History for sale: why tourists buy it

The vast majority of visitors to The Rocks area think the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority’s (SCRA) portrayal of its history is authentic, a University of Wollongong study has revealed.

The study’s findings show that, overall, tourists perceive the SCRA representation of history is factual.

Such an uncritical consumption of the commodified or sellable version of history-as-heritage is a matter for concern, according to the report’s main author, Dr Gordon Waitt, of the School of Geosciences.

Indonesia: the years of living superficially

Behind the day-to-day volatility of Indonesian politics, deep-seated historical forces are at work.

The on-going crisis highlighted how Australian universities could take public awareness beyond the superficial, analysing the underlying issues that affect the region.

Associate Professor Adrian Vickers and colleagues at the University of Wollongong have developed a sound reputation for analysis of Indonesian cultural history and the political economy of South-East Asia.

ABC Radio regularly called on Professor Vickers and PhD students Rob Goodfellow and Stephen Fitzpatrick to analyse the Indonesian situation in the period leading up to and directly following Suharto’s resignation.

In an interview on ABC Radio’s PM program Professor Vickers stressed the short-sighted strategy of successive Australian governments, who had failed to build links with alternative Indonesian political forces.

As a result, Australia remains unprepared for post-Soeharto Indonesia.

Professor Vickers’ research into Australian perceptions of Indonesia has revealed outdated and short-term responses from government.

Legacy of violence

Media responses have often been less than helpful. Even the tag, ‘The Year of Living Dangerously’, used to draw parallels between the events of 1965-6 and 1998, is problematic.

Professor Vickers said it rested on a set of journalistic cliches requiring deeper analysis.

In fact, former President Sukarno coined the original term ‘Year of Living Dangerously’, to refer to 1964, not 1965, as is popularly assumed.

The transfer of power in Indonesia reflects the legacy of violence inherent in Suharto’s own rise.

When he came to power half-a-million, perhaps up to a million people accused of being ‘communists’, were slaughtered.

Suharto himself may have triggered the preceding coup, in order to engineer his rise to power, and he led the killings which followed.

The untold stories

Questions about these events will now be opened up if political prisoners still in jail after 33 years can give their side of story.

Professor Vickers has been involved in researching the culture of violence this produced in Indonesia.

He is supervising Rob Goodfellow’s PhD research into perceptions of the events of 1965 and afterwards.

Stephen Fitzpatrick’s PhD research concerns the roles of crowds and public spaces in Indonesian society.

Stephen was in Indonesia during the crucial events of May 1998.

Researchers have kept in constant Email contact with academics in Indonesia, including some who have been visitors to Wollongong as part of exchange agreements with the universities of Gadjah Mada and Udayana, or former students.

“Through these contacts we will be in a better position to assess the events of the coming weeks and months, in which students, still not satisfied with President Habibie, will continue to push the government in spite of pressure from the military to return to campus,” Professor Vickers said.
University appoints six new professors

**Professor John Hedberg** is Professor of Education, specialising in Information Technology. He is Associate Dean and head of the Graduate School of Education.

His research is on navigation, cognition and design in interactive multimedia and computer-mediated communications.

He has been an instructional designer and evaluator on many media and computer-based teaching materials, including the award-winning Investigating Lake Iluka (1993-96), a CD-ROM designed to teach ecological concepts and Exploring the Nardoo (1996-7), a river management CD-ROM. He is working on StageStruck, an interactive CD-ROM project in conjunction with the National Institute for Dramatic Arts, funded as part of the Australia on CD initiative by the Australian Government.

Recent projects include the design and development of evaluation protocols for interactive multimedia software and Web-based learning environments. He directed a team which worked with BHP to develop an integrated training and organisational database model for an innovative product line.

**Professor Robert Castle** is Chair of Senate and has been the head of the Department of Economics since 1990.

His research interests are Labour, Employment and International Economic Regulation. He is the author of *Evolution of Economic Ideas and Labour Economics* (Oxford University Press), and he co-edited the *Focus on Economic* series. He edited *Unemployment in the Eighties* and *Work, Leisure and Technology* and jointly authored with Ann Hodgkinson *Productivity Wage Bargaining in Local Government*.

He has been a member of several committees including the New South Wales HSC Economics Syllabus Committee between 1975-83; Chairman of the New South Wales Higher School Certificate Economics Examination Committee between 1977-79 and 1986.

Professor Castle was a consultant to the Federal and State governments on Aboriginal employment, including the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (NSW) (1982-83) and the Australian Council of Employment and Training, (1987-88).

