

SoBScene



Issue 1 Autumn, March 2007

Newsletter of the School of Biological Sciences, The University of Sydney

HEADSPACE



It is indeed a pleasure to begin this new and reformatted Newsletter. Going through the file, I found that there has only been one opportunity for me to contribute to the Newsletter since I have been Head. I anticipate that there will now be regular (quarterly) Newsletters. The Newsletter will go out to alumni later this year, and I welcome them as readers.

I think that we have set an ambitious agenda for 2007 through the Implementation Plan of the Strategic Plan, and positive results are already resulting from the Planning process, as I will outline later in this Newsletter.

Enjoy reading our news and plans and best wishes for a successful 2007.

Mike Thompson
Head of School

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SoBSCENE is edited by
A.Selinger, E.May & P.Teixeira

ILMA BREWER 1915-2006

The School notes the passing of Ilma Brewer, who died on New Year's Eve 2006 at 91. As Ilma Pidgeon, she was the state's 'most outstanding student' in Botany in her final year at North Sydney Girls High School in 1931. She began her botanical degree at Sydney University in 1932 and completed her master's degree in 1936. Her outstanding work led to her being awarded the Linnean Macleay Fellowship from 1937 to 1941.

With Lord Ashby, Ilma Pidgeon researched plant succession on Sydney's sandstone and coastal dunes. In 1942 her thesis, *Ecological Studies in New South Wales*, brought her a doctor of science degree.

The Ashby and Pidgeon ecological studies were invaluable to an understanding of disturbed plant associations, particularly with mined sand dunes and overgrazed areas around Broken Hill. Pidgeon's mapping work was so respected that she worked with army intelligence during World War II.

With student numbers escalating, Brewer initiated televised lectures in the new Carlaw building, equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual facilities. After touring overseas universities, she set up the first teaching laboratory based on self-paced instruction and reflexive small group learning in 1972-73. Brewer's teaching laboratory, also known as 'the Brewery', continues to be highly valued, as is the laboratory in the School of Anatomy, which she helped set up.



After retiring in 1978 she outlined her teaching in a book, *Learning More, Teaching Less: A decade of innovation in self-instruction and small group learning*. Her dedication to learning is marked by the annual Ilma Brewer Prize, awarded to a first-class honours student in Botany, and the naming of the Ilma Brewer Room at the Old Geology Building.

In 1991 Brewer returned to her early ecological work by undertaking a comparison of coastal sand dunes over 60 years. With Robert Whelan, of the University of Wollongong, she studied changes in the mined dunal vegetation at Hawks Nest. This work was published in 2003, 71 years after she started studying Botany at university.

Alex Diment, PhD Student with the Institute of Wildlife Research, has provided us with the new name of our newsletter. A prize will be forthcoming.

SoBS 2007

by Mike Thompson

Given the extensive participation from the whole School in developing the Strategic Plan, I do not need to go over any details here. Instead, I will outline four specific issues that we face in 2007 and beyond.



The first is the proposed Research Quality Framework (RQF). The RQF is designed to measure the quality and impact of research in Australia's public research institutions, especially universities. An RQF has been on the Government's agenda for a couple of years, and the broad outline of the process is now set.

The University of Sydney is well placed to do well in the RQF: we do good research, and are very productive. Within the University, the School is an excellent performer, and we are continually doing better. Our rate of publication output for the DEST audit has been steadily rising (Table 1), and is set to rise further in 2007 as newer members of staff begin to publish with our address on the papers.

published by each researcher over the last 6 years. Hence, the RQF values quality, whereas DEST and the ARC highly value quantity. The 'clear' message is that all academic staff should aim to publish as many high-quality

Space remains our most critical issue

papers as possible. The bottom line, however, is that we continue to produce quality research.



Money issues are always important. Our total income continues to rise, although the end result for 2007 will not be clear for some time. While our income from research activities is easy to predict because it is calculated from past data that we know, the EFTSL (previously EFTSU) income depends on the number of students in our units of study and we won't know that until part way into second semester. It looks like we will have a net decline in the EFTSL income this year, but that is somewhat countered by an increase in research income. Our grant income has risen steeply during the last few years, although the



Space remains our most critical issue and one on which I am spending considerable time. We have made great headway improving physical infrastructure, but success has bred success and now we are bulging at the seams with people. As an example, the number of postdocs in the School has more than doubled in the last three years. We are trying our best to provide suitable accommodation for everyone, but some indulgence will be necessary for a while yet. To ease the pressure a little, we have secured some good commercial office space in Ross Street, but people will only be accommodated there for a minimum period of time.



