world, especially in Australia.”

Part of the spirit – signified by a soaring yellow balloon – is a renewed engagement with what is often tagged “the life of the mind”, which has at its core the subversive notion that intellectual pursuits, elite ideas and rigorous debate are vital and entertaining components of a vigorously engaged community.

“The Great Hall is part of the architecture of this Festival with the Happiness event,” she says of Are We Happy Yet?, which is “part performance, part talk, part forum and getting away from the lectern-bound thing, so people can eat and drink, talk and consider the arguments. It’s part of a program called The Scope that I hope will give people a chance to be aware of the themes and connections in the Festival.”

Led by Dr Geoff Gallop, the event is Australia’s inaugural World Café event. It is the initiative of Meredith Hall whose Sydney Ideas lectures have become a must-do on the calendar and which continue into 2010.

Also in the Great Hall is Ensemble Offspring, an Australian contemporary music trio that features a glass harmonica in a work by Damien Rickeson titled Fractured Again. From Belgium comes Collegium Vocale Gent making their Australian debut. Their intimate performance piece, Ruhe, includes 300 wooden chairs, Schubert lieder and confronting verbatim theatre.

The Seymour Centre will be a new Festival performance hub and lynchpin of the Inner West precinct with Carriageworks and the Enmore Theatre. The Seymour is the venue for one of the most anticipated shows of 2010: Tempest: Without a Body, a new work by controversial New Zealand choreographer Lemi Ponifasio.

“It’s bleak and beautiful,” says Hume. “Part traditional dance, part Maori activism and it’s about moving away from a Eurocentric view.”

Another part of that move is one of director Hume’s favourite shows, The Manganiyar Seduction, in the York Theatre. “It’s probably my favourite and I saw it first outdoors in Vienna with 10,000 of my closest friends! It’s 43 Rajasthani musicians in windows – like those prostitute windows you see in Amsterdam. As each musician begins to play the window lights up until the stage is a dazzle of colour, light and music. Wonderful!”

The About an Hour series returns for 2010 and these short, affordable shows are based at the Seymour Centre. “Sweet shows for 30 bucks,” Hume calls them. “The best of the Edinburgh fringe and loads of other stuff. They’ll be stacked so you can do two or three in a night if you want, and the Seymour will really be a place to go and have a good time.”

Among the About an Hour shows is Dublin’s Pan Pan Theatre with Oedipus Loves You, Australia’s Shaun Parker with the world premiere production of Happy as Larry; BAFTA comedy alumna Isy Suttie, Hugh Hughes in … 360, Tim Key’s The Slutcracker and the Invisible Dot with Party (all from the UK).

Sydney Festival January 9-31, 2010 program at www.sydneyfestival.org.au Call Seymour Box Office (02) 9351 7940 for alumni discounts

Seamore, do more

Tim Jones, artistic director and general manager of the Seymour Centre says of the unique Sydney landmark, “My ambition for the Seymour is for it to become a leading campus-based arts centre. It’s nothing to do with training, it’s a platform for the University to speak to its city and its community.”

It’s not before time. Despite its prominent position the Centre has long languished in a doldrums all its own. Nevertheless, visitors can already experience the new energy and ideas as long overdue improvements to the buildings are now underway. These include lift access from the foyer level to the theatres and smartly renovated restrooms. Jones is also eager to upgrade food and bar amenities to help the Centre fulfil its promise as a social and artistic hub of both the University and the neighbourhood.

Jones recently visited the USA, where the concept is well established, to look at a range of university-based arts centres. He came home invigorated with fresh ideas.

“The plan is for the Seymour to be a real centre – a place where people want to come, a meeting place. From 2010 there will be a core program with a definite philosophy running through it,” he says.

Jones is also working to build partnerships within the University and in the wider arts community. In 2010 the significant new collaboration...
New decade, new dynamic

The University begins 2010 with a fresh outlook – and a new look – designed to better represent its position in the minds of alumni, students and staff, and the wider community.

“Market research told us that we at the University know what’s happening and how important it is, but we haven’t been as good as we should be at telling the rest of the world,” says Marian Theobald, executive director, External Relations. “We surveyed widely both inside and outside the University, and the recurring message was that while we knew Sydney was different and distinctive from other Australian universities, we couldn’t articulate exactly what that distinctiveness was.

One of the problems is predictable, but difficult to overcome – when a much-loved plus is also a minus: “We had been relying too much on our ‘sandstone’ heritage and not communicating the message that our real asset was our people, challenging, courageous and committed to critical thinking. The University makes a difference in the world and it’s our staff, students and alumni who do that. The buildings are where we are, but it’s the people who matter.”

Increasing financial pressures on all universities, and more competition for international and domestic students, have led to greater reliance on self-funding – and an obvious need for a defined and distinctive “brand identity”. At a national level, the higher education agenda is undergoing major reform with the federal government committed to introducing fundamental changes in all areas of educational endeavours, particularly research and teaching. Within the University, there is serious thinking about its future size, shape and structure as part of our strategic planning process. The brand project is part of this new environment.

Responses to the market research conducted during the project were remarkably consistent, says Theobald. “To be honest, although everyone knew we were the first university in Australia, we were strong academically and we had lots of famous graduates, we were also considered arrogant, old fashioned, ivory-towerish and unresponsive to the outside world.”

Breaking down this perception is important, says Theobald, because it reflects the way the University once relied on its “sandstone” past.

The new brand will mean a new logo, but more importantly a new way of telling the University’s story. Communications will be more focused on people and on the impact their work has than on the amount of research dollars they attract.

Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, agrees and has spoken extensively with staff and alumni during a long consultation period. He says of the fresh outlook, that “whether we like it or not, every organisation has a brand ... and ‘oldest’, in our context, is not much of a claim”.

People who are prepared to challenge conventional wisdom, debate and question are at the core of the brand, and, says Dr Spence, this is where “the dynamism of the University really lies. We have a heritage of remarkable people and it’s their excellence that has really made a difference. It’s the quality of our people and the quality, therefore, of our present and our future.”

Ranking rise

The University has improved its position in the Times Higher Education world rankings, moving up one position to now be ranked 36 in the world’s top 200 universities, and equal second in Australia.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, says he is encouraged by the result. “I am pleased that our continual improvement and our reputation for world class research and research-led teaching is being recognised internationally.”

The University has also shown considerable improvement in the rankings for specific subject areas. Of particular note are the Life Sciences and Biomedicine which are ranked 15th in the world (up from 27 last year) and the Natural Sciences ranked 34th (up from 44). In other subject areas Arts and Humanities are ranked 19th, Social Sciences 27th and Engineering and IT 40th in the world.

A feature of this year’s rankings is the fall in the number of North American universities and the slight increase in the number of Asian universities in the top 100.

The United States and the United Kingdom still dominate, with Harvard, Cambridge and Yale ranked as the top three. In Australia, all the Group of Eight research universities are ranked in the top 100.
It all started with a mistake. Isaac Wong (BPharm '03) was walking through the Quadrangle listening to a tune coming from the Great Tower. Then he heard a wrong note and his belief that the carillon’s bells were played mechanically or “by robot” was shattered and his curiosity to find out just how they were played was sparked.

Now, at 29, Wong is a member of an exclusive group of musicians: carillonists – or carillonneurs – who play the world’s largest, heaviest, and some might say, most evocative instrument.

Wong has recently returned from the Royal Carillon School in Mechelen, Belgium, where he studied performance, composition and campanology. As the first Australian to graduate (with Great Distinction) Wong is keen to pass on the knowledge and experience he gained from his time at the historic home of the carillon. Why Belgium?

“After the Dark Ages the cities of Bruges, Antwerp, Brussels and Mechelen became wealthier and wealthier. These cities were not run by noble men but by merchants and craftsman who were keen to show off their wealth and power,” Wong says, happily giving a formal history lesson one minute then, with a warm grin, treating the listener to visual pictures of “Isaac at large” and the carillons he has played.

“Clock towers became a technological and architectural symbol of a city’s level of sophistication,” he explains. “The grander the tower and the greater the number of bells, the better. Mechelen was one of the biggest bell founding centres 500 years ago.”

From the relative luxury of Sydney’s Great Tower, where the carillon room is carpeted, clean and light filled, Wong talks of others that are “Spooky, dusty and downright dangerous. Towers where there are no stairs, just ladders. You go vertically up for 30 feet [9m], trying not to look down and you hope there is not an earthquake. Some of the towers have outside stairs. It can be quite windy 100 metres above the ground.”

Sydney’s carillon is considered a fine instrument, made in the UK and...
installed in 1928. It comprises 54 bells with a range of four and a half octaves. The lowest note is G on the bottom line of the bass stave; this bell weighs over four tonnes. The musician sits at a console, similar to a piano (but wider) to accommodate keys that are more like wooden levers. The levers are struck with a closed fist in a hammering motion or with two fingers for the bells in the higher range. The carillonist sits and slides along a wooden bench that is over a metre in length; the low notes are duplicated by foot pedals.

Would Sherlock Holmes have been able to identify a carillonist in a group of murder suspects? Yes, probably. The first clue is calluses and blisters on the heel of the fist; Wong even has slightly bent little fingers as a result of years of playing. Another clue would be the level of fitness – access to bell towers is always by many stairs. The University’s clavier room is up 70 stairs, then a further 30 to the bells. The other strange but true fact about carillonists at Sydney is the number of medical professionals for whom the bells have tolled or at least called.

There are GPs, dentists, physiotherapists, a cardiologist and endocrinologists. Isaac is a hospital pharmacist at the Mater. Wong says he cannot speak for the other medico carillonists as to why they have been drawn to the bells but he finds “bells are very therapeutic. Sitting directly under the bells and hearing them resonate is very calming and it is something that not even medications can do for you.”

Hong Kong born, Wong, who started piano lessons at age six, says that playing the carillon is challenging. “It depends on the bells. All the instruments are different and not just slightly different. English bells have a reputation of being long sounded; the resonance carries on for seconds. They have very complicated overtone structures. When I play a C, for example it acts like it has a lot of minor notes that sound on top of the C. That has to do with the shape of the bells; they have a minor 3rd overtone that some people would perceive as the bell being out of tune, but in fact it is a complicated mix of tunes that come with the one note. As you can imagine, if I play a series of notes with all those minor notes still playing in the background, it can become quite unmelodious; the background harmonies are there no matter what you do.”

Composing for the carillon is equally complex, says Wong. “It takes a very skilful person to arrange music for the bells. We can’t take piano music and just play it directly – that would be a disaster.”

To explain further, Wong quotes, with a smile, his lecturer in Mechelen, Jo “the High Priest of the Carillon” Haazen: “When you start hearing noises, stop. Reconsider how you should play and keep trying until you hear music.”

Wong says there are other traits of carillonists he has met in his travels that may have interested Sherlock Holmes. “You need curiosity – this helps you in the first place to make your way up the tower to find out what all the noise is about. Then you need a certain amount of courage because wherever you play everyone can hear you.” Then with a grin he says, “you also need a little bit of mischief in you. You are at the top of a tower and no one can stop you playing!”
Queen Sofia was seated on the stage, where they were treated to an intimate recital of *Bird Song at Dusk*, composed and played by William Barton on didgeridoo, together with the Orava String Quartet – four recent Conservatorium graduates, Daniel, Sylwia and Karol Kowalik and Thomas Chawner.

The event began with a poem and a song by William’s mother, Delmae Barton, which the Queen clearly found very moving. At the end, she warmly embraced Mrs Barton and thanked the musicians for a most unusual and memorable performance.