He has also conducted training courses for high-ranking government officials from Ministries of Trade and Finance, the Central Bank and other agencies in Vietnam.

**Professor Kiet Tieu** has served eight years as an Investigation Engineer with BHP Steel Flat Products.

He is head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Leader of the Rolling Technology Program in BHP/University of Wollongong Steel Processing and Products.

From 1996-1997 he was Chair of the Faculty Research Committee (Engineering) and Member of the University Research Committee (Executive).


Professor Tieu is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

**Professor Robin Chowdhury** is director of the Geo-Environment-Mine Engineering Research Centres (GEME). He was appointed as the head of the Department of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering in 1994.

Professor Chowdhury has been active in teaching, research and administration and has served on various university committees. He has published widely in the field of geomechanics and, in particular, on slope stability, landslides, risk assessment and reliability analysis.

Professor Chowdhury has received national and international recognition for his research and scholarly work including invitations to deliver keynote papers at prestigious conferences, to undertake consultancies and to join international committees. Relevant appointments include membership of the International Committee on Site Investigation, the International Committee on Landslides, Consultant to United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and to the United Nations Development Program.

Professor Chowdhury initiated the conference series, “The International Conference On Environmental Management Geo-Water and Engineering Aspects” (ICEM).

**Professor Stephen Pyne** is an Australian Research Council Senior Research Fellow and has been a von Humboldt Fellow in Marburg, Germany and a Rhone-Poulenc Fellow in Strasbourg, France.

He is co-director of the Biomolecular Research Centre at the University of Wollongong. His research projects include the development of new pharmaceutical drugs for the use as immunosuppressive agents in organ transplants, funded by Johnson & Johnson and the development of selective drugs for the treatment of neurological disorders with Janssen Pharmaceutical.

**Professor Gerald Nanson**'s research in geomorphology focuses on river processes, river management and climate change. He completed a Master of Science at the University of Alberta in 1972 on sediment transport in Rocky Mountain streams, and a PhD at Simon Fraser University in 1977 on river meanders and floodplain formation in northern British Columbia. While undertaking remote field work he was confronted by bears, one of which he had to shoot in self defence, managing to accidentally shoot and sink his own canoe in the process.

In 1977, he migrated to Australia to lecture in Geography at the University of Wollongong. He continued research on Canadian rivers but soon turned his attention to the vast inland rivers of Australia’s arid interior. His work on rivers and associated evidence for climate change now spans much of the continent and he is extending this research into India and South-East Asia.
**Voices in the postgraduate wilderness**

Indigenous postgraduate students face a unique set of frustrations, with serious implications for their progress.

Their problems are documented in a new report, released in May by Bill Harrison, head of the University of Wollongong's Aboriginal Education Centre.

It stemmed from a research project examining the experience of indigenous postgraduate students.

The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations' (CAPA) has responded to the project's findings and both documents are included in the report.

Bill Harrison said the case studies "come from the hearts of indigenous postgraduate students".

"It shows indigenous postgraduate students have difficulty finding suitable supervisors," he said.

"It is recommended that universities and indigenous communities work together to find solutions.

"My own experience in postgraduate studies showed me that co-supervisors, where one supervisor (at least) is indigenous, was the best way to go, and I am happy both parties have strongly urged this.

"I didn't have that benefit and, although my supervisor was very supportive, my research and writing tasks would have been much easier to explain to an indigenous academic and I probably could have used my personal information much better, in such a situation.

"Unfortunately staff have to concentrate on undergraduates and their passage through university, often at the expense of time with postgraduates.

"This is because we must accept students without the usual academic pre-requisites, and have to put in a great deal of time to raise competence at the undergraduate level.

"The high workloads of indigenous staff in their various roles, and low funding, mean comparatively low staffing levels at Aboriginal Education Centres within universities.

"It is difficult for staff to take on additional study to raise their own academic qualifications.

"Additionally, it has been difficult for indigenous staff not to take on supervisory roles for our students, so adding to the workloads.

"We, as Aboriginal academics, at least acknowledge that just because you are Aboriginal, does not make you expert in everything Aboriginal.

"Often, non-Aboriginal supervisors have unreal expectations about Aboriginal students' knowledge of history, culture, sociology, archaeology etc., which helps to make our postgraduate (and often our undergraduate) students feel that they are not as good as they should be.