We have embarked on a program to engage our alumni. The Newsletter is part of that program. A number of alumni have indicated to me over the last few years their disappointment with the relatively few opportunities to interact with the School. We have appointed Professor A. Austin from the University of Adelaide to present the inaugural Allen Keast lecture and run the weekend workshop for

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Book | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Chapter | 6 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 5 | 7 |
| Conference | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| Journal | 113 | 119 | 134 | 121 | 133 | 158 | 167 |
| Total | 124 | 128 | 146 | 139 | 158 | 168 | 180 |

Table 1. A summary of the School's papers that were accepted in the DEST return over the past seven years.

Each DEST point brings \$1,880 into the Faculty, but there is a complicated formula to determine how many points each publication is worth. A book is worth five points, and a journal paper one point, but the points for a publication are divided by the number of authors.

Interestingly, the RQF will rely heavily on the best four papers

School will not reap the benefits immediately through the funding formula because part of the money allocated to Schools is based on the average of the grant income over the years two and three years prior to the year of funding. Even though our grant income is increasing, we still have the capacity to grow it substantially.

postgraduate students at Warrah in April. One factor in selecting Prof. Austin is that he is an alumnus of the School, and he conducted some of his honours project at Warrah.

We plan to fill the Murray Fellowship later this year, which will include a public lecture to which alumni will be invited. Both the Keast lecture and

Murray Fellowship result from bequests to the School. Other activities are currently being considered and information will be disseminated as plans firm.

Finally, I thank everyone in the School for continuing to do the excellent work that has resulted in our current success. I look forward to being able to report

further upward direction in another twelve months.

NEW INITIATIVES

Dissemination of University news from high-above

You will have seen building operations for Campus 2010, which we are assured are pretty much on budget and on time, despite the presence of a big hole next to the Carslaw Building. The University has engaged consultants to develop Campus 2020, which is the development that includes the Biomedical Precinct developments that you would have heard about, and could potentially involve us. We have joined forces with the School of Molecular and Microbial Biosciences to ensure that we are an integral part of the development.

Major restructuring of various parts of the University is continuing. Of particular relevance to the School are the Share Services Models for Finance Staff and for IT staff. At least for the time being, current members of our staff in these areas will continue as they are now, except that they will be paid from elsewhere and have dual reporting lines, one through the Head of School and one through their Service area. Currently, the full implications for this arrangement are not clear to Schools in the Faculty.

– Mike Thompson

Charles Gilbert Heydon Travelling Fellowship in Biological Sciences

Now being advertised on the Research Office website as part of the 2007/8 round of University of Sydney Travelling scholarships.

Potential candidates for this award can find information and application forms here:

www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/travelling.shtml

Careers Centre

The Careers Centre at the University of Sydney is a service for the use of students and staff. They have qualified careers advisors on site to help with any career-related queries, as well as skill development workshops. They also offer advice and information on career options and career development.

www.careers.usyd.edu.au/

GRANTS AWARDS PRIZES GRANTS AWARDS PRIZES GRANTS AWARDS PRIZES GRANTS

2007 Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia University Student Grants

10 grants of \$1,000 each are available for honours or postgraduate students conducting research that will contribute to the conservation of Australian wildlife; applicants must be members of the Society.

Closing Date: 31 May 2007

For further information:

www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/index.shtml

The Australian Society for Micro- biology

The Becton Dickinson Student Award to be awarded in 2007 will consist of registration to the 2007 ASM Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide, airfares and accommodation. **The Joe Levey Graduate Award** for 2007 consists of registration fees to attend the ASM Annual Scientific Meeting, accommodation and airfares.