Queen Sofia stayed to tea with other guests and many staff members, greeting and talking to everyone personally. She was impressed, she said, both with the Conservatorium itself and the haunting beauty of the recital. As Patron of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid and the Reina Sofia School of Music, she hoped it might be possible to arrange some musical collaboration at a later date.
Academy Travel offer a program of over 22 tours to Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and North America. Led by expert tour leaders, our carefully planned and managed tours combine the pleasures of independent travel with the benefits of a small group.

Our unhurried itineraries feature extended stays in centrally-located hotels, meals at excellent local restaurants and free time for independent sightseeing.

Join us for a real travel experience in 2010.

**TOUR PROGRAM 2010**

**JANUARY**
- Roman North Africa – Tunisia and Libya
- Nefertiti’s Egypt – The classic sites and the New Kingdom

**MARCH**
- Venice – City, Republic and Empire
- Sicily and the Aeolian Islands – 3,000 years of civilization

**APRIL**
- Istanbul to Moscow – from the Caesars to the Czars
- Grand Tour of Italy – Bay of Naples, Rome, Umbria, Florence and Venice
- Classical and Ottoman Turkey – Istanbul, Cappadocia and the Aegean Coast
- Lakes and Villas of Northern Italy – Lake Como, the Veneto and Emilia Romagna
- Iran – The civilizations of Persia

**MAY**
- Berlin to Black Forest – A musical journey (features outstanding performances)

**JUNE**
- French Revolution – Two weeks in Paris
- Berlin and Dresden – History, art and culture in northern Germany

**SEPTEMBER**
- Barcelona to Nimes – A medieval journey
- Grand Tour of France – from Provence to Paris
- Croatia and Montenegro – Duvbromik, Split and the Istrian peninsula
- North East USA – Art, history and culture in Boston, Washington and New York

**OCTOBER**
- Istanbul and Venice – A tale of two cities
- Sicily and the Aeolian Islands – 3,000 years of civilization
- Grand Tour of Italy – Bay of Naples, Rome, Umbria, Florence and Venice

**NOVEMBER**
- Paris and New York – Old world and New
- Oman and the Gulf States – From Dubai to the Red Sea
- Royal Cities of Indochina – Sukothai, Luang Prabang, Angkor and Phnom Penh

For detailed itineraries and booking information visit www.academytravel.com.au
Bars not your Scene? Online dating frustrating? Too busy at work? Is time running away from you?

Imagine enjoying your current lifestyle while someone was busy searching for your perfect match.

At Blue Label Life we increase your chances of meeting the right partner by 92%!

Blue Label Life is a unique and personal introduction and matchmaking service for busy successful singles.

Our highly personal approach, compatibility tests and background checks ensure you are matched with the most suitable people.

Call Blue Label Life on 1300 553 510 or register online at www.bluelabellife.com.au today for your complimentary consultation.

Blue Label Life – Find the one you want!
* Corporate Member of the Blue and Gold Club.

Every new member receives a FREE event ticket pass and upgrade on your new membership.
ACROSS
1  Crumplebone and uranium recombine to give a way to stop a nation (9,3)
9  Worries being held back in horse race (5)
10  Proverbail neckwear gives Scottish intellectual’s style (9)
11  So replacing nitrogen in slope gives a consistent dip (8)
12  For reflective aid I’m returning to religious dignitary, old Rosicrucian for starters (6)
13  Price not bad for describing trend to disorder (8)
15  Medieval branch of knowledge, confused and dark (6)
17  Rob and escape church (6)
18  Maybe James gets old for sex plays (8)
20  Don appears from coach in outskirts of Redcar (6)
21  Insect is back, book unopened – one can feel it (8)
24  Boats in or out for closing events (9)
25  Heat measure from another measure (5)
26  Pokes around business before Latin summer – heavenly approach (6,6)

DOWN
1  Contraption for companion in Eastern State (7)
2  Car wrecked in lot by alpha male or dominant local (4,2,3,5)
3  Bird moves head to tail to find insect – the opposite, in fact (5)
4  Starry eyed like Brutus with nervous affliction (8)
5  Golfer fish (4)
6  Electronic aid deactivated but capacity improved (9)
7  Border guardhouse has no hesitation in preparing simple traditional food (9,5)
8  Sailor’s buddy, the man is affectedly aesthetic? (6)
14  Players assembled from horse and cart (9)
16  Diggers swallow dope – stickly stuff (8)
17  Pro-Turnbull but unemotional (6)
19  Boat set cause around the heart of swamps (7)
22  Town with royal record, almost home for comic New Yorkers (5)
23  Corelian smuggler in colossal retroversion (4)

CONGRATULATIONS!
The winner – picked from the SAM hat – of Spring Prize Crossword is Caitland Baker (BA ‘06) of Greymouth, New Zealand.

Other correct entries were received from Dr Brian Barton (BVetSc ’56) Bundanoon, NSW; a dual entry from Jo (BE [Mech] ’67 MBBS ’78) and Atticus Cox (BA ’04 [Hons] ’06) Cheltenham, NSW; Dr Peter Dawes (MBBS ’54, DipClinPath ’59, BSc ’50) Orange NSW; Ian Edwards (DipSocStud ’52, BA ‘55) Gilebe NSW; John Ferris (BE [Mech&Elec] ’49) Malvern Vic; John Ford (BSc ’93) Leeming, WA; Prof Clifford HG Irvine (BVetSc ’45, DvSc ’90) Christchurch NZ; Ann McKay (BA ’64) Pacific Palms, NSW; Joanna O’Donnell (BA DipEd ’81) Bowral NSW; John Samios (LLB ’70) Coffs Harbour NSW and Robert W Seaton (BSc DipEd ’57) Newtown Vic.

Congratulations to all Crossworders

SAM SPRING SOLUTION

This white space for your clue-solving convenience

Answers in Autumn issue of SAM
Possum, flash and askap

What has the International Year of Astronomy meant to astronomers at the School of Physics’ Sydney Institute for Astronomy? Dr Phil Dooley reports

“I’m exhausted!” says Professor Bryan Gaensler.

“There have been so many public talks and events.” It’s nearing the end of 2009, the International Year of Astronomy (IYA), and as one of Australia’s foremost astronomers, he’s been run off his feet.

As well as giving talks Professor Gaensler has been involved in some unique events staged in honour of the IYA. He was the host when Around the World in 80 Telescopes – an international live web streaming event – crossed to the School of Physics’ radio telescope at their Molonglo field station, just outside Canberra.

“I think Around the World in 80 Telescopes was really successful,” he says. “Tens of thousands of people from all over the world logged onto the website to see a different telescope every 20 minutes. People really got the idea that astronomy is more than just peering through an eyepiece.”

Professor Gaensler was also a star of Music and the Cosmos, along with two colleagues, Professors Tim Bedding and Geraint Lewis, which packed more than 600 people into the Great Hall to hear the three speak, interspersed with the Conservatorium of Music’s Brass Ensemble playing selections from Holst’s The Planets. Afterwards the crowd spilled into the Quadrangle to telescopes and experiments set up by students from the School of Physics. The public’s enthusiasm for astronomy is clear from the popularity of Music and the Cosmos – it was fully booked six weeks before the event, and many were turned away – but what gets the professional astronomers excited?

“A burst of gamma rays from the oldest thing ever detected,” says Professor Gaensler. Detected by the NASA Swift telescope, the radiation had been travelling for 13 billion years (thereby making it the furthest thing ever seen as well). “The burst of gamma rays is thought to be caused by a very early star dying and forming a black hole, but we weren’t even sure if stars had formed that early in the universe. It’s like seeing a bunyip.”

Another 2009 “world-record” detection thrilled Professor Anne Green, astronomer and Head of School of Physics: “The first direct observation of a planet orbiting another star.” Although nearly 400 planets of other stars have already been detected by indirect means, a photograph from the Hubble space telescope showed a direct image of a planet orbiting the star Fomalhaut, even though the planet was a million times fainter than its parent star.

Planets in other solar systems – exoplanets – have captured astronomers’ curiosity. In 2009 the Kepler spacecraft, designed specifically to search for planets circling other stars, was launched. Professor Tim Bedding is working on the Kepler project, measuring the oscillations of stars. “We have some amazing data,” he says. “There will be some exciting results published in January.” (The Astrophysical Journal Letters is publishing a special issue with results from the Kepler project.)

It’s not only the Kepler project that has astronomers on the edge of their seats. “We’re waiting for quite a few machines to come on line,” says Professor Joss Bland-Hawthorn. His research highlight of the year was successful testing of a new instrument named GNOSIS, designed to detect faint infra-red radiation from stars.

“The atmosphere glows at you in the infra-red, even at night,” he says. “But GNOSIS will make the night sky 100 times darker.” Results should start to flow in 2010.

Professor Bland-Hawthorn’s work is another highlight for the Head of School, Professor Anne Green. “Joss’s photonic lanterns, if they come off, will make spectrographs that are currently the size of a whole room the size of a matchbox.”

Closest to Professor Green’s heart, however, are the radio astronomy endeavours within Sydney Institute for Astronomy (SIfA). As Australia bids to build the largest array of telescopes on the planet – the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) – two prototype instruments are being built to trial technologies for it. Professor Green is the director of the SKAMP project, the Square Kilometre Array Molonglo Prototype, located at the School of Physics’ Molonglo Field Station. With new optical fibre data feeds and digital signal processing, SKAMP will be an enormously fast and powerful instrument; first results are expected in 2010.

Another forerunner of the SKA is ASKAP (the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder), an array of 36, 12-metre radio telescopes being built by a consortium of 19 countries in remote Western Australia, on the proposed site for the SKA. As well as being 10 times more powerful than current telescopes, ASKAP will have an extremely wide field of view, with its 30 square degree field giving a “fish-eye” view of the sky.

“It will be able to survey the whole sky in an hour,” says Professor Gaensler. “It’ll be mind blowing.” He is the principal investigator of one of the 10 initial projects selected to run when ASKAP comes online in 2013. Two of his neighbours in SIfA, Professor Elaine Sadler and Dr Tara Murphy, are also principal investigators on ASKAP projects. “It shows the strength of our radio astronomers,” says Professor Gaensler. “Within two metres we have the leaders of one third of the projects on the world’s most powerful telescope.”

Professor Gaensler’s survey is named POSSUM (POlarisation Sky Survey of the Universe’s Magnetism) and will investigate the magnetic fields that permeate the solar system, the galaxy and the nearby universe. The trick to measuring the magnetism of distant objects is through the effect magnetic fields have on radio waves as they pass through the field; if the radio waves happen to be polarised, then the direction of polarisation will rotate. Finding polarised sources in the sky is not common, however, this is where the wide field and sensitivity of ASKAP will come into its own. Professor Gaensler estimates they will be able to increase the number of known polarised sources to more than three million, an increase of one hundred fold. “Understanding the universe is impossible without understanding magnetic fields,” he says. “We will dramatically improve our understanding of astrophysical magnetic fields.”
Across the corridor, Dr Tara Murphy’s project for ASKAP, Variables And Slow Transients (VAST), takes quite a different angle. As the title suggests, Dr Murphy is looking for flashes and pulses in the distant sky.

“All sorts, flare stars, supernovae, solar magnetars, gamma ray bursts,” she says. “But the problem is that to see these varying sources, you need to go back and observe the same patch of sky again and again to detect the changes, and you have to balance that with surveying a wide area.”

Dr Murphy, whose position is a joint appointment between the School of Physics and the School of IT, is also relishing the technical challenge of processing the volume of data that will be produced by ASKAP.