**International conference explores management of oceans and seas**

A major international conference on Oceans Governance and Maritime Strategy was held at the Lakeside Hotel in Canberra on 18 and 19 May.

The conference, which received Australia-wide media exposure, was jointly hosted by the Royal Australian Navy, Tenix Defence Systems and the University of Wollongong. It was opened by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wollongong, Professor Gerard Sutton.

The conference commemorated 1998 as the UN International Year of the Oceans. The program for the conference recognised that the development of agreed international management regimes for the 70 per cent of the earth's surface covered by water, remains one of the great challenges for the global community.

Papers at the conference considered key issues associated with managing the oceans and seas of the world and the exploitation of marine resources.

Particular attention was paid to defence and security issues associated with oceans governance, especially the need for international co-operation to overcome inherent tensions between different uses of the sea and reduce the risks of conflict over the exercise of sovereignty at sea.

Recent incidents including disputes over ownership of the Spratly and Senkaku Islands in Asia, arrests by RAN vessels of illegal fishing vessels off Heard Island, and the dispute between Australia and Japan over Southern Bluefin tuna, all demonstrate how problems over marine sovereignty and resources can arise, according to one of the conveners of the conference, Sam Bateman, Executive Director of the Centre for Maritime Policy at the University of Wollongong.

"The issues are particularly important for Australia in view of the extent of Australia's interests in the Indian, Pacific and Southern Oceans. Australia also potentially has the skills and expertise to play a major role in the management of these oceans," Mr Bateman said.

He said the conference was timely, particularly as the Australian Government was about to release a paper for public comment on Australia's ocean policy.

"This paper is well overdue. Hopefully, it will go some way to overcoming years of neglect by successive Federal Governments of the importance of the oceans around us, including the need to protect our national interests at sea," Mr Bateman said.

"Indigenous students often are unassertive, have low expectations of their own abilities - another inherited trait resulting from historical factors relating to the power situation of Aboriginal peoples in wider society.

"Postgraduate students have felt that non-indigenous researchers have become 'gatekeepers' of indigenous knowledge in universities and have often appropriated Indigenous knowledge as their own domain.

"This is another issue of power relationships and, without making use of indigenous co-supervisors, the situation is unlikely to improve.

"One advantage the University of Wollongong has over most others, is that our Aboriginal Studies major, in the Faculty of Arts, has indigenous lecturers teaching core subjects and co-ordinating the entire undergraduate program.

"This will pay dividends in the confidence and assertiveness of postgraduates," Mr Harrison said.

*Bill Harrison "...often non-Aboriginal supervisors have unreal expectations"*
Migrants without borders

Long march from tradition to big smoke

Migration within a country's own borders is a complex issue in a nation as large as China.

International checkpoints may not be crossed but the implications of rural people flocking to cities in large numbers are enormous. China has 55 minority ethnic groups, accounting for eight percent of the population, or 100 million people.

And the consequences of many of them abandoning traditional homelands has barely been considered by the central administration.

Associate Professor Robyn Iredale, Centre for Research Policy and Geosciences has just returned from China where she continued her research into these issues.

She presented a paper on migration of women in Asia at a conference in Beijing in April.

The Asia-Pacific Institute, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) organised the conference jointly.

Professor Iredale delivered a paper on the methodology and theory of migration research at a workshop in Beijing in March.

She has been invited to attend a United Nations conference on migration in The Hague at the end of June.

Professor Iredale will also attend a conference of the IIAS in the Netherlands in July.

"The issue is not only of internal significance to China but is of great interest to other countries as they fear a tidal wave of international migration resulting from the high level of internal migration," she said.

- Robyn Iredale

Professor Iredale said governments, scholars, students and others need to be informed.

"For China itself, the consequences of massive internal migration are already being felt and will escalate," she said.

"The provision of adequate employment, housing, education, health care and other social services is of great concern for social planners and government administrators.

"The issues of social relations and social stability have barely been touched but need to be flagged.

"The experiences of other countries need to be assessed to see whether China can adopt similar models or whether it needs to develop its own methods of dealing with these issues."

Students favour college lifestyle over the HSC

Forget the HSC as the best means of entering university, according to a growing number of undergraduates at the University of Wollongong.

These students have found an alternative to the HSC and fast-tracked up to a year ahead of their school colleagues.

The HSC is failing many students who would be better served at a university-style college system, according to Chantelle Smith, Mark Bond and Jillian Nalty who are graduates of the Wollongong University College.