Entries due 31 March 2007

For further information contact Head of School or Kerry Varettas:

Kerry.Varettas@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au or ph 93503325

2007 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes NOW OPEN

In 2007, there are 20 prizes worth over **\$200,000** in the areas of:

- Research & Innovation
- Leadership
- School Science
- Science Communication & Journalism

Including a **new prize** for

- Innovative Solutions to Climate Change
Sponsored by Insurance Australia Group

www.amonline.net.au/eureka/

SPOTLIGHT

Dr Andrew Parker

Optical ideas from nature

We can tell a lot about the lifestyle of an animal by looking at its eye. **Dr Andrew Parker** comes from the Zoology Department at the University of Oxford and is returning to Australia where he will investigate the diversity and assembly of optics in nature. Good models from nature are providing useful design principles for developing materials as diverse as water-collecting surfaces, optical fibres and non-reflective surfaces.

Andrew's research involves a mixture of fundamental biology to improve our understanding of how structures such as the eye might have evolved, with more applied research in identifying and harnessing design principles from some of nature's brightest ideas - a process known as biomimetics.

Fossil evidence clearly shows that evolution went into overdrive approximately 540 million years ago, during the Cambrian era. Andrew's work in searching for the earliest fossil animal eye, and understanding how its evolution could affect animal behaviour, suggests that the development of the first eye could have been significant enough to cause this evolutionary explosion.

Light is a constant stimulus. Even if an animal itself does not have eyes, other animals will be able to see it, and it therefore provides a steady and significant driving force in how animals evolve. Information about the position, size and angle of an eye in a fossil ani-

mal can reveal a lot about how it would have led its life.

Andrew has expanded his research to study reflective surfaces from fossil beetles and fish, and is currently looking at the reflective properties of the fossil feathers of the Moa, a long-extinct bird from New Zealand. He is also analysing an unusual reflector found in



The key to biomimetics is in understanding what manufacturing processes must be gone through to reach that final structure.

the Indonesian coelacanth - a prehistoric fish still alive today. Combining this work with research into comparable surfaces in animals alive today, Andrew has been able to build on nature's designs using man-made materials.

The key to biomimetics is in understanding not only how things are structured, but also what intermediate manufacturing processes must be gone through to reach that final structure. It is only when we have a better idea of what chemicals are involved, what environmental conditions are required, and how molecules move around the cell and self-assemble that we can start to mimic the processes ourselves.

Andrew's work on eye structure has led to the identification of a number of natural materials with unusual optical properties. But biomimetics is more than just copying nature. Natural structures are adapted to highly

-specific conditions and may be unnecessarily intricate for the materials. In addition, we often have better man-made materials at our disposal. The important issue is to identify the design principle used by nature, and then use it to inform man-made design. For example, the antireflector found in the eye of a 45 million year old dolichopodid fly preserved in amber has provided the model for a new surface for solar panels. The anti-reflector allows more light to pass through the surface, which was useful for the fly in low light conditions. Andrew and his colleagues have adopted the principle to produce a new coating for solar panels that reflects less light and traps up to 10% more energy.

The *Stenocara* beetle has adapted to the harsh desert conditions in Namibia by developing a cuticle made from a mixture of water-attracting and water-repelling points. The micro-structure of these points, combined with waxy and bare regions across the cuticle, enable the beetle to harvest drops of water from wind-blown fogs. This principle of combining two types of surfaces to extract moisture from the atmosphere has been adapted to provide water-collecting devices on roofs of buildings in arid areas. It might also be used to remove thick fogs at airports.

Andrew's work on the evolution of the eye is published in his popular science book *In the Blink of an Eye* (Simon & Schuster, 2003).

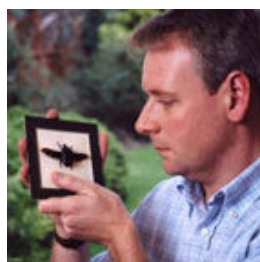


WHO'S NEW

Prof Andrew Parker is returning to Australia on an ARC Federation from Jan 2007. Coming from the Zoology Department at the University of Oxford, Andrew will be investigating the diversity and assembly of optics in nature.

Andrew can be found in Room 114 of the Macleay Building (A12)

Tel +61 2 9351 3898
andrew.parker@bio.usyd.edu.au



Prof Andrew Parker

Mr Adam Selinger takes up the post vacated by Dr Graham Cam.



A graduate of Ecology and Science Communication from the ANU Adam has worked for a number of organisations around the world.