“We’ll be getting gigabytes of data per second, we won’t even be able to store it all,” she says. “It’s a new paradigm. We’ll have to have algorithms to do everything faster and better on the fly, and throw away the data we don’t want and never see it again. For some of the older astronomers it’s extremely horrific!”

Not all the “older astronomers” are horrified. Professor Dick Hunstead, Director of SIfA in the School of Physics, is involved with Dr Murphy’s VAST project, and agrees that data will have to be sacrificed.

“It’s a practical reality,” he says. “Just the way of the world. Astronomy moves with the times, and it’s a different sort of scene, where people are doing big surveys and not focusing on individual objects so much. But with the internet, the data’s still there in the public domain, with undergrads or even amateurs getting access to it, and picking out things the professionals have missed. It makes it a little bit more exciting, and keeps us on our toes.”

Dr Phil Dooley is Manager of Outreach Programs at the University’s School of Physics and Chair of Australian Science Communicators, NSW Branch.
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN US STUDIES

Do you have an interest in American politics, history, media or culture but don’t think you have time to study?

The Graduate Certificate in US Studies allows students to tailor their studies to their academic and professional interests as well as their personal timetable.

The US Studies Centre offers students an interdisciplinary and flexible academic program that is both challenging and engaging. The Centre also offers you unrivalled access to high profile experts.

This four-unit certificate can be completed in one semester full-time, or over several semesters part-time with a minimum of one unit per semester.

A full listing of units is available from the Centre’s website or by calling 02 9351 7249.

www.usc.edu.au
Alumnus Nicholas Baume has a new gallery space to curate: New York City. He has recently been appointed Director and Chief Curator of the New York Public Art Fund, where he will guide the selection and installation of artworks by established and emerging artists in public spaces throughout the city.

“The role does make me look at New York in a different way,” Baume says. “I’m really excited about it.”

This is also the first time Baume has lived in New York, though his long association with the city’s cultural landscape started with a high school art club trip in the early ’80s while an exchange student in Houston, Texas.

Graduating from the University in 1987 with joint honours in Fine Arts and Philosophy, Baume became an influential Australian curator, exhibiting such artists as Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons and Sol LeWitt at Sydney’s Museum of Contemporary Art. He moved to the US in 1998 to curate contemporary art at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut, where he directed the well-respected Matrix exhibitions that featured new and emerging artists.

At the time, his father, Michael Baume AO (BA ’50), was Australian Consul-General in New York – which made it much easier to make the move to the US, Baume says.

From Hartford, he went to Boston as Chief Curator of the Institute of Contemporary Art, working closely with the architects designing the new waterfront galleries that tripled the ICA’s exhibition space.

Baume was strongly influenced by a childhood neighbour, Australian fabric designer and leading contemporary art patron, John Kaldor.

“Nicholas is like a son to me,” Kaldor says. “He is a brilliant young man who is very passionate about art.”

Baume and his two brothers were similar in age and close friends with Kaldor’s sons and spent a lot of time at the Kaldor home. But while his brothers preferred the swimming pool, Nicholas was drawn to Kaldor’s extraordinary art collection.

“John was one of the most progressive and ambitious collectors of international contemporary art in Australia,” Baume recalls. “He was also a great patron, bringing artists out to do projects in Australia, so I had an avant-garde education from a very young age.”

Baume adds that attending the University was a natural progression for him. “The University of Sydney was the only option if you were serious about studying Fine Art and Art History,” he says. “Most Australian art schools were far more practically focused, and I was drawn to the intellectual side of art.”

Baume’s final high school year as an exchange student in the US encouraged him to embark on a liberal arts degree before making a vocational commitment.

“It did strike me as being premature at the age of 17 to cast my lot in a professional direction, I felt that education for its own sake was a very valuable thing.”

Baume has fond memories of his time at the University. “It was the first time I felt I was in an environment that nourished my intellectual and creative development. I loved discovering the world of ideas.”

The Australian connection remains a strong influence, with some of Baume’s close New York-based friends including Mark Hughes, director of Galerie Lelong and Melissa Chiu, who is the director of the Asia Society Museum and her husband, art critic Ben Gennochio. And while Baume says he doesn’t have the resources to be a collector, Australian works take pride of place in his home: one by Michael Nelson Jagamara and another “wonderful piece” by Lindy Lee.

His mentor John Kaldor recently donated his $35 million collection to the Art Gallery of NSW, a fitting reflection of Baume’s own current focus on public art rather than private collecting.

“Having the whole of New York city as a potential space for art is an extraordinary privilege,” Baume says.
We live in a world in which the pharmaceutical industry produces and markets drugs, not merely to treat disease and restore health, but increasingly for purposes of enhancement: simply to make life better. One only need think of the lucrative markets in sexual and mood-enhancing pharmaceuticals, which surely blur the distinction between the medical and the recreational. It’s a curious fact that almost every substance that is currently popular at dance parties has been used or is being trialed for medical purposes (ketamine for depression, GHB for narcolepsy, even ecstasy for post-traumatic stress disorder). It isn’t surprising that in the age of biological psychiatry, where brain chemistry is posited as the explanation for just about everything, psychoactive drugs should emerge as a significant source of subcultural pleasure, collective retooling and experimentation. But it is precisely in this context that a punitive war on drugs has been escalating.

It’s a balmy summer night in Sydney in 2007, and the Azure Party, part of Sydney’s annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, is underway. Planning for the party, as usual, has been extensive. Alongside the party outfits, suntans, drugs, lights, and DJs is a volunteer care team trained to deal with the drug-related emergencies that occasionally occur. But with a state election around the corner, the event attracts an unanticipated form of attention which creates an emergency of its own. When police appear at the gates with drug-detecting dogs, mild panic ensues. Some patrons down all their drugs at once in an attempt to avoid detection, heightening their risk of overdose. Others try their luck at the gates, hoping to evade the public humiliation of being searched and the possibility of a criminal record. Police roam around the party with the dogs and after 26 attendees are arrested with small quantities of illicit substances, the party is shut down and the remaining partygoers disperse into the night.

This scene of intervention and panic expresses certain tensions in the government of drugs – between an approach which prioritises harm reduction, and an approach which imagines it is possible to use law enforcement to stop illicit consumption. It’s a scene in which casual intimidation of ordinary citizens is, if not already normalised, then rapidly becoming so – at youth events, in migrant and racially marked suburbs, and in the recreational precincts and public transport arteries of numerous states and nations. What’s striking is how the status of certain substances as “illicit” provides an occasion for the state to engage in what could be described as a disciplinary performance of moral sovereignty. This performance bears little relation to the actual dangers of drug consumption – in fact, it often exacerbates those dangers. The contradictory effects of such operations are not lost on those who are subject to them. One Azure partygoer put it plainly: “I find it hard to believe the NSW Police shut down the party for the concern and health of the people at the party. If there were genuine concern from the police for partygoers then to me it would make sense to make an announcement to patrons and step up...
crowd monitoring. Instead, they ejected 5000 people from what was a medically supervised event onto the streets to fend for themselves.”

The drug search cites the protection of the health of the population as its rationale, and, to be sure, the substances it targets are not without their dangers. This is why volunteer teams go to great lengths to devise care practices uniquely adapted to this environment, designed to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies. It is also why many drug users themselves devise fairly intricate dosing practices, which aim – as far as possible within given constraints – to prevent adverse events. Such care procedures are made precarious by the practices of enforcement which have inspired intense criticism of the police on the part of health experts and affected groups alike. But behind these criticisms is a deeper history. Dance parties have long been a central element of gay community life in Sydney, and recreational drugs have played a significant part in the formation of self and community. To thwart these events by seizing upon this aspect is to deprive a whole subculture of one of its most significant community-building rituals.

The raid at the Azure Party followed the highly publicised death of a young woman after her attendance at a youth music festival the previous week. She had taken a pill she believed to be ecstasy, but which was actually contaminated with PMA, a synthetic hallucinogen that can be lethal at certain doses. Her death would appear to confirm the admonitions of public health posters plastered around Sydney at this time, which advised, “There is no such thing as a standard pill.”

But this message only obscures the fact that the current regulatory regime gives rise to the very risks it warns against, by making quality control impossible and the content of illicit substances unreliable. Such obfuscation was carried over into the police handling of the young woman’s death. Police initially refused to release any identifying features of the pill associated with the death with a view to sending a message about the moral dangers of drug use. Thus, rather than give consumers practical information that might help to prevent further deaths, the prerogatives of harm reduction were subordinated in typical fashion to moral politics.

As a response to drug harm, the use of sniffer dogs is known to be spectacularly ineffective. It uncovers drugs in only a quarter of prompted searches, which means that three out of four dog-indicated searches expose someone to public humiliation in vain. There is no evidence that the strategy actually succeeds in deterring drug use, and it leads to successful convictions for drug trafficking in just 0.2% of cases. Meanwhile, all indications suggest that the strategy actually increases drug harm as users attempt to avoid detection. The state knows this – its own agencies did the math. Still it persists in pursuing these costly and counterproductive measures despite condemnation from the NSW Ombudsman – a point which raises the question: why does the supposedly rational state override its commitment to public health at the very moment that it cites that commitment most insistently? The state allows many forms of dangerous recreation, such as hang-gliding,
Anti-drug initiatives have been given over to ever more blatant forms of political opportunism.

Football and mountaineering. And then of course there are those legal, revenue-raising drugs like alcohol (much more likely to be associated with violent crime and aggression than club drugs, incidentally). We would be horrified if the state tried to make these activities as dangerous as possible in order to discourage people from trying them. But this is exactly what is allowed in the attempted enforcement of drug prohibition, which in its present form precludes quality control, puts the drug market in the hands of organised criminals, and threatens users.

The illicit drug user has become a special and symbolic figure for the contemporary state. Their consumption practices resemble the licensed (legal) pleasures of the market, but can also be made to represent their excess. In times of governmental stress, the state jumps at the chance to stage a drama between immoral consumers and the supposedly moral state. But this drama seems more like high-profile posturing on the part of the police, designed to reassure middle-class voters that the state is tough on law and order, and driven more by the state’s desire to be seen to be “doing something” than any considered response to the issues at hand. Indeed, the persistence of these policing practices despite the evidence accumulated against them suggests that their counter-productivity is beside the point. For the point is the public spectacle of detection and humiliation, the making-suspect of populations, and the desire to create a demand for authority in the sphere of consumption. The state confirms its image of itself and its moral constituency in these forcible attempts to expose its other.

In recent years, anti-drug initiatives have been given over to ever more blatant forms of political opportunism. The illicit drug user has come in particularly handy as a scapegoat for those who wish to promote a very exclusive idea of moral citizenship while deflecting attention away from governmental failures. Exploiting drug fears has become a favourite way of promoting investment in what has become known as a “family-based, aspirational society”. Perhaps the best illustration is the drug campaign booklet mailed to every home in Australia just before the 2001 federal election. The title proposed by the Prime Minister’s office? “The Strongest Weapon Against Drugs … Families”.

Political interference in the production of a health education resource is unusual enough. The title glows with political symbolism – where the family is proposed as the antidote to all manner of social problems. Particularly striking is how fears surrounding drugs are used here in an attempt to scare people into taking out insurance in a very private conception of the future. But is promoting family values really an effective response to the issue at hand? For many people, families are just as likely to make them want to take drugs!

One of the ironies of the recent enthusiasm for policing illicit pleasures in Sydney is how it is obliterating the recreational and public culture of a group that can be credited with one of the most successful public health responses in recent history. I’m referring to the gay community, whose response to HIV/AIDS continues to be recognised as one of the most innovative and well-sustained in the world. The gay community has always depended on public space to build forms of identity and belonging outside the family form.