They represent a band of young students who have found that the school environment was not preparing them properly for university life.
Script writer Paul Rybak does not talk, so much as percolate. He brews a mix with a kick, thick with history, a poetic tic bursting the skin. Pictures bubble up: the solid matter of historical fact, excited by fictional nerve.

The facts:

- Nazi Warsaw, when those caught listening to the music of Polish patriot Chopin went to jail.
- Paul’s pianist father, Stefan, as a young man, kept naked in a concrete cell, through a concentration camp’s winter.
- Stefan as post-war refugee: black-faced by day, down a pit in the Goulburn coal fields.
- Scrubbed up by night, asking an Aussie-Irish girl to dance in blushing, stumbling English.
- Her liking his bravery, saying yes and later, yes also to marriage.
- Daddy Rybak, age 45, weakened by camp and coal pit, collapsing dead before 10-year-old Paul.
- From that day Paul inhabited a house of women: his mother Joan, his grandmother Olive May Belgrave and their Polish friend, the artist-refugee Mariana.
- He was in love with Mariana’s work, in awe of her ability to paint the moment.
- And he was distressed, frightened by her creeping Alzheimers, a disease she “raged against”, even as mind and memory fragmented.
- His fiction has grown from there into a film script: a cornrow plaited from imagination, the music of Chopin, his parents lives, and Mariana’s memories.
- The fading memories of an old Polish woman, alive once again, in her dementia, to a past she would rather forget.
- While she struggles to reconcile memory, her daughter has enough trouble with the present.
- A script from the heart, ‘The Dancing Girl’, is the result.
- “It was a difficult, difficult process,” said Paul, but its completion has brought immense relief.
- He flies to Paris later this year to negotiate with Franco/Polish director Agnieszka Holland.
- Her credits include ‘The Secret Garden’, ‘Europa Europa’ and ‘Olivier, Olivier’.
- Ryback, an Honours graduate from Creative Arts, works in the UniCentre and writes for several hours at night.
- He is 38-years-old but didn’t discover discipline until five years ago. It has paid off.
- His award-winning radio play ‘Mitten Hill’, loosely based on his grandmother’s memories, was broadcast on ABC Radio National and he is negotiating production of a television series.

It seems everyone wants a piece of Phar Lap’s heart, right down to a demented cook with a recipe requiring just that.

Kerrie O’Conner

Alarm bells trigger summer of science

The Australian Scientific Industry Association (ASIA) was alarmed. It was the late 1980s, and they had just taken a close look at the number of students going on to study science and technology at secondary and tertiary level.

If the current rate continued, a damaging shortfall in graduates trained to meet the demands of the technological world would soon develop.

Out of this need to re-energise and market what students saw as a low-growth, low-opportunity industry, ASIA and The Rotary Club of Doncaster coordinated the Science Summer School at Monash University.

The hands-on science program, where high school students experienced science out of the classroom, started small and has been expanding ever since.

The Siemens Science Experience is now offered at more than 30 universities (and one Institute of TAFE) nationally.

Distinguished scientists and engineers from a range of fields share their knowledge and experience via lectures, discussions and workshops.

Students discuss careers options and take part in experiments far removed from the typical classroom bunsen burner.

Each university conducts a unique program, although they all offer the opportunity to learn something entirely new. Students visit research laboratories and manufacturing plants, witnessing science in the practical world.

The Science Schools Foundation Inc, a voluntary non-profit organisation, runs the SSE program. It includes voluntary representatives from the Australian Science Teachers Association, Rotary International, Young Scientists of Australia, industrialists and educationalists.

The University of Wollongong will host the Siemens Science Experience from 19-21 January 1999. Information will be mailed to all Rotary Clubs and schools in May. Applications must be postmarked by 31 July, and forwarded to Siemens in Melbourne by 24 August.

Kate Walsh
After 12 years coordinating the University's graduation ceremonies and 24 years at the University itself, the Academic Registrar, Mr Peter Wood, has decided to move on. He will be taking up a new post as Software Services general manager with Deakin University in Victoria.

Shi Zhong (left) received his PhD on 1 May for his work which is helping to pave the way for a new type of battery which promises to revolutionise the telecommunications and computer industries. With him were Professor J.S. Wang, an honorary professor visiting from Harbin University in North-East China; Professor Shi Xue Dou, Director of the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials; and Dr Zhong's supervisor, Associate Professor Hua Kun Liu.