Adam will be promoting the work of the School and provide opportunities for HSC classes to participate in on-campus pracs and tours. He will also coordinate the School's involvement in Faculty-wide events such as *The Siemens Science Experience*, *Gifted & Talented* program, *Degree-in-a-Day* and *Science in the City*. Adam is located in Rm 518 in the Carslaw Building
Tel: 9351 4543
adam.selinger@bio.usyd.edu.au

We also welcome our new post-graduate teaching fellow, **Mattias Hagman**, who joins **Hedy Starita**, **Georgie Lloyd** and **Yvonne Davila** (who is replacing Georgie while she is in the field) in this important teaching role in First Year Biology.

HATCHES, MATCHES & DISPATCHES

Compiled by Jo Walker

HATCHES



Adam Luke **Briskoski**
b.9/12/06



Marisol **Murray** Lenzen
b.29/12/06

And also:

Marley Douglas **Seebacher**
b.17/11/06



Mike **Thompson's** GATORS
Alligator mississippiensis
b.2/3/07

MATCHES



Bethany **Hammond** and Mick Roberts married January 27th 2007 in McLaren Vale, South Australia. Beth is a former PhD Student with Adele Pile and Mike Thompson, and is completing her PhD in Adelaide.

DISPATCHES

Ilma Brewer, 1915-2006
(see top story)

SoBS also says farewell and good luck to the following staff that have left.

Dr Stephanie Seddon now a project manager with the Australian Water Association.

Dr Graham Cam in his new role with Australian Wool Innovation Limited.

Dr Melissa Brown has accepted a lectureship at Flinders University starting June 2007.

PRIZES, GRANTS & REWARDS

Congratulations to all our prize, grant and reward winners:

Professor Rick Shine

Awarded the **2006 Eureka Prize for Biodiversity Research**, Professor Chris Dickman was runner up.

Professor Rick Shine

Awarded the **2006 Macfarlane Burnet Medal** for excellence in biological research. The Australian Academy of Science awards this medal once every two years. The award is open to all fields of biology, and the recipient presents a lecture at the Academy as well as receiving the medal.

A/Professor Ben Oldroyd

Awarded the degree of **Doctor of Science** with a thesis entitled *Evolutionary Genetics of Worker Sterility in Honey Bees*.

A/Professor Robyn Overall

was appointed to the position of **Chair, University Research Committee** and was also awarded the **2006 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research Supervision**.

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Moira Williams, student of Dr Wardle, was awarded the prestigious **Thenie Baddams Bursary** (\$4000) from the Australian Federation of University Women. Moira has been honoured for academic excellence and her contributions to post-graduate life and mentoring.

Ms Deborah Barton, student of A/Professor Overall, was presented with 2 awards at the Australian Conference on Microscopy and Microanalysis:

- **David Goodchild Award for Excellence in Electron Microscopy**. This award is valued at \$2000.
- **John Farrant Prize for a high significant student presentation at ACMM19**. (valued at \$1000) for her presentation *New Insights into Interphase Microtubule Arrays: FESEM Provides a MAP*.

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES ANNUAL PRIZE AWARDS 2006

Danny Liu

ILMA BREWER PRIZE FOR BIOLOGY HONOURS

Sarah Colenbrander

ELEANOR CHASE MEMORIAL PRIZE IN ZOOLOGY

Andrew Ritchie

GEORGE HERBERT CLARKE PRIZE IN MORPHOLOGY

Anna Goldys

COLLIE PRIZE FOR JUNIOR BIOLOGY

Gareth Andrews

WILLIAM JOHN DAKIN MEMORIAL PRIZE IN ZOOLOGY (Hons)

Maggie Pui Chi Ma

JOHN H ELLIOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR BEST THESIS IN ANIMAL BIOLOGY (hons)

Cindy Pon

PROFESSOR SPENCER SMITH-WHITE PRIZE IN BIOLOGY HONOURS

David Nelson

HASWELL PRIZE FOR BIOLOGY

Kerry Gibbons

EVA SAUNDERS MEMORIAL PRIZE IN BOTANY

Alison Lo

SLADE PRIZE IN JUNIOR BIOLOGY PRACTICAL

Michael Liu

GABRIELLA WITTMAN PRIZE FOR GENETICS

Christopher Swan

Concepts in Biology

Yu Lau

Ecosystems to Genes

Lydia Poad

Living Systems

Cameron Cuthbert

Human Biology

MCGRAW-HILL PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN JUNIOR BIOLOGY