This interrogation of public leisure thus disproportionately impacts upon it. But what’s particularly ironic is that the gay community response to HIV/AIDS has been based on an entirely different configuration of health and pleasure entirely. Where drug enforcement works on the principle that pleasure is opposed to health, HIV education has in fact been most effective when it has
foregrounded and acknowledged hidden pleasures.

The official response to HIV/AIDS took shape at almost precisely the same time that gay, lesbian, and transgender cultures were acquiring newfound public visibility through the annual Mardi Gras celebrations in Sydney. When the first cases of AIDS were reported among gay men in the United States in 1983, Mardi Gras was only just transforming from its origins in 1978 as a violent clash between police and a motley crew of gay liberationists, bar patrons, and other assorted queers who were out on the streets paying tribute to the Stonewall Riots. When government officials first met with gay activists to discuss how best to respond to the epidemic, Mardi Gras was well on the way to becoming the country’s most popular street parade and party, an annual fixture that would dynamise and generally enliven Australian public and counter-public culture. In an important sense, the parade and party became the vehicle through which the epidemic was realised, primarily through spectacular and irreverent floats which dramatised the exuberance and scale of such a collective project. Mardi Gras became practically synonymous with this public expression of pleasure and defiance. It signaled the vibrant possibility of a creative community response to the epidemic.

The Australian policy response to AIDS is justly acclaimed for having recognised, relatively quickly, the importance of involving the groups most affected by the epidemic in shaping a viable policy response. From the start, it positioned those groups as necessary partners in the creation and delivery of educational programs and policy. The approach that emerged rejected many of the coercive medical and state measures that had been promoted within traditional approaches to public health, emphasising instead community education, participation and civil rights. The styles of education within this framework set out to address sexual subcultures in their own language and imagery, while adopting a sex-positive approach to prevention and education. In the field of drug policy, government supported harm reduction measures such as needle and syringe exchanges, which went against a prohibitionist stance on drugs. This remarkable modification of sexual and drug practices took place with reference to a culture of pleasure, and largely withstanding conservative structures of authority and practice. As a result, and in stark contrast to many other countries, Australia averted a major HIV epidemic among injecting drug users, while infection rates among gay men dropped substantially and have remained low relative to similar contexts.

Where the policy response to HIV/AIDS treated the community as active participants, the current policy response to drugs treats the community as suspect. What can be taken from the history of HIV/AIDS is an approach to public health in which pleasure features, not as the antithesis of safety, but as the medium through which certain practices of safety take shape. That is, a concern for the body – its safety and its limits – can often be identified, for example, in drug users’ practical decisions about which drugs to use; where, when and how. A number of studies now discuss the “folk pharmacology” which consumers draw upon to inform their use of certain drugs and avoid unnecessary harm. Here, drugs are linked to quite specific practices of pleasure and forms of sociability. Using them well entails a host of routines and tiny decisions about context, timing, and drug selection. And these decisions are linked to a series of moral judgments about desired sensations and effects. Thus, though the current punitive framework tends to produce a drug culture that is shallow, individualistic and criminal, it’s also the case that small practices of care, differentiation and safety still manage to circulate in this environment, where they form part of the practical repertoires that people draw upon to enjoy their night out. In short, considerations of safety may appear as part of a concern to maximise pleasure, rather than standing in direct opposition to it.

These repertoires of safety are in direct contrast to the heavy-handed measures that have been adopted in states such as New South Wales recently, which, among their other problems, criminalise ordinary citizens for participating in forms of consumption that are by now widespread. It is foolish to think that this sort of policing will eliminate the behaviour or make it safer. We need a new approach to drug policy, one that acknowledges the legitimacy of pleasure, and works with it. If drugs are now part of popular culture – something that is difficult to dispute in the context of consumerised medicine – then it is to the dynamics of popular culture – the lively exchange of pleasures, practices, tastes and values – that we might turn if we are interested in promoting an intelligent public culture with respect to drug use. SAM

Kane Race is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies and the author of Pleasure Consuming Medicine: The Queer Politics of Drugs, recently released by Duke University Press, 2009, from which this argument is taken.
Jonty was four and a half before we read about food intolerances and realised that these foods were making him behave in ways that were turning our family life into a nightmare. Climbing book cases, throwing books, running non-stop up and down hallways, whingeing, defiance and a restless irritability were just some of Jonty’s daily patterns.

My husband and I were exhausted. “I feel like I’m constantly working double shifts,” I remember complaining to him. Up at 5am, we would “go” until about 2pm when Jonty crashed for about two hours. Then he’d wake up and we couldn’t get him back to bed until 10 o’clock at night.

Taking him to my local doctor to discuss his behaviour, I was told that Jonty needed “more boundaries”. I remember walking away feeling extremely confused by this advice as my husband and I were big believers in being firm and setting limits.

Adding our second son, Finn, to the mix when Jonty was two and a half put even more pressure on our ability to cope. Shattered by the demands of two little boys, I would often put them both into their cots and just collapse into bed.

Walking into my local library one day, Jonty running beside it, I noticed a book that would change our lives. Stirring the spaghetti that night, book in hand, I began to devour every word of Feed Up – Understanding how food affects your child and what you can do about it – by Sue Dengate.

Dengate explains how there have been big changes in our national diet: “party foods have become everyday foods, additives which did not even exist are eaten frequently and flavour enhancers are common,” she writes.

After finishing the book we put Jonty on a FAILSAFE diet (Free of additives and low in salicylates, amines and flavour enhancers). Salicylates are chemicals found in foods such as watermelon, oranges, tomatoes, strawberries and grapes – all the foods that we’d been feeding Jonty.

Eliminating salicylates from his diet and also foods containing preservatives, colours (even natural ones) or flavour enhancers changed his life and ours. Almost overnight Jonty became considerate, kind, patient, caring and, importantly, our frantic family became a much calmer one.

Sue Dengate has acknowledged the foundational work of the RPAH Allergy Unit in formulating FAILSAFE. Dr Anne Swain, of the allergy clinic at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, studied food intolerance for her PhD and says “The FAILSAFE diet is based on the RPAH Elimination Diet developed by myself, Dr Velencia Soutter and Dr Robert Loblay.”

Responding positively when asked whether she would recommend the RPAH Elimination Diet to families struggling with the behaviour of their children, Dr Swain says: “Yes, we would recommend the diet as a diagnostic tool to identify if food intolerance has a role in children’s behaviour. Followed by challenges to identify the triggers as they vary from one child to another. Responses are individual.”

Now nine, Jonty has recently attended a Creative Arts Camp for gifted and talented children and is thriving academically at school. We credit Sue Dengate’s book and the RPAH Elimination Diet with making our family life healthier and happier. For more on food intolerance or the elimination diet go to: www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/tpa/allergy or allergy@email.cs.nsw.gov.au. Sue Dengate’s Feed Up is available in good bookstores ($24.95) or online from publisher HarperCollins: $23.50 including GST, p&p.
You can make a difference

Escraving the consumer society that I’d been brought up in became my priority during my idealistic 20s and I made a couple of trips, with my husband Jef, to work in the slums of India.

When we had our first child we quickly realised that jaunts overseas to third world countries would become less frequent, if not impossible. (To all those out there who continue their travels with babes in their backpacks - you have my admiration).

But leaving full-time work and moving to suburbia to raise our family didn’t mean that I was any less concerned about poverty or wanting to effect positive change in the world – particularly for marginalised women who face gender-based discrimination on a daily basis.

To a large extent my membership of UNIFEM – the United Nations Development Fund for Women – has kept me in touch with issues affecting women in developing countries.

UNIFEM Australia is a voluntary organisation which provides financial and technical assistance to programs and strategies to foster women’s empowerment and gender equality.

Some of the projects, which UNIFEM Australia has supported, include building sustainable livelihoods for Cambodian women through training and development of a handicrafts industry; and economic empowerment through improved production and marketing of traditional weaving in East Timor.

Supporting UNIFEM events during the year has been a way for me to feel connected to a wider world.

Last March, I was invited into the studios of 1233 ABC Newcastle to be interviewed as part of the celebrations for International Women’s Day; and I made sure I bought a White Ribbon on November 25th just past as part of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Daily decisions such as what to put in the kids’ lunchboxes, what shoes to wear, hair up or down or, at the end of the day, mashed potato or baked potato, zucchini or broccoli (or both) don’t seem quite so humdrum when I know that, even from my suburban kitchen, I’m linked into a global organisation which aims to improve the conditions under which women work and live. SD

More information: www.unifem.org

Josh Jagelman (BEd (Primary) ’97) is in the Q&A chair

Why this degree?
I really wanted to do pediatric medicine but my TER wasn’t high enough. If I’d only studied a few more hours... or went to fewer nightclubs...

Expectations of your degree?
Between school and University I spent 12 months living in a rubbish dump in Latin America – the place was crawling with orphans who had never known any kind of parent figure or carer; they had quite literally come to consciousness in a pile of rubbish. I wanted my degree to equip me with something more than “love” to give to abused and traumatised children.

Where are you now?
I am living in southwest China in a rural city near Laos and Burma. I have seven absolutely amazing children; one from a previous relationship; five adopted and one natural child with my current partner. We are planning to have one more child together (but hoping for twins or triplets).

What does your family do for fun?
Food and travel make up about 90 per cent of our recreational activities; we often pop over to Laos to hang with village friends and eat local cuisine; sometimes we go all the way down to Thailand if we feel like spoiling ourselves. Our family also loves to swim! Must be the Aussie influence – we are usually at a local hotel pool every weekend – sun or rain (there is no real winter here).

What have been the pivotal points in your career?
Great relationships with parents and students just couldn’t compete with the bigoted, hypocritical crap I had to put up with from colleagues and administration. After three years I left the NSW public system and headed back to Latin America – which eventually led me to Asia, and where I am today.

Future plans?
I’m in the middle of starting an English training business – I want to try out a few ideas and hope to make some money along the way. If the business is successful it shouldn’t take up more than 5 per cent of our time. Then we want to take up a job offer to become the provincial coordinator for child services with an international NGO. Travelling all over southern China helping people, projects, organisations and government to help children as best they can is my dream job! Next, we plan to move closer to Burma (and hopefully into Burma itself one day) and start up a community for severely traumatised orphans, of which there are many in this area.
Single?  
University educated? 
Over 45?

GRADS Social Club Inc. introduces you to like-minded people – graduates who love to chat over a meal, take in a theatre, join a discussion or book group, bush walk, and lots more.

GRADS is strictly non-profit, run just for its members. Emphasis is on friendships and fun, with social events organised by members.

This Club may be for you!

Come join us and enrich your social life. 
Male graduates especially welcome.

Phone Susan on 9909 8460 or email: grads.newmembership@d2.net.au 
web: http://grads.d2.net.au

3 WEEKS IN PARIS  
and Ile de France 2010 (21 Nights)

Live like a local in your own Paris apartment. Accommodation and 10 small group day tours with a History, Art and Food focus. Conducted by Tour leader.

Land content only (max 15) 
Twin share $3850 Single $4850

2010 Tour dates:  
April 6–27, April 28–May 19,  
Sept 7–28, Sept 29–Oct 20

* ‘10 days in Paris and Ile de France’ option also available

Please contact Beyond Tourism Travel for a brochure.