Helen Langridge received a Graduate Diploma in Arts at the graduation ceremony on 1 May. Helen is pictured with her husband, Jim Langridge, the Vice-Principal (International) and Joint Managing Director of Illawarra Technology Corporation. Others pictured (from left) are their son, Iain, and daughter-in-law, Debra (grand daughter Rebekah); Lyndel Hodgson and son, Timothy.

The man who devised the state-of-the-art fog warning system on the F6 freeway, Dr Graham Brisbane, received his PhD at the Engineering graduation ceremony.

The former Foundation of the Faculty of Law and Professor of Law at the University of Wollongong, Judge John Goldring, received an Emeritus Professorship. He was appointed earlier this year as a judge of the District Court.

Dr Trish Vezgoff, of the Sociology Program, received a PhD on 1 May for her thesis: Kept in: An examination of the impact of prolonged multiple demands upon women employed in a Catholic secondary school.
The Head of the Higher Education Division of the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Mr Michael Gallagher, (left) delivered the Occasional Address at the 29 April Education graduation ceremony, strongly praising the University on a variety of fronts. He is pictured with the Chancellor, Mr Michael Codd (centre) and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton.

When Nicole Gerrand was a sickly little girl in a Tasmanian home for crippled children, most observers would have written off her future. But adversity made a philosopher of her. Nicole was awarded her PhD in Philosophy at the 1 May Arts and Law graduation ceremony. Proudly watching on were Dr Joe Mintoff, of the Philosophy Department at the University of Newcastle (the couple were married the day after she graduated) and Nicole's teacher from St Giles School for Crippled Children, Shirley O'Byrne.

Ms Jennifer Lee, who has spinal muscular atrophy, was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree at the Arts and Law graduation ceremony. A voice-activated computer and automatic page-turner were crucial to her studies as well as her friends who volunteered to take notes for her. She is pictured with her husband, Graham.

The leader of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Richard Tognetti, received an honorary doctor of creative arts while his father, Dr Keith Tognetti, was admitted as a Fellow of the University of Wollongong on 27 April. Richard is the youngest recipient of an honorary doctorate from the University of Wollongong and, at the age of 32, is believed to be the youngest recipient ever to receive such an award in Australia. At the end of last year Richard was selected as one of the nation's 100 Living National Treasures.

Ruth Hill received first class honours and the University Medal for her Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology degree at the Informatics graduation ceremony on 27 April. She is pictured with her proud father, Professor Jim Hill, of the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics. The following day, Professor Hill's other daughter, Emily, was awarded a Bachelor of Commerce degree (with merit).
Brad Madge, the Promotions and Marketing Officer for the UniCentre, received a Graduate Diploma in Education. Brad is United States bound to teach art in New Jersey.

Shung Yuen Wan received his Master of Information and Communication Technology degree. Sam is pictured with his mother, Sammi (their Australian names) and Jan Kemper. He spent the past two years living with "Kemper family international". The family met Sam through the University's International Friendship Program.

Dr Peter Ritchie received a Doctor of Education for his thesis which examined a specialised upper body exercise system for injury risk reduction in adolescent rugby league players. Dr Ritchie shared the big occasion with his mother, Una.

Dr Tuipulotu Katoanga (above) is the first Tongan to graduate from an Australian university with a PhD in mathematics. He is pictured with his wife, Atiola, and their two-year-old son, Winston.

Agnes Tang, (inset) received a Master of Journalism degree on 27 April. A veteran journalist of 35 years, Ms Tang was the head of Hong Kong Radio 5 before moving to Australia in 1996.

Nutritionist Rosemary Stanton pictured here with lecturer Dr Linda Tapsell spoke at the Health and Behavioural Sciences graduation calling on graduates to initiate change where it was needed.
The Burke clan have almost made the University of Wollongong a second home. On 1 May at the Arts and Law graduation ceremony, Nick Burke (far right) and his sister, Peta, (second right) graduated together. Nick received a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice adding to his degrees in Laws and Arts and Peta received a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Honours) degree. Also pictured are (from left) Peta's twin, Pat, who is working towards an education degree, has a Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management; brother Richard, who earlier received a Bachelor of Nursing degree; mother, Dianne, who holds a Master of Public Health degree; and father, Dr Terry Burke, who is the NSW deputy director for Education, who also did his studies through the University of Wollongong.

Stuart Gray, recipient of first class honours and the University Medal for his Bachelor of Engineering degree on 1 May. Stuart's mother, Maralyn, and sister, Natalie, are also previous medal recipients. Maralyn will soon be joining her son in their different PhD studies at the University of Wollongong.

