

# CAMPUS NEWS

## Talk to Jodie, not to Jay

### March 27 is National Guide Dog Day

When Jodie Hoger began working as the University's Disabilities Adviser in 1993 it was a casual position, which she held while studying for her Bachelor of Arts degree.

'It took me nine years to get my BA,' she said.

One reason was when she began studying in 1987, Jodie was still coming to terms with the fact that she was going blind.

She was diagnosed when she was 17 with a hereditary disease that would lead to a steady loss of sight.

Now, at 28, she has 5 per cent of her sight left, but she has not let her vision impairment hamper her studies or her career.

Jodie's job is now permanent and full-time, but she is still studying.

She is working towards her Masters in Special Education, which she is doing by correspondence through Charles Sturt University.

Nor has she allowed her disability to hamper her personal plans. Jodie is married with two daughters, aged four and six.

They are another reason it took her nine years to get her BA!

'Your life is what you want it to be,' she said. 'I won't let my vision impairment get in the way of anything I might want to achieve.'

Jodie could still read when she began her BA, but it was slow and difficult. However, she resisted turning to Braille.

The University at that time was trying to build up its resources for people with disabilities.

A great boon for Jodie and others with vision impairment has been the



*Jodie and Jay*

computerised scanner, which scans type and puts it into a computer which then 'speaks' it back to the student.

As Student Disabilities Adviser, Jodie offers information and support to ease the path through university for those with disabilities.

In 1993 she looked after 18 students; now there are 80, with disabilities ranging from vision impairment to hearing impairment, paraplegia and psychiatric difficulties.

Jodie believes Wollongong is one of the leading universities in its services to disabled students.

As well as helping students directly, Jodie aims at increasing general awareness in the community.

She advises staff on the best methods for teaching students with disabilities and she gives motivational talks to schools.

Wherever she goes, her guide dog,

*Continued page two*

## Competition encourages understanding of the Australian Constitution

The Faculty of Law recently played a major role in the coordination of an essay or art project competition for secondary schools with the theme of 'The Australian Constitution and the Environment – Past, Present and Future Directions.'

Senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Jane Innes, is a member of the NSW Chapter of the Constitutional Centenary Foundation and through this involvement became the principal organiser of the competition - ably assisted by students, particularly Bill Ilkovski, a Law student at Wollongong and Justine O'Neill, a Law student at the University of Sydney.

Nine of the 10 school regions in NSW participated across the three categories of essay, artwork and group project.

Entries included a multi-media presentation compiled on 14 discs, a nine-metre group artwork from rural NSW, a class project of essays and a wide selection of individual artworks and projects.

A total of \$6750 was distributed to the libraries of the winning schools by way of prizemoney for group project entries and \$5400 was distributed to more than 57 individual prize winners.

Feedback from school staff and teachers was extremely encouraging and suggests that the awards have greatly assisted to encourage and motivate student learning about the Australian Constitution and the environment.

The organisers of the competition said the experience greatly contributed to a productive exchange of information with the schools and valuable work experience for the students involved.

On the South Coast, Warrawong Intensive Language Centre won the Library prize of \$760.

### 'The Ironmaster' nearly sold out

The latest book published by the University of Wollongong Press in December last year has nearly sold out.

'The Ironmaster', written by Donald G Hoskins, is a biography of his grandfather, Charles Hoskins.

The book traces the growth of the Hoskins family business to a pre-eminent position in the Australian economy as Hoskins Iron and Steel.

It has proved to be one of the most successful books published by Wollongong University Press.

If you want a copy you may be able to get one at the University Union Bookshop. The University Press is considering a reprint.

## Talk to Jodie, not to Jay

*From front page*

Jay, will generally be at her side. Jodie has had Jay for two years.

Although they are devoted to each other, Jodie often has to reprimand her. 'She's too friendly!'

People always want to pat Jay, and that's dangerous, because Jay has a job to do and should not be distracted.

When Jodie first got her, she had to put a message out on email, saying 'Please don't pat my dog!'

Jodie worries that if Jay starts looking for attention it will undermine her training. It takes two years and \$18,000 to train a guide dog.

National Guide Dog Day is 27 March and the aim is to increase awareness of the work done by the state Guide Dog Associations, which receive no gov-

ernment funding. Training dogs is only a small part of their work.

Some people prefer to have a cane or an electronic sensor or rely on learning how to find their way around their usual environments.

Instructors from the NSW Guide Dog Association travel hundreds of thousands of kilometres each year to teach mobility skills to people in the environment in which they live.

Jodie and her family are about to move to a new home in Dapto and Jodie will have a lesson with an instructor to learn how to find her way around the shopping centre.

And her other plans? After her Masters she plans to try for a PhD.

'It's the power of being positive,' she said.

## ASCILITE comes to Wollongong

Educational Media Services will host the ASCILITE Secretariat for 12 months initially.