BEYOND TOURISM TRAVEL  
Ph (02) 9617 0730  
FREECALL 1800 648 755  
Email: info@bttravel.com.au  
www.bttravel.com.au  
Licensed Travel Agent: 21A5804  
11 Windermere Rd Epping 2121  
ABN: 47118876467

1 Suspended overnight to ensure all stretch and shifting were over.  
2 The professional movers are accustomed to large objects, but nothing as precious or ancient as Hathor, they said.  
3 The 7.30 Report camera crew.  
4 Hi-tech stacks of plywood.  
5 Not exactly a pharoah’s chariot.  
6 Playing the controls like Paganini.  
7 Nervous and excited Michael Turner.  
8 Back the way she came a century before.  
9 Passing Fisher Library.  
10 Stately race against coming storm: Nicolson portico  
11 The team pays close attention  
12 Plywood sheeting is Hathor’s highway  
13 Into the Nicolson at last
Acquired by Charles Nicolson in the 1890s, the serenely magnificent 4-tonne, 4000-year-old granite column capital of the goddess Hathor from the Temple of Bastet in Bubastis, in Upper Egypt, was just too big and heavy for existing technology. Consequently she spent a century languishing in an obscure corner of the Quadrangle. On a chilly, rainy winter’s day in July 2009, however, old and new technology came together to help Hathor to her proper place – dominating the Nicolson Museum with her tranquil beauty. Her journey was captured by the ABC’s *7.30 Report*, by Nicolson curator Michael Turner – and by Diana Simmonds.
In an age of instant, undeserved celebrity, Zoltan Torey’s name is unknown to most. Yet his life story is among the most inspiring I know of, writes Roy Williams

Zoltan Torey (BA ‘61) has endured enormous hardships, not least the loss of his eyesight at the age of 21. Yet now, at 80, his achievements are – by any standards – truly remarkable. Chief among them is his acclaimed book The Crucible of Consciousness: An Integrated Theory of Mind and Brain, first published by Oxford University Press in 1999.

Torey was largely self-taught, unknown in academic circles, but his manuscript received endorsements from distinguished experts such as Oliver Sacks and Professor Charles Birch. Earlier this year the book was revised and republished by MIT Press. It carries a foreword by Daniel C Dennett, a world authority in the field of cognitive studies. He lauds Torey as a “pathfinder” and the book as a “quite bountiful source of arrestingly different slants.”

One reviewer wrote of the first edition: “I think I have just read one of the great books of this century – no, of several centuries – comparable with Darwin’s On the Origin of Species or Einstein’s Special Theory of Relativity.” Torey has also written an engaging memoir, Out of Darkness (Picador, 2003).

He was born in Hungary in 1929 into a privileged upper-middle class milieu. His father ran a motion picture studio in Budapest, a thriving cosmopolitan metropolis. Among many happy childhood memories, Torey recalls hiking with his beloved father: “We often roamed the forest together, stalking deer, sharing sunsets and sunrises in the wooded mountains above the river Danube.”

Torey’s high school education was well rounded. Notably, he went to Lutheran church services and learnt the fundamentals of each main branch of science. He also studied French, German, English and Latin. “There was,” he recalls, “no forced premature specialisation into streams… I was educated rather than trained.”

Life seemed full of promise. But the last years of World War II changed everything. Hungary was nominally a German ally, and events converged horribly for its citizens. In March 1944 the Nazis moved in, on the Russian Front. Worse followed at Christmas when the Russian Red Army arrived from the east.

Torey’s family sheltered in their coal cellar for six weeks. When they emerged, he recalls, “There was little trace of our human habitation: a single small piece of bent metal reminding me of my toy railway, an occasional shard of crockery among the charred rubble of dust and brick”.

The following year Torey’s father was arrested as a “liberal subversive”. Hungary had become a bleak totalitarian state, part of the Soviet empire. Torey remembers advice from a business associate of his father’s: “If you don’t have the stomach for it, then leave, preferably tomorrow.”

In August 1948, aged 18, Torey and three companions escaped. It required a 100m dash past an observation post manned by Soviet snipers at the Hungarian-Austrian border. Torey can repeat the final instructions still: “We are moving targets, the range is longish, our chances are fair. Do not stop whatever happens. Now go.” They made it, and almost a year later Torey embarked for Australia and arrived in Melbourne on 17 July 1949.

He gained admission to the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Sydney and began his studies in February 1950. To support himself he took a number of menial part-time jobs, including stints at the NSW railways and a milk factory. He didn’t mind the exertion: “What with all the lifting, stowing, stashing and running I felt thrilled and amused.” However, in mid-1951 he was working a shift at a battery plant when his face was sprayed with acid. The accident irrevocably changed his life. He was blinded in both eyes and his vocal cords were fused, reducing his voice to a rasping whisper.

Torey managed to teach himself to “see” again, through a process of internal visualisation and heightened use of his other senses. “My brain … began using its processing techniques in reverse,” he explains. “Previously it perceived and made inferences on the basis of visual data, now it gathered any data, data formerly ignored, and together with shrewd guesses it generated perceptions from within.”

Developing these abilities was a slow and painful process, exacerbated by his isolation from family and friends back in Hungary, a deeply strained first marriage (“an emotional write-off”), their raising of a son (“I cannot say we were good parents”), lack of money, and his limited English. Despite these obstacles, Torey graduated from the University in 1959 with a degree in psychology (Hons) and philosophy. Later he practised as a professional marriage counsellor. “I enjoyed counselling for a few years,” he says wistfully, “but then the same problems kept coming back again and again. It fatigued me.”

All the while he was educating himself in linguistics, neuroscience, neuro-psychology, anthropology, evolutionary biology and cosmology. “These were preparatory years for me,” he recalls, “getting ready to tackle the big questions. Previous attempts at tackling the consciousness problem failed because they were monodisciplinary.”

In 1980 he began writing the manuscript that became The Crucible of Consciousness. He finished in 1992, having “worked on it almost continuously, a labour of love and concentration.”

In retrospect, he says, it would not have happened but for his blindness. “I would probably have become a dentist
and settled into a busy and comfortable lifestyle instead.”

Torey’s basic thesis is that consciousness – our knowing that we know – is both an entirely physical phenomenon and unique to human beings. It is a “value-added variant of its ground state [awareness]”, a by-product of the two-sidedness of the human brain, and, just as crucially, of the relative “plasticity” of the infant child’s brain. The key is our use of language, both speech and thought.

“Language,” Torey argues in his book, “is neither innate nor learnt. It is neuro-functionally grown in every normal individual exposed to it.”

Is free will an illusion? His answer is a qualified “no”: consciousness enables us to choose whether to abort an action which the subconscious brain has already selected and initiated. We have about 100-150 milliseconds to “decide”. Free will, on this theory, is more like “free won’t”, the exercise of a power of veto – an idea postulated by the late American neuro-scientist Benjamin Libet (1916–2007).

“I have a plan,” Torey says, “to explore these issues as part of my next project.”

Is he an atheist? The vehemence of his answer is surprising: “I am not even remotely an atheist!” Although he insists that consciousness is a product of purely natural forces, it also “imposes a fantastic obligation on us.” Why? “Because we are part of a miracle, but consciousness is not the miracle… It is just our instrument to see it.”

What about Richard Dawkins, author of The God Delusion and unofficial leader of today’s “New Atheists”? Torey’s verdict: “A clever fellow, but I just can’t buy him.”

In his memoir, Torey describes a scene he witnessed as a volunteer stretcher-bearer: “A half pyramid of naked corpses piled up in the back corner… a heap of young human beings, Russians, Germans, Ukrainians, Hungarians, now all equally dead.”

“I can still picture that sight with total clarity,” he says and is unashamed to admit that he supported his national government’s policy of “prevarication and minimalist war participation, at least until March 1944” – as did most of his fellow Hungarians. “It was clearly the lesser evil.”

A desperate Torey was part of Australia’s seminal post-war immigration program and he remains extremely grateful. Asylum-seekers today, he says, must regard Australia as “heaven… divine… Christmas every day!”

Sixty years on, what are Torey’s own views of Australia? We’ve made huge advances, and not merely in the obvious ways, he thinks. “An outsider can see these things better.”

He writes in his memoir that, in 1950, “this country had not evolved an acceptable authentically Australian role model for the intelligent citizen, male or female.”

The options were to “turn into an Englishman or into a Marxist”.

Today, he says with enthusiasm, there are many excellent examples to follow. There can be few better examples than Zoltan Torey himself. SAM

Roy Williams (BA ’84, LLB (Hons) ’86) is the author of God, Actually, published in Australasia by ABC Books and in the UK and North America by Monarch Books.
Vladimir Ashkenazy invites you on a journey through the symphonic music of Gustav Mahler. Over two years, he will lead from the bright and innocent First Symphony through to the apocalyptic Ninth. Mahler’s music is deeply personal and deliciously emotional; it moves and swells to fill the air and fill your heart – music that will take you on a journey.

“A good journey. You could only envy that.” Vladimir Ashkenazy

MAHLER I - THE ODYSSEY BEGINS
EneryAustralia Master Series:
WED 10 | FRI 12
SAT 13 FEBRUARY | 8PM
R STRAUSS Don Juan | MAHLER Blumine
MAHLER Songs of a Wayfarer | MAHLER Symphony No.1

MAHLER 8 - SYMPHONY OF A THOUSAND
Season Opening Gala - THU 18 | SAT 20 FEBRUARY | 8PM
MAHLER Symphony No.8

MAHLER 5 - TEARS AND ECSTASY
Thursday Afternoon Symphony
THU 20 MAY | 1.30PM
FRI 21 MAY | 8PM
SAT 22 MAY | 2PM
R STRAUSS Guntram: Prelude to Act 1
R STRAUSS Burleske for piano and orchestra | MAHLER Symphony No.5

AND MORE MAHLER THROUGHOUT 2010 & 2011
Visit sydneysymphony.com for concert details

Tickets from $35*
*Select performances. Booking fees of $4-$8.50 may apply.

We’re a little different – left-handers.
It’s not just that we wear our watches on the wrong arm
Or smudge our books
And so write cackily-handedly.
It’s not just that scissors and irons make us feel clumsy
Or the belt’s the wrong way
And the keys the wrong side.

We’re always reminded we’re round the wrong way,
So much that we take it for granted:
Each time we sit down the knife has to be switched
And the glasses are set – dare we move them?

We’re forever a problem for coaches and teachers:
‘First try it out right –
Oh well, I can’t help you.’
You’re just a bit odd, a bit weird, a bit gauche.
Clumsy and clunky, you know!
You can’t buy the clubs
Or the sticks or the bats
And no one can teach you to throw!

Some even say sinister,
At the wrong hand.
You can’t even shake on it, right!

And why are people more afraid of the left
And of being left out, not right on?
As though the right’s right
And the rest are left over,
Raising the wrong hand,
Putting the wrong foot forward.

But we do think differently – it’s true.
We like languages, music, spaces too.
We’re creative
And maybe a mite more sensitive,
‘Cause we know what it is to be different,
Yet forced into others’ shoes;
So our worlds are a side more complex –
And that’s our gift to you.

From Southpaw: a Matter of Reversal
By Adrian Lane (BScStud ’80)
Ginninderra Press 2009
If, as optimists insist, every challenge is an opportunity, then the corollary is surely that when one spies no opportunity and sets about creating one’s own, it has to be a challenge. Ask Andrew Batt-Rawden and Alex Pozniak, who gazed at the bleak landscape of opportunities for young composers to have their work performed, and decided to make their own.

The result, Chronology Arts, has created scores (if you’ll pardon me) of performance openings in Sydney for aspiring artists engaged in the heady possibilities of new music.