Bridget Murphy

G S CAIRD SCHOLARSHIP IN ZOOLOGY

Kerry Gibbons

G S CAIRD SCHOLARSHIP FOR BOTANY

Michael Liu

BIOLOGY HONOURS SCHOLARSHIP

Jane Edwards &

Katherine Forsythe

MARY BESLY MEMORIAL PRIZE - BEST ASSIGNMENT IN AREA OF INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

SoBS congratulates all our grant, prize and award winners.

Science Graduations

The next graduation for students who take our units of study is scheduled for 2:00 pm on 8th June.

SoBS PRESS

The Shine brothers, John and Rick (**Prof Rick Shine**), were featured on [Catalyst \(ABC TV\)](#) Thursday 1st March at 8pm.

Slither sleuths follow serpents back home on the research of **Rick Shine** was published in *The Australian* 22/2/07.

Prof Chris Dickman's report for the WWF was the first attempt to calculate the damage land clearing has done to wildlife numbers in NSW: the story was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* 28/2/07.

New environmental research website launched by the Institute of Physics in the UK.
www.environmentalresearchweb.org

Science in the media: A snapshot of science coverage
www.aussmc.org/A_recent_snapshot.php

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

March 6
Prof Rick Shine, FAA
ARC Federation Fellow
School of Biological Sciences

Mr Toad comes to Darwin: An evolutionary perspective on the cane toad invasion
Shine Dome, Gordon Street, Canberra.
www.science.org.au/events/publiclectures/lectures

The 2007 Postgrad Seminar Series will start on Monday 26 March and continue most Mondays thereafter from 1-2 pm in DT Anderson Lecture Theatre in A08 www.bio.usyd.edu.au – click on **Seminars**.

Biological Sciences Seminars

First Semester 2007
Fridays 1-2pm, DT Anderson
Lecture Theatre, A08

March 9
Prof Jim Whelan
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, University of Western Australia

Mitochondrial biogenesis and function in plants: from seed germination to stress responses

March 16
Prof Laurel R. Fox
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of California Santa Cruz

Cryptic interactions shape maritime chaparral communities

March 23
Prof Michael J. Angilletta Jr.
Dept. of Ecology & Organismal Biology, Indiana State University

Big eggs, hot nests, and fast embryos: multiple strategies speed growth and development of lizards in cold environments

Faculty of Science Dean's Seminar

March 30
1.00pm-2.00pm
Eastern Avenue Lecture Theatre

Al Prof Dietmar Müller
School of Geosciences

The effect of global sea level variations, mantle convection, and plate motions on Australian palaeo-environments over the last 70 million years

2007 Cooperative Research Centres Association (CRCA) Conference 16 -18 May in

Perth, WA
www.crca.asn.au/conference

Agricultural Science Discipline Group Seminar

March 15
Dr Charles Warren
Senior Research QEII Fellow
School of Biological Sciences

Do we need to re-think the theory of mineral nutrition: a case study with nitrogen

Chair: Prof David Guest

DT Anderson LT, Heydon Lawrence Building

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 pm

BASNA 2007 SEMINAR & AGM

Come and join us in **A Celebration of Birds** - learn about their history and future, listen to bird songs and even probe into their inner lives!

Saturday 24th March, 2007

11am – 5pm

Newington Armoury, Sydney Olympic Park.

For Registration form and full program details, contact Pixie at BASNA
Phone (02) 9436 0388 or email rosella63@bigpond.com

Sydney Science Forum

March 14

5:30-7:15 pm

Eastern Avenue Auditorium

Obesity: A Weighty Problem

Steve is one of the three speakers and discussants, along with Jennie Brand-Miller and Ian Caterson from MMB.

SoBITES

We are looking for potential workshop presenters on the topic of **International Polar Year** at an upcoming conference in July for primary school teachers.

Michael Van Tiel

michaelv@phm.gov.au

Education & Program Development

Powerhouse Museum

Phone: (02) 9217 0314

Fax: (02) 9217 0441

Are you interested in gaining field experience in small mammal trapping?