The Secretariat, previously located at Queensland University of Technology, will be run by Carole Evans, who will work with the current treasurer of ASCILITE, Helen Carter, a multimedia designer with interactive multimedia production.

ASCILITE is the Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education.

The society is for those involved in tertiary computer-based education and training, and multimedia developers interested in this form of learning.

ASCILITE's annual conference will be in Adelaide at the University of South Australia, 2-4 December, with a pre-conference workshop on 1 December.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Making New Connections', very fitting, when considering the society's three-fold mission is:

- to provide an environment for information exchange;
- to promote a quality approach to the use of computers in education and training;
- to provide a national forum for discussion of issues and policy.

If you are interested in any aspect of using computers in tertiary education or training or are engaged in staff development using computer-based training, this is the society for you.

Membership benefits are:

- contact with people of common interests in computer-based tertiary education and training;
- discounts on all ASCILITE events, including conferences, workshops and local activities;
- free subscription to ASCILITE newsletters and updates;
- discount subscription to the Journal of Computer-Assisted Learning;
- access to future international ASCILITE visiting fellow seminars;
- support in using the Internet;
- reduced subscription to overseas societies and journals.

If you would like more information regarding ASCILITE, email Ms Evans at [ASCILITE@uow.edu.au](mailto:ASCILITE@uow.edu.au) or <http://www.netspot.unisa.edu.au/ascilite/>

## Staff-student exchange to Prince of Songkhla University

The University received funding in 1995 from the University Mobility in the Asia Pacific (UMAP) scheme to send three students and two staff members to Prince of Songkhla University, Thailand.

This is part of an exchange based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities.

The University of Wollongong sees this relationship as a major component in its strategy for selectively establishing relationships in the region.

Wollongong is building similar relationships with universities in Indonesia and Vietnam.

Three students were selected to take part in Prince of Songkhla's Thai Studies course at their Pattani campus.

The students were briefed on the nature of the course and the conditions in Pattani, a process assisted by Dr Andrew Cornish of the Department of Sociology who had carried out extensive field work in the area.

The course is run as an intensive study of Thai language (oral and written) and culture (history, politics, society, the arts and economy) from December 1995 to February 1996. Extensive use is also made of field-trips.

It was extremely successful.

The students all received a firm grounding in the study of Thai language, including the difficult Thai script, which is taught using innovative techniques.

The students now have an excellent knowledge of Thai society and culture, the result of classroom teaching,

learning "in-country" and field trips.

The enthusiasm and competence of the Thai lecturers was also important to the course's success.

Meetings and exchanges of ideas with staff members at Hat Yai and Pattani campuses were very fruitful.

Discussions with Vice President for International Relations, Professor Boonsom Siribumrungsukha, concerning cooperation with the University of Wollongong Asia-Pacific Research Centre (coordinated by Dr Vickers) indicated a strong possibility for joint research on the proposed Thailand-Malaysia-Indonesia growth triangle in the areas of tourism and labour migration.

Dr Vickers discussed joint research possibilities with history staff at both Hat Yai and Pattani campuses.

Possible links with the Pattani campus's South-east Asia Maritime States Studies Centre were discussed with Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Pattani campus, Dr Narumon Karnchanathat. Dr Vickers also gave a research seminar at Pattani campus, which was well attended (including by outside local historians and staff from the Songkhla campus of Srinakharinwirot University).

All those from Wollongong who participated in the exchange were deeply impressed by the hospitality shown at both PSU campuses.

During 1996 two undergraduate students from Management and Humanities at PSU will visit this university, and PSU is now selecting staff to visit Wollongong.

## Environmental change in Australia since 1788



Dr Ann Young

Dr Ann Young in the School of Geological Sciences has had a book published by Oxford University Press which reviews the widespread and sometimes dramatic changes in the Australian environment since European settlement.

The book, titled 'Environmental Change in Australia Since 1788', adds greatly to the understanding of the issues.

Covering the whole of Australia including the Antarctic Territory, this book offers a balanced account of

many controversial issues and provides students and the general informed reader with a sound technical understanding of the processes involved.

The book begins by looking at the history of changing attitudes to the natural environment in Australia, then discusses the problems associated with quantitative assessment of environmental change.

Five chapters deal with the major land uses: agriculture, forestry, mining, marine and coastal industries and urban development.

Each of these chapters sets current environmental issues within both a historical and Australia-wide context, and reviews the processes causing environmental change.

Also included in each chapter are special case studies to illustrate broader principals, ranging from dry land salinity in Western Australia to forestry conflicts in Tasmania and NSW.

The final chapter looks at ecological sustainability, using the Greenhouse Effect as a case study of the relationship between scientific and political agendas.

### SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT STAFF SEMINARS 1996

**RESEARCH, POLICY AND PRACTICE**  
(Room 19.2085 . Thursday 1-2.30 pm)

#### Speakers:

21/3: Michael Morrissey, Multiculturalism: the Politics of Ectoplasm.