“It’s also promoting the composers,” says 24-year-old Batt-Rawden, “getting them an audience, and starting their careers in a way that hasn’t been happening previously.”

Established chamber groups and orchestras shy away from new work, especially by unknown composers. To be fair, these composers may be still gaining complete control over their art, but, just as a play has to be performed to really exist, so a score has to be heard.

The pair buzzes with infectious enthusiasm for Chronology, which was launched in 2007, and aims to present new material that is sufficiently innovative to not only represent contemporary developments, but to point to the future. Another intention is to foster collaborations with art forms such as film and dance, which can lead to further work for composers.

Batt-Rawden grew up in Belrose, learning oboe. “By the time I was 16 I figured out I was much more interested in the creation of music rather than the performance of it,” he says. He studied composition at the Conservatorium from 2003 to 2006, emerging with a Bachelor of Music (Honours), and meanwhile developing a taste for playing producer as well as composer. Such is his commitment to being Chronology’s managing director that he is completing a Masters in Management at UTS.

Two years older, Pozniak (Chronology’s artistic director) was raised on Sydney’s northern beaches, studied piano, and completed a combined Arts/Music degree at the University between 2000 and 2004.

“The English that I was majoring in, the art history, philosophy and bits of psychology were all adding to my creative thinking,” he says. He then completed an Honours year in composition under the supervision of Matthew Hindson, and subsequently two years of a Masters, emerging with a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, First Class Honours, the University Medal and, at the time of writing, was awaiting the result of his Masters in Composition. Meanwhile he teaches composition both at the Conservatorium high school and with Hindson at the University.

The enthusiasm for Chronology is shared by both audiences and artists such as Zubin Kanga, a young pianist who is turning ears both here and in Britain with his dashing virtuosity and poised artistry. A Chronology-presented Kanga recital in July gave a snapshot of the vitality, diversity and surprise of the new-music scene. Like jazz, this music tends to remain beneath the radar of most people, despite being where the genuinely questing art is happening, and while so much predictable, pedestrian sludge fills our concert halls, theatres and cinemas.

Kanga, who has known Pozniak since high school, believes the collaborative relationship between composer and performer is vital, and should be fostered more, pointing to the Conservatorium in this regard. He, too, grew up on the northern beaches, and began piano at age five, but did not fully commit to becoming a professional musician until he was undertaking a combined Arts/Science degree at Sydney.

He is grateful that the interdisciplinary approach in the Music Department (now the Arts Music Unit) embraced composition, performing, musicology and ethnomusicology.

“The fact we studied all these things gave us a broader musical education and a more rigorous intellectual education compared to what you would get at most conservatoires in the world,” he says.

Further broadening that education were units of engineering, computer science and mathematics, as well as a philosophy major. Kanga emerged with a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Music, and the University Medal.

“It’s good to have support for performers who are at the same level as the composers they are advocating,” says Kanga of Chronology Arts, which now mounts five concerts a year, and is happy to hear from would-be participants. Just make sure you’re thinking more than a year ahead.

L to R: Alex Pozniak, Zubin Kanga and Andrew Batt-Rawden.
Photo: Ted Sealey

SAM Summer 09/10 31
Human rights: neither new nor radical but necessary

By Susan Ryan AO (BA ’63)

It’s a strange debate. Those who attack the proposed human rights act because of a possible role for “unelected” judges are sometimes themselves “unelected” judges. Opposition to protection of religious freedom comes from Christian lobbyists. Included among the few but noisy voices complaining that the USA with its constitutional bill of rights amounts to a terrifying negative example is Australia’s best known US history and politics enthusiast. How did we get to this strange place?

It started for me in 2005. In 2004 the High Court decided that Al Kateb, a detainee who could not officially establish his place of birth, could be kept in detention indefinitely, without trial, without a conviction and without any other civil or political rights. The community was becoming aware that, in accordance with the deliberate policy of the government of the day, small children were imprisoned for long periods behind barbed wire in remote Australian detention centres. This cruel setup made children ill, as it did their parents and other detainees. The detainees had done no wrong. They had come here on small, dangerous boats, desperate for assistance but without regular documents. Citizens began to agitate, to demand that Australia, long since a signatory to the major UN human rights instruments, should honour our responsibilities. Appeals went to the High Court.

In the absence of a national law, Australia’s international human rights obligations commitments meant nothing. It was clear to many that Australia’s lack of a human rights act was a serious gap in our national laws. Our campaign group proposed embodying our existing UN covenant commitments in a national law. This approach was neither new nor radical. With the Racial Discrimination Act (1975) and the Sex Discrimination Act (1984) parliament had put several UN rights commitments into Australian statutes.

We proposed not a constitutional bill but an ordinary act of parliament, made by the parliament to be changed only by the parliament. The courts could decide whether other laws and policies of the Commonwealth were consistent with it. Where the court found inconsistency, the parliament would note this and respond, as it saw fit. The courts could not strike down the law, or change it.

All laws, before introduction into parliament, would be checked against the human rights act. Parliament would actively monitor and scrutinise human rights aspects of law and policy. Commonwealth departments and agencies, and external service providers carrying out Commonwealth work, such as immigration detention centre guards, would be bound to respect the legislated rights. Where parliament chose to exempt any activity from coverage, parliament would say so specifically.

Perhaps the most important effect of such a law would be to change how the bureaucracy dealt with vulnerable...
the UK, which enacted its Human Rights Act in 1998, Australia, respecting the separation of powers, could, without legal obstacles, put in place a human rights act. It would be made by parliament, implemented by the bureaucracy and, on rare occasions, allow the courts to consider consistency between this law and other Commonwealth laws.

This is the kind of proposal I am pleased to say has emerged from the national consultation, established by the Rudd government in December 2008. Chaired by Frank Brennan SJ, it was asked to report on what Australians think about human rights protection. The Brennan committee received in excess of 40,000 submissions, an unprecedented response and evidence in itself that the issue is live. More than 87 per cent of those who made their views known favoured a human rights act. More strangeness: submissions by some Christian lobbyists opposed the measure. Unmoved by the needs of the vulnerable, their focus was to maintain above all their right to discriminate in employment in favour of those of their faith. This requirement in most cases, for example teachers in church schools, has long been met in Commonwealth anti-discrimination law. Providing other aspects of human rights are observed, and policies are transparent, these exemptions can be expected to continue. Reassuringly, other religious groups, whose primary concern is the protection of the vulnerable, strongly support a human rights act.

Despite the attacks on judges by some judges, several former High Court, Federal and Supreme Court judges have publicly supported the approach under discussion. And, not so strange, many students of the history and politics of the US regard the US Bill of Rights, different as it is from what we are proposing, as an important historical element of American democracy.

We are now set for action. The consultation has demonstrated the need and support for a new act. A range of possible models is available. The Rudd government has published the report and promised a response before too long. What will follow? It is hard to see why the government would fail to act on the results of the consultation. It is also hard to grasp why the Opposition, at the time of writing, has turned its face against a modest measure to protect the rights of powerless individuals against the state. They may well rethink this position.

Yet beneath this reason and openness, something else, redolent of the unlamented culture wars is lurking. The deeper fears and passions aroused by the idea of the weak getting a fair go seem to ensure that the debate will continue a bit before we achieve in Australia what all other democracies enjoy: a specific law that sets out and protects our basic rights as human beings. SAM

Susan Ryan AO is Chair of the Human Rights Act for Australia Campaign Inc.
The Mud House
Richard Glover
HarperCollins $27.99

Richard Glover (BA '83) is ABC 702's popular drive-time host and a Sydney Morning Herald columnist. He's converted the latter into a number of tongue-in-cheek and funny books, featuring his thinly-disguised and long-suffering wife and two boys, as well as other books for the young and young at heart.

The Mud House, subtitled “four friends, one block of land, no power tools” has been a long time coming as it predates all the above. It's been worth the wait, however, as it's a charming and often heartfelt memoir of the ridiculous enterprise of finding a bit of land and building a house on it with very little money and absolutely no expertise (or power tools).

The Mud House is the truth behind the romance of the sea change dream. “I don’t advocate the f-word in polite society, but out there it was a necessity,” writes Glover of the isolated bush block. “On the building site, the f-word is an aid to exertion... There’s something perfect about the word ‘f-’ and its explosive sound: the way the bottom lip curls behind the teeth, building up pressure like a slingshot, before flinging the word forward into the world. Try that with ‘holy moly’. In building a house, the f-words are as crucial as the G-clamps and H-brackets. Looking back over the whole period of construction, we used 500 metres of hardwood beams, 20 sheets of galvo and about 5000 f-words.”

The funny thing about the book, and its paltry reproduced happy snaps of the adventure, is that it could as easily inspire you to try something similar as it might also convince you of the utter lunacy of the idea. In other words, it’s honest, reflective, realistic and affectionate. It's as much about the author and his coming to terms with himself as it is about the house that was finally built. The two grew up together. A charming and funny book.

Bodysurfing
Neville de Mestre
Vengram Educational Services $19.80

This useful little book was just asking to be written. Sponsored by the Queensland Government and Surf Life Saving Australia, it's really everything you always wanted to know about bodysurfing but were too embarrassed to ask. Or if you did ask – your dad, mum, best friend or the nice old bloke at the surf club – they were unable to convey their knowledge in any useful way.

With workmanlike black and white photography by Stan Davies and pencil illustrations to show you what to do with a rip and other hazards, Bodysurfing is a thorough and readable how-to book based on the author's experience. Neville de Mestre (BSc (Hons) '59, Dip Ed '60) recalls tandem surfing with his father as a boy of eight in Wollongong.

He has gone on to win 10 World Masters’ surf titles and 32 Australia Masters’ titles and compete in many iron man events. In his spare time he is a mathematician, has written five books on mathematical topics and is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Bond University, which is handily close to North Burleigh Surf Live Saving Club, where he is a member.

A Book of Endings
Deborah Biancotti
Twelfth Planet $27.95

Biancotti (BSc (SocSc) '93) has compiled “twenty-one short stories” which also happens to be the straightforward subtitle of the book. These are unnerving and elliptical, in the main, and tread a fine line between the everyday mundane that never is and an overblown literary style that can be tiresome when too self-conscious. Mostly they stay on the right side of the line and intrigue more than irritate. Biancotti is further proof of why readers enjoy the short story, even though publishers prefer to pretend we don’t.

Headlong: A Novel
Susan Varga
UWA Press $29.95

Grief and “closure” have become part of a rather revolting caring industry in recent times and Susan Varga (BA '65, MA '73) has written a novel that illustrates why it’s so fatuous and unrealistic.

Kati’s mother, the 80-year-old Julia, is as obstreperous with her daughter as might be expected of someone who came to Australia as a refugee but has no time for the Tampa asylum seekers. When her beloved husband dies Julia becomes matter-of-factly suicidal. Why should she continue to live? Why should not her daughter assist her in her wishes? Why should Kati’s partner put up with the fall-out?
And so on.

Varga has fashioned a contemporary love story of mothers and daughters, families, friends and lovers that also looks at the deeper complexities of modern life – beyond jargon and platitudes.

CHARLIE WEBB AND THE RIDDLE OF MORDRED’S CASTLE
JI Areansen
Octavian Books $18.99

With JK Rowling drawing a line under the adventures of Harry Potter, there is a waiting market for another wizard-like boy with special powers, entrée to an enchanted world, spells, a jolly hockey sticks manner of talking to his chums and some spectacular obstacles to overcome in his quest to be a jolly decent sort.