We are looking for keen and motivated volunteers to assist in the field during trapping sessions. No experience is necessary.

12th - 16th March 2007 (Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park)

Contact: Ben Hope

NPWS Sydney North Region

Phone (02) 9472 8961

ben.hope@environment.nsw.gov.au

Communicating the research of the School: call for "3D" research display for FYB corridor

I am seeking displays from each research area being undertaken in the School for the FYB corridor in the Carlaw Building

Your display may include posters, photographs, objects, t-shirts and other paraphernalia.

There will be a *PRIZE* for the best displays (1st, 2nd, 3rd) as judged by FYB students.

- Adam

Selinger

adam.selinger@bio.usyd.edu.au

An opportunity to recognise valued alumni and volunteers in a public way. Please nominate someone for the **2007 Alumni Awards for Achievement in Community Service** and the **2007 Convocation Medal**.

Contact Kathie Raphael (SoBS Alumni Cmte Chair) for details on T: 9351 3143 or kathier@bio.usyd.edu.au

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

"WE DON'T HAVE A FOOD CRISIS. AND IF WE DID WE WOULD JUST BUILD MORE SUPERMARKETS"

Overheard mutterings of a government official. Supplied by Mike Thompson

COMPETITION SPACE

As opposed to competition for space: we hope to include a competition in each newsletter, with the prize a surprise.

This quarter we are looking for the best biological cryptic crossword clue. The winner (and, given sufficient entries, a crossword) will be published in the next newsletter. Send your clues (with the answers!!) to lizmay@bio.usyd.edu.au by the submission deadline (below).

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first 2007 quarterly newsletter of the School of Biological Sciences (SoBS) at The University of Sydney. We hope that you enjoy **SoBScene**.

It is our intention to keep you informed and entertained with the news, views and goings-on within the School and our contributions in the wider community. We invite members of the School and our Alumni to read our news and to share stories of life on campus and beyond.

We welcome your feedback and your contributions (see below for next deadline). Tell us what is going on with your research, teaching or post-university life. Please provide your full name, institution or research group and your contact details - great images are most welcome too!

Thank you to those who have contributed to the newsletter this issue and to those of you who have lent your support. We look forward to highlighting more of our people, our research and our teaching in forthcoming issues.

SoBScene Issue 2 submission deadline:

5pm Friday 1st June

All Items may be sent to

Adam.Selinger@bio.usyd.edu.au

SoBSOCIAL

SoBS v MMB Match Report

By Louie Briskoski

The cricket match started at 10.30am. It took a few minutes to get going. There was a bit of a stand off between the MMB & SoBS people. We were outnumbered, 4 SoBS v 16 MMB. The idea was for the two teams to have an equal mix from the two Schools. We therefore took a few of their player & started the match. We invented some framed around not breaking windows & lights. Our team, was Alex Jordan, Bobby Tamayo, "Pampa" (Pampathy Gurulingappa) & I, plus the 4 MMB members.

After winning the toss MMB decided to bat. I opened the bowling attack for our team & got carved up for 6 runs. Bobby Tamayo followed next, he also got hit for 6 runs in his over.. After 2 overs MMB were on 12 runs. We were looking down the barrel of a decent score by MMB. However the pressure was too much for them & they collapsed to end their innings on 18. The rule was the each time a wicket fell, it was minus 2 runs. MMB were on the receiving end of many-a minus 2. To avoid an embarrassing situation we capped the minus 2's for a wicket at zero.



Louie Briskoski & Andrew Oulianoff

It was SoBS turn to bat & it was quite evident that we were going to win this one very comfortably. We lost our first wicket (Alex Jordan,

bowled) on 94 & finished our score on 100. I think the 4 MMB members that crossed the floor to SoBS were glad they did so.

There were a number of late comers so we decided that they could bat in pairs for 2 over's. That meant that everybody got a bat & bowl. Those that showed some style during this part of play included; Michael Joseph, Jo Walker, Andrew Oulianoff, Ralph Maddox, Raj Radder and Virginia Klomp. There probably were others as well, so sorry if I missed you.



A well-earned rest morning

Many wide deliveries were delivered & heaps of ordinary shots were played. Our best player & player of the match was Alex Jordan. The best player for MMB was their HoS, Arthur Conigrave. Arthur showed plenty of style with the bat. The game was over & the decision was then made to play soccer.