4/4: Lenore Lyons-Lee, Negotiating Difference: Practising an Ethics of Respect.

2/5: Mike Donaldson, Researching Ruling Class Men.

9/5: Michael Bittman (University of NSW), The yearning for intimacy and the normative family.

23/5: Robyn Iredale, Migration and APEC: issues for concern

## General

Meeting dates for the Human Research Ethics Committee and the Animal Ethics Committee for this year are: Human Research Ethics Committee: 19 March, 23 April, 21 May, 23 July, 20 August, 22 October, 19 November, 17 December. Animal Ethics Committee: 22 May, 21 August, 20 November. Agenda items are due two weeks before meetings. Enquiries Karen McRae, Office of Research, by email or on ext. 4457 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

**19 March:** Women's Issues Group meeting, the Function Centre, Union Building. Speakers: Robin Iredale (Centre for Multicultural Studies – 'The Processes and Outcomes of the Beijing Women's Conference') and Lenore Lyons-Lee (Department of Sociology – 'Media Coverages at the Beijing Women's Conferences – What really happened'). Cost: members \$2.50. Non-members: \$3.50. Enquiries: Moira, phone 843 741.

**22 March - 5 April:** Heritage Week, 'Magnificent Voyages', an exhibition of rare books and images to

## What's On

commemorate the visits to the Illawarra by members of the US Exploring Expedition 1839-1840 and the Austrian Novara Scientific Expedition 1858. The University of Wollongong Library

## Creative Arts

**Creative Arts productions '96**  
Each year students and staff in the Faculty of Creative Arts produce a diverse range of performances. They are presented in numerous venues across the campus depending on the nature of the performance.

Following is the provisional timetable for this year. Watch *Campus News* for confirmation and more details.

**'Lion in Winter'** – 27-30 March, director Ian McGrath, Hope Theatre Apron.

**'Music-Theatre,** Lillian Helman's 'Children's Hour' – 15- 18 May, director Houston Dunleavy. Performance Space, north-western end of Campus.

**'Graduation Production'** – 11-14 September, Hope Theatre and 18-21

September, Newtown HSPA, director Janys Hayes, producer Jeff Kevin and assistant producer Jacqui Clarke.

**'Stretching Exercise'** – 5-8 June, directed by Janys Hayes and/or Jeff Kevin, Black Box Production, Hope Theatre.

**'Classic Production'** (Shakespeare, Marlowe, Jonson etc) – 23-26 October, directed by John Senczuk and Jeff Kevin, Performance Space, Black Box Production.

**'Australian One-Act Plays or excerpts'** – 4- 8 November, Kate Newey, Sharon Bell, Peter Shepherd possibly to direct. Performance Space.

**Art of Lunch** concerts every Thursday during session, from 12.35pm-1.25pm.

**Tomorrow:** Union Hall Foyer Creative Writing students give readings from their recent works.

**March 21:** Hope Theatre Clogstock once again

Venues are the Hope Theatre, Union Hall Foyer and Faculty of Creative Arts Music Auditorium. Brochures and information are available from Marilyn Meier, ext. 3990, and Jenny Fullerton, ext. 3996.

## WANTED

**People aged 30-65 who would like to take part in a study of the way some of the fats we eat may protect us against developing diabetes and heart disease**

Research in the Medical Research Unit focuses on the changes that may be associated with overweight or obesity, and to possible consequences such as diabetes and heart disease.

This year the unit will study the effect in the body of various fats that are a part of the normal diet.

They are looking for a range of people aged 30-65 who may be of normal weight or moderately overweight, who are healthy, and who would like to take part in an international study on the effect of dietary changes on metabolism.

People taking part would control the fat intake of their diet for three months (they will be helped to do this) and have several tests that would check their body fat, and any tendency to develop either diabetes or heart disease.

The unit would welcome enquiries from anyone thinking of taking part.

Mrs Elaine Knight can send a description of the study, and Professor of Medicine and Public Health, Professor Dennis Calvert, can ring you to discuss the program or any details. Enquiries: Mrs Knight, phone (042) 266 594.

## Stop Press

### Faculty of Arts Seminar

"Rethinking Silence: Lyotrard and Irigaray"

All Welcome

Thursday March 21 3.30pm

Bld 19 R2043

### LONG GALLERY

Simon Tognetti

CERAMICS

from March 21st

**Campus News is published weekly on Wednesdays. Send material, preferably by Microsoft Mail or on disk, to E-Mail account 'Campus News' by noon on Monday of the week before that of publication.**

**For any other enquiries contact the Editor, Gillian Curtis (042) 21 3926.**

**Campus News has a circulation of 3500. It is distributed on campus to staff and students. 1000 are mailed to the community and overseas including schools in Illawarra, southern Sydney and Canberra; local, Sydney and Canberra media; Friends of the University; business representatives; MPs and numerous individual requests.**