So up pops JI Areansen (BA/LLB ’09). She has successfully concocted a child-pleasing world for 13-year-old Charlie – introduced in 2006’s Charlie Webb and the Dragonmaster’s Quest. But it’s impossible to read his adventures without comparison to Rowling. Charlie has to contend with Ormells, where Harry’s dull humans were Muggles. “Incendo!” and “Avolol!” are incantations that make things happen and there’s a Questing Beast and other mythic creatures.

The Riddle of Mordred’s Castle takes Charlie and his pals to a place and time beyond King Arthur and the Round Table, because of course, rotten Mordred was the Arthurian baddie and the kids have everything against them in their quest. If you and your youngsters were Potter fans, you might fill the gap quite nicely with Charlie Webb.

SUPERFLUOUS MEN
Michael Wilding
Arcadia $29.95

The preoccupations of early retirement from academe naturally follow the satirical frolics of Academia Nata. It also follows, therefore, that Henry gets involved with a Writers Centre as honorary Chair and falls headlong over the literary industry. All hell is let loose. Wilding (DLitt ’96) is a wicked observer of human foibles and bureaucracy; and he has an evilly good ear for the dopey chit-chat that so often passes for high flown discourse and earnest-speak. It’s very funny.

WILLIAM CHARLES WENTWORTH: AUSTRALIA’S GREATEST NATIVE SON
Andrew Tink
Allen & Unwin $49.99

The tumultuous life of one of the University’s founding fathers would not bear scrutiny as a work of fiction: the facts are amazing and, unless true, would be unbelievable.

Born illegitimately to a 17-year-old convict girl and an impecunious Irish aristocrat, who may or may not have been a highwayman before taking ship to Botany Bay, William Charles became one of the great figures of colonial New South Wales.

It’s a pity then, that this first full biography is by an author who was most recently shadow Attorney General in the NSW parliament and before that a barrister, as these occupations probably contribute to the tendency to hyperbole and a crushing volume of detail.

A decent editor should have hosed down the purple prose and pointed out that while research is essential, the art of writing is to know what to leave out. Alas.

Nevertheless, for those wanting to know more about the man whose statue dominates the interior of the Great Hall, this is a good place to start.

WEDDING DANCE
Zeny Giles, Koel Koel Press
$25+postage. (Available from zenygiles@gmail.com or 100 Carrington Parade, New Lambton, NSW 2305)

Growing up Greek in inner city Sydney in the ’50s and ’60s is the beautifully drawn backdrop to Giles’ (BA ’57 DipEd ’58) semi-autobiographical adventure. There is the ebb and flow of an extended family – the patriarchs and matriarchs, the dodgy real estate and unsurprising insults from “Aussies”; the rhythms and pace of life changing with increased fortune or notions of belonging.

“No chance of vermin in an Electrolux-clean house,” a travelling salesman tells a young housewife as he’s demonstrating the efficacy of a machine. It’s a part of Australia’s coming of age that is now more sepias memory than fully coloured, as the yayas and papous return to their ancestral islands or to god. A delightful book.

NEWS

University of Sydney scholars are the winners on the night: all four finalists in the general history category for this year’s NSW Premier’s History Awards are from the University’s history department, chosen from 182 nominations. They are:

Warwick Anderson, for The Collectors of Lost Souls: turning Kuru scientists into whitemen, Johns Hopkins University Press.


Iain McCalman, for Darwin’s Armada: how four voyagers to Australasia won the battle for evolution and changed the world, Penguin Group.

And the winner of the $15,000 prize is Warwick Anderson.
Stuart Clark: the person

There’s much more to life than the game, the University’s best-known cricketer tells John Shand

It could be the premise for a Hollywood movie: should the young hero pursue academic achievement and career, or chase sporting glory? Stuart Clark (MComm ’09) took an option supposedly proscribed in the professional sport era: do both. In a feat akin to juggling multiple time bombs on a high wire he has excelled as a cricketer while completing one degree, beginning another and raising a family of two young children.

Clark ascribes the lack of a personal meltdown to his enjoying it all. “I find time to study at all hours of the night,” he says. “When there’s an exam coming up, like most students, I lock myself away and try and learn what I need to learn. I just get it done.”

Those last five words could be his motto, whatever the task. Having met outside the Sydney Cricket Ground, he leads me through a labyrinth of offices, later explaining that this is easier than negotiating the security rigmarole. With mobile glued to ear, meanwhile, he organises insurance on a new car while settling us into the back of the hallowed Members’ Stand.

For those who come from Mars, detest cricket, or both, Clark is a lanky fast bowler who made a stellar, if belated, test debut against South Africa in 2006. Despite several injuries rendering his career a stop-start affair, he has (at the time of writing) played 24 tests (taking 94 wickets at an average of 24), 39 One Day Internationals and nine T20 Internationals.

His parents, who were born in India, moved to England upon the demise of the Raj, and then fled the cold for Australia in 1972. Born three years later, Clark grew up in Caringbah, attending the local primary school and Woolooware High. At his parents’ behest he enrolled in Engineering at Wollongong, “went for two weeks, hated it, and chucked it in.” He fell into real estate for six years, and studied valuations at the University of Western Sydney. That too wore thin. “What I really liked was the legal side of things,” he recalls, “and I shouldn’t have been getting involved in that because I didn’t know what I was doing.” Ultimately the Saturday tug of war between cricket and real estate meant one had to go...

Pining for intellectual stimulation, Clark hatched a plan to do Law at Sydney, which had become his grade cricket club. A Sports Union contact suggested he go for another degree and then enrol as a post-graduate. Clark chose a Masters of Commerce, which allowed him to enter Law in 2009 (with much-appreciated flexibility from the University to accommodate the cricket). “I’m doing it backwards,” he smiles. “I’m now doing an undergraduate degree after a post-graduate degree.”

Reaching the top of anything is as much about application as aptitude, and asked if he thinks of himself as driven, Clark pauses, then replies: “I’m driven by what I want to achieve. Most people thought I wouldn’t finish my college degree, but I was always going to do that. Most people still think, ‘what are you doing Law for?’ But I’ll get it done, because I said I was going to get it done. So from that point of view I’m driven. To play cricket for Australia, yeah, I think you have to be. If you want to achieve anything at the highest level, you have to be driven.”

Cricket is a very finite career, however, and Clark disagrees with it being full-time. “I’ve arguably got two or three years of cricket left in me,” he observes. “What am I going to do from 37 to 65? I never wanted to be a truck driver or a bus driver. There’s nothing wrong with that, but I actually wanted to achieve something else in my life. People say, ‘you have achieved: you’re a test cricketer.’ Well, so what? Cricket’s a game I enjoy playing. Whether I achieve or not I’d still play. But I want to achieve other things as well.”

Despite the game in question carrying high earning potential and even being front-page news, Clark keeps it in perspective. “When the fun goes out of it due to age, injury, mental tiredness, whatever, that’s the day I’ll stop playing,” he says.

His family life – with wife Michelle and two children under five – is a massive part of the time juggling. On the three-month ’09 Ashes tour of England, for instance, they joined him for just the middle third. “It’s obviously hard for my wife and the children, because I’m not around and she’s got to do everything,” he says. “It’s also hard for me, because I never see them. I’ve been lucky; I haven’t missed anything as yet like first steps and talking. I may do, but I don’t want to.”

On tour, his evenings are often happily devoted to reading the likes of endless circumlocutory Privy Council judgements, which their Lordships would never have imagined might help a professional cricketer. “It gives me an out when I don’t want to think about cricket any more, because it can consume you,” he says. “It refreshes me in the sense that it’s like I’ve had a break from cricket, and switched off completely.”

Nonetheless the game remains the current priority. “There’s a chance to play cricket for Australia!” he exclaims. “There are 20 million people in Australia and there’s been 160 or 170 who have played test cricket. So I’d jump at it. However, I can see why people retire, and as much as I want to play, I know there are other things in life.”

Apparently spoilt for choice as to what to do next, he acknowledges the sport helps open doors. “But it doesn’t keep the door open,” he adds. “I need to build a relationship through that door, with whoever it is. If I don’t, the door will shut again. When I speak to kids I say...
My name’s Stuart Clark. I used to be a real estate agent.

...to them to try to be nice to the people you meet on the way up, because otherwise when you’re on your way down they won’t want to know you.”

This should not be misconstrued as mercenary, he emphasises: “People think of opportunities as financial. Maybe it’s just you’ve got a good friendship with someone.” Team-mate Adam Gilchrist was a role model in this regard: “He was the nicest person you’ll ever meet. You felt like his best mate after meeting him for one minute,” says Clark, conceding his own younger self might have been lacking in the people skills area.

The same might well have been said of the young – and not so young! – Shane Warne, who is among the players Clark says, “have achieved far greater things than I’ll ever achieve”. He goes on, “Warrie’s the first one to say he’s probably made some bad decisions,” Clark says, “but he’s far and away the best cricketer I’ve ever played with. He was so far into the game, and he was so much better than everyone else... I had an opportunity to go and play country cricket when he was captain, and I just jumped at it, because it was another chance to play cricket with arguably one of the greatest, if not the greatest, cricketer ever. People will obviously say, ‘What about Bradman?’ Yeah, Bradman was obviously the greatest batter, but I think this guy is the greatest bowler ever to play the game, certainly in my lifetime.”

Although years of TV close-ups have given him a famous face, he is unimpressed by his own celebrity. “I hate being made a fuss of,” he says with evident distaste. “Occasionally people come up and want to say hello, and that’s fine. Sometimes it’s nice; sometimes it’s annoying. Most of the time you just smile and say hello, and talk a bit of cricket. Maybe if it happened 24 hours a day, every day – someone like Mick Jagger – that might get annoying.”

“In my first Law class we had to stand up and say who we were, and I said, ‘my name’s Stuart Clark. I used to be a real estate agent. I’ve just finished my Commerce degree and I want to study Law.’ The next day a guy in my Law class said, ‘You don’t talk about cricket a lot, do you?’ And I said, ‘If you know I do it, that’s fine. If you don’t, I don’t care.’ It’s not as though I want to be known as Stuart Clark the Cricketer. I’m Stuart Clark the person.”
1940s
Kenneth Hutton (BSc Ag ’44) and his wife Marie Hutton, pictured above in the V-C’s Garden during Spring Back 2009.

1950s

VETERINARIANS REUNION
A venerable group of 16 Veterinarians gathered at the Sydney University Veterinary School on 21 October to celebrate 50 years since graduation. They came from NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, New Zealand and even from Canada.

After a warm welcome from the Dean, they were given a conducted tour of the Vet School including the new teaching hospital. Lunch preceded a trip down memory lane as they wandered into lecture rooms, dissection areas and laboratories that had been part of their lives for five years.

The day concluded with a wonderful presentation by the Veterinary School Archivist who surprised all as he presented each Veterinarian with their report card containing the marks that they had attained in each exam over the five-year period of the course. Some present wished that he had not!

Next day they were bussed to the Rural Veterinary Centre at Camden, and again staff and present day students presented developments at that Centre, finishing with a visit to the University farm’s dairy, just in case they had forgotten the sounds and smells of the dairy cattle.

The highly enjoyable reunion ended with a formal dinner that evening.

1960s
JOCELYN CHEY (BA ’61 PhD ’71) has been honoured by the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) in the second year of its Fellows program. The criteria for selection as a Fellow, according to AIIA guidelines, is that the person has achieved a very high level of distinction in, and made a distinguished contribution to, Australia’s international relations.