This time the teams had more of an even mix of BoBS/MMB players on each team. We had Ralph Maddox with the bionic hand in goals. Ralph was supposed to be our secret weapon in goals but we were quick behind when a fluke of a shot by Andrew Oulianoff saw his team ahead by one goal.

We finally replied with our first goal to level the match at 1:1. The goal was scored by our captain Alex Jordan. Andrew Oulianoff looked dangerous to the opposition but it wasn't because of his soccer skills. He just looked dangerous. The game was turning into something that resembles a pinball-

machine match rather than a soccer match.

Sam Ruggeri, Italian Soccer Superstar & Mafia Boss was sitting on the bench & come on as a substitute. He was keen on taking



It was all eaten!

over from me at goalkeeper but I thought I could do the job. I did a great job with all the powerful shots at our goal but then got deceived by a fluke miss-kick at goal by that man again, Andrew Oulianoff. 2:1 to them.

At this point Sam took over goal keeping. He did a great job on one leg. It was at this point that Andrew Oulianoff reminded me that he had played weekend soccer during his youth. The score was 2:1 & we were into extra time. With only seconds to go our leader Alex Jordan struck once again. The match finished at 2:2. There were a number of goods performers during the soccer match from both SoBS & MMB but once again the player of the

match goes to our captain Alex Jordan.

Alex may be a "lowly" honours student but he lead by example & was thoroughly deserving of being captain for the day & player of the day. Well done Alex.

The BBQ was also a success. We fed approx 100 people.

The Heads of both Schools of are keen on having another joint social day. We hope to have another Cricket/BBQ day around mid-year.

I would like to thank those that participated in the cricket & soccer match & those that came to the BBQ.

ALUMNI UPDATE

By Kathie Raphael

The School of Biological Sciences now has an Alumni Committee to encourage Alumni engagement with the School. This is the first Newsletter that has been sent to Alumni of the School and we are planning a section of news from past graduates. If you have news that you would like included please let us know.

Forthcoming events:

The Inaugural Alan Keasts Lecture and Postgraduate weekend. April 20-22.

Alan Keast, BSc 1951, MSc 1953, and currently Emeritus Prof. Queens University, Canada, donated \$10 000 to the School in 2004 towards the establishment of a visiting lecturer in Conservation Biology. The inaugural Alan Keasts lecturer will be **Professor Andrew Austin** at the Centre for Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences,



Prof Austin

University of Adelaide. He will give a School seminar and spend the weekend at the Warrah field station, Pearl Beach, mentoring and interacting with the postgrad students.

The Inaugural Murray Visiting Lectureship

The Murray Visiting Lectureship was funded by a bequest from Dr Patrick Murray (BSc 1922, DSc 1926) also Professor in the School. The lectureship involves a 2 week visit to the School by a noted biologist

from anywhere in the world, who will give a public lecture and undertake collaborative research with academic staff within the School. The first lecture will be held later this year.

Spring Back to Sydney Reunion 27 October 2007

Keep your eyes open for special School of Biological Sciences events planned for this University wide 'sevens' Alumni (graduates from a year ending in seven) Day.

SoBS SHOTS

by the Mechanical Eye

Post-Grad BBQ



"I may not have a place to live, but by golly, I know where to get a good feed!"

Moira Williams earlier quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald as suffering from Sydney's rent crisis.

SoBS MMB BBQ



"It's lunchtime, we're biology students, we drink beer... CHEERS!"

Where there's BBQ and beer, there's postgrads.



"I'm just ensuring that all the funds have been correctly accounted for and the appropriate codes applied. No, really..."

Louie Briskoski keeps a watchful eye on **Kathy Jakes** at the post sports-day BBQ.



"What are you talking about, relaxing? We're not relaxing; who else is gonna keep an eye on things around here?"

Basil and Naz keep an eye on things.

Head's Morning Tea



"...the good news is that not only do we solve our space crisis, we can also snack anytime we like..."

Mike Thompson, Head of School, welcomes staff to their new office space in the Macleay Building (A12).

SoBSScene publication dates:

Autumn - **March 2007**

Winter - **June 2007**

Spring - **August 2007**

Summer - **December 2007**