ROBERT FORSTER (BA ’67 LLB ’70) was appointed as a judge in the equity division of the Supreme Court of NSW in May this year. Mr Forster has 39 years experience as a legal practitioner. He became a barrister in 1978 and was appointed a Senior Counsel in 1994. He specialises in equity and commercial law, with an emphasis on banking and finance, corporations law and insolvency. Mr Forster graduated from the University with first class honours, obtained a masters degree from Stanford University, California and has been admitted to practice law in England, Hong Kong and Illinois in the United States.

1970s
PATRICE CONNELLY (BMus ’77 MMus ’96) was one of four winners of the 9th Leo M Traynor Competition for New Viol Music, administered by the Viola da Gamba Society of America. Patrice’s composition, titled in Nomine “Five”, was written for a consort of five viols. It is published by the Viola da Gamba Society of America. Patrice is also the owner of the early music business Saraband Music. While in Chicago, Saraband’s third book, The Saraband Simpson, was jointly launched by VdGSA president Wendy Gillespie, Head of the Early Music Institute at Indiana University Library, and Brent Wissick, Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina. It is a compilation of two facsimile editions of important musical treatises by Christopher Simpson (c1604-1679). Patrice wrote the introduction and edited another 12 pieces by Simpson and his contemporaries, also included in the book.

PHIL STEPHENS (MBdgSc ’70) is a longstanding member of USUKAA and has lived and worked in London since he completed his PhD at Manchester in 1974. He has written a warts-and-all account of his experiences in The Road to Panelak City, published by PenPress and available from Amazon at £6.99

1980s
ELIZABETH GASCOIGNE (BA ’88 LLB’91) has recently released her first novel, Legally Blind, a comedy about a young woman starting out in the legal profession. Elizabeth is currently working on her second book, an historical novel about a shipwreck off the coast of Victoria in the 19th Century. Elizabeth worked as a solicitor for more than 15 years and now is the marketing manager for Bay Coffee, a coffee roasting company that she owns with her husband, David Rosa. Bay Coffee’s flagship store is in Neutral Bay. Elizabeth lives in Croydon with her husband and two daughters. Online purchases of Elizabeth’s book can be made at www.legallyblindthenovel.com

JANE RAFFAN (BA [Hons] ’89) is former head of Aboriginal Art at Shapiro Gallery & Auctioneers, Sydney, and has been active in the arts sector for 20 years. After graduating, Jane worked in Collection Management at the Art Gallery of NSW for six years before joining the commercial sector, where she worked in the fine art auction industry. At Shapiro, Jane steered the development of Aboriginal art in the company’s corporate profile, alongside her responsibilities as General Manager. In 2005 the company was selected to host the Art Gallery of NSW’s fundraising auction to assist indigenous causes on behalf of the Charles Perkins Children’s Trust, which raised close to $1 million. In 2009 Jane launched ArtiFacts, an arts services consultancy practice with a specialist focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art. Services include collection management, market advice, and appraisals and valuations. Jane is an accredited valuer of Aboriginal Art for the Australian Government’s Cultural Gifts Program, and she also writes for industry websites and journals on Aboriginal art issues and the art market in general. She is currently completing post-graduate studies at Sydney University in Environmental Law, with a special focus on cultural heritage issues.

GEOFF ROBINSON (BEc ’84) has relocated from Warrnambool to the Geelong campus of Deakin University. He now lectures in History and Politics. His book When the Labor Party Dreamed: Class, politics and policy in New South Wales 1930-32 was published earlier this year. His blog is at http://geoffrobinson.info.
1990s

WENDY ROSS (nee JOHNSTON) (BA VisArts ’90) I married (and changed my surname to Longley) in 1993 and have two children, Scott and Bronwyn, now aged 16 and 15 respectively. I joined the Navy in 1996 and was deployed to East Timor, the Solomon Islands and the Persian Gulf. My shore time was spent at HMAS Cerberus on the Mornington Peninsula and HMAS Waterhen in Waverton, Sydney. I divorced in 2001, left the Navy in 2006 and moved to Townsville, where I am (happily) remarried and work for defence contractor Thales Australia, maintaining the LCM 2000 Class Watercraft for the Army. I’d love to know what became of the rest of the posse and I hope someone is still holding a paint brush.

2000s

DR SALLY ISBERG (BScAgr (Hons) ’00 PhD ’04) Sally became fascinated by crocodiles and went on to do a PhD in Animal Genetics. The main aims of the project were to develop a genetic improvement program for farmed saltwater crocodiles, and secondly to develop a parentage determination kit using micro-satellite markers to ensure correct pedigree. She was the first to publish evidence of sex-specific recombination in a species that does not have sex chromosomes. Since graduating Sally has worked in the Northern Territory as the Chief Scientist at Porosus Pty Ltd (Darwin Crocodile Farm NT) developing strategies for overcoming production inefficiencies and implementing the findings of her PhD. As an Honorary Associate, Sally continues to have very strong ties with the University in a broad field of areas including genetics, nutrition and endocrinology. “I’m looking forward to bringing my young family back to Sydney Uni in 2010 for the Centenary celebrations of the Faculty. Especially the Reunion Weekend on 4 and 5 June, where I’d love to catch up with classmates.”

VIVIAN B VALDEZ (APEC Master of Sustainable Development ’01) has been elected president of the Australian government-assisted Philippine-Australian Alumni Association Inc. [PA3i] for 2009-10. She is a senior science research specialist of the Philippine Council for Agriculture Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology, also sits as director of the Philippine Association of Research Managers (PhilARM). She was part of the 15-member multi-sectoral Board of Trustees by the National General Assembly, then elected to the presidency by her fellow trustees at the culmination of a two-day Strategic Planning Workshop attended by chapter presidents from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, in August. She was former president of the PA3i Los Baños chapter.

BRUCE WATSON (B Agr Ec ’01) Since graduating I have been managing the family farm at Parkes with my wife Karina. I was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship this year and with the assistance of sponsor, Macquarie Bank, have spent 20 weeks overseas looking at agriculture globally and also examining what drove the increase in global grain prices in 2007/2008; and low risk hedging strategies for Australian grain growers that would cope with our volatile production environment. My scholarship has taken me to the UK, Ireland, France, Singapore, Canada, the USA, China, Hong Kong, Brazil, Mexico and New Zealand and has given me a greater understanding of Australia’s place in global agriculture and the inter-connectedness of agriculture globally. It has also given me opportunities to examine different businesses in agriculture, and see if there are any skills or solutions that I can apply to problems in my own business. I will present my final report and findings to Nuffield at the Spring Tour in Sydney. Then it’s back to the farm to harvest this year’s crop. Hopefully the drought will break next year but I am also keen to look at some of the business opportunities I found in my travels, and see if any can be applied here in Australia.
15 DECEMBER 2009
Sydney Ideas Open lecture
Indigenous Knowledges: transforming higher education, transforming society
Prof Graham Hingangaroa Smith, Vice Chancellor, Awanui_rangi University, New Zealand
6.30pm, Law School foyer, Eastern Avenue, Camperdown Campus
All welcome to this FREE event, no booking or registration, just turn up.
(First of a new series to be held in 2010 in this delightful space, where audience and speaker can explore new research, new ideas and new thinking in an intimate and informal way.)
More: www.usyd.edu.au/sydney_ideas

20 DECEMBER
Emmanuel: God with us
Carillon recital by Dr Jill Forrest, with carols, hymns and original carillon compositions from all over the world 14th century to contemporary music.
2pm The Quadrangle

6-8 JANUARY
Empowering Women: the Economic Imperative
Women’s Education Worldwide Conference, at the Women’s College, with speakers and attendees from around the world in an intense series of seminars, workshops and keynote addresses.

10 JANUARY
5th Pacific Thought Symposium
Bringing Forth the Ancestors – MAU artistic director Lemi Ponifasio leads the first Pacific Thought Symposium to be held in Australia. Part of the Sydney Festival. FREE
3-6pm, Seymour Theatre Centre

24 JANUARY
Are We Happy Yet?
World Café: Sydney Festival and Sydney University
A rich, interactive discussion on the nature of human happiness, led by Dr Geoff Gallop, Caroline West and expert World Café facilitator Lyn Carson.
6pm, The Great Hall
$45 (includes light meal and wine) Over-18s only
Tickets: 1300 689 812 or Ticketmaster 1300 723 038

18 FEBRUARY
Alumni Recognition Ceremony and Concert
A celebration to recognise the Sydney Conservatorium of Music’s pre-1990 alumni as part of the University family.
Graduates from before 1990, when the SCM became part of the University, will receive Certificates of Recognition as alumni of the University of Sydney in the Great Hall, followed by a Champagne Reception and Reunion Concert at the Conservatorium.
SCM graduates who think they may qualify for an invitation to this event should contact Mick Le Moignan (02) 9351 1385 or mick.lemoignan@sydney.edu.au

9 MARCH
Sydney Ideas Lecture
Robert Olby on Francis Crick, DNA discoverer and Nobel laureate.
6.30pm, Seymour Theatre Centre
Tickets: $20/$15 concession/special
USyd Alumni offer 2 tickets of the price of one (quote Alumni card number when purchasing)
Bookings: (02) 9351 7940 or online www.usyd.edu.au/sydney_ideas

22 MARCH
Sydney Ideas and Faculty of Arts Forum
Feminism Matters
A panel of leading international and local feminists discuss current work, and why feminism matters.
6.30pm, Seymour Theatre Centre
Tickets: $20/$15 concession/special
USyd Alumni offer 2 tickets of the price of one (quote Alumni card number when purchasing)
Bookings: (02) 9351 7940 or online www.usyd.edu.au/sydney_ideas

SALE THE DATE
14 APRIL
Graduate Connections Breakfast
Dr Anne Summers (topic not yet announced) at the first breakfast of 2010.
7.15-8.45am, the Tea Rooms, QVB.
Enquiries: Claire Hannigan (02) 9756 6225.

JUNE 2010
Agriculture Centenary Alumni Weekend
100 Years Of World-Changing Agriculture 1910 - 2010
Calling all agriculture alumni across the decades to return to campus for 2010 Agriculture Centenary celebrations.

12-14 AUGUST
SUGUNA Annual Conference
Chicago USA. Further information and details: to be announced.

MENTORS WANTED
Sign up to become an online mentor. No previous experience needed, only a desire to help University of Sydney students with their career development. Visit www.usyd.edu.au/alumni, login to Alumni Online and then click on the Mentoring Community. It’s a wonderful and rewarding way to give back and expand your knowledge of what you didn’t know you know!
Masterpieces from Paris

VAN GOGH, GAUGUIN, CEZANNE & BEYOND
Post-Impressionism from the Musee D’Orsay
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA | 4 DEC 2009 – 5 APR 2010

One of the most extraordinary exhibitions ever held in Australia. See masterpieces by Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Paul Cézanne, Georges Seurat, Pierre Bonnard, Emile Bernard, Claude Monet, Maurice Denis and Edouard Vuillard; you can visit them in Canberra.

$110* per person twin share

- overnight accommodation
- full hot buffet breakfast
- ticket to the exhibition
- a bottle of wine per room

*valid 4/12/09 – 5/4/10

Forrest Masterpieces

Vincent van Gogh: Van Gogh’s bedroom at Arles 1889, Musée d’Orsay, Paris, © RMN (Musée d’Orsay)/ Hervé Lewandowski
Christopher & Anna Thorpe
Fine Aboriginal Painting & Antique Tribal Art

2 Cascade Street, Paddington 2010 Sydney NSW Ph: 02 9331 8302
www.thorpegallery.com.au