Joe Cincotta was busier than most graduates when his big day arrived — he received two degrees at two separate ceremonies was awarded a Bachelor of Computer Science and a Bachelor of Creative Arts. He shared his busy day with parents retired Associate Professor Vincent Cincotta and Dr Madeleine Cincotta, of the University of Western Sydney (Macarthur).

Hayette Hanna gained her Bachelor of Education degree on 29 April, against a backdrop of family tragedies. Near the time of her final exams her mother had a stroke, her brother-in-law was diagnosed with leukaemia and later died, her uncle died of cancer and her mother-in-law was seriously injured in a car accident. Hayette enjoyed her big day with her husband, Joe, and children (from left) Kathryn, Emma and Joseph.
Ian Edgar, (above) graduated with a Diploma in Science, Occupational Health and Rehabilitation, pictured (from left) with brother and Deputy Chancellor George Edgar, Chancellor Michael Codd, mother Pauline and wife Margaret.

Former Teachers' College Principal Walter Pike and wife Sheila saw their daughter Sarah Marian (above left) receive her Graduate Diploma in Science, Occupational Health and Rehabilitation. Sarah's husband, Geoffrey and their children, Oliver and Loretta also attended.

Female engineering graduates (left) have been outstandingly successful with the internationally renowned Ove Arup international consulting engineers. These successful graduates (from left) were Natalie Rosenbaum, Louise Unicomb, Lara Sossi, Caroline Raleigh and Ailain Tran. Lara, Louise, Ailain and Natalie were Co-operative Scholarship recipients.
Autumn Graduations

Students favour college lifestyle over the HSC

- From Page 4

"I hated chemistry at school but loved it at college due to the way it was presented," according to Chantelle, a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering student.

Mark is undertaking a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English and he is adamant that the TER is not the best way to judge Year 12 students.

Mark said his passage into university life had now also afforded him the opportunity of studying overseas as he will be undertaking an exchange through the University of Plymouth in England for the next semester.

The University Entrance Diploma is recognised by 32 Australian and 10 overseas universities.

Ms Gai Warner, Deputy Director of Wollongong University College said interest in the college entrance programs was developing. Enrolments by Australian students has far exceeded initial expectations.

As well as the University of Wollongong's campus, the University Entrance Diploma can also be undertaken at the Wollongong University College's new premises in Sydney.

For further information contact the college in Wollongong on Freecall 1800 680 320 or Sydney on (02) 9310 8400.
**Rocky road to historical accuracy**

*From Page 1*

“The SCRA’s sellable version of The Rocks’ past silences other histories,” Dr Waitt said.

He said that in transforming the area into an up-market tourist precinct and ‘birth-place’ of the Australian nation, a selective and sanitised version of the past has been invented.

“An aesthetised maritime history is entwined with nostalgic architectural compositions to establish a cultural heritage theme. Together these generate an ambience conducive to up-market consumption – an integral mechanism for the revitalisation of the area.

“However, ignored in the inventing of this exclusive heritage ambience are vernacular and academic versions of the past. In these a different set of stories are told which relate the area’s previous problems of chronic illness, oppression, conflict, prejudice, overcrowding, poverty, unsanitary and dilapidated housing conditions.

“It is not that human differences and suffering are not marketable. Far from it. But in the context of The Rocks these are rendered neutral and replaced by nostalgic notions of national origins,” Dr Waitt said.

The study highlights that as the ‘birth-place’ of Australia, the official story of The Rocks is not one of conflict. Instead the ‘original village’ is presented to the visitor as an urban idyll, represented by sentimentalised cottages, terraced homes, wharves and bond stores connected by courtyards and narrow cobbled streets.

Interestingly, the results suggest that only young female visitors show any desire to contest the SCRA’s imagined past. In particular, young overseas’ females had the greatest propensity to critique the historical authenticity of The Rocks.

Two important conclusions are drawn. First, from an economic perspective, young overseas’ females’ propensity to perceive less historical authenticity in The Rocks may reduce visitation satisfaction, duration of stay and a willingness to return to the precinct.

This is particularly relevant because the survey showed female overseas tourists were significantly more motivated to visit the area to experience history.

Therefore, Dr Waitt points out, from a purely economic perspective the whole consumption-led accumulation strategy of heritage tourism is not operating at its full potential.

Second, from the politics of identity stance, important questions are raised over the silences imposed upon alternative versions of places and people’s history as the result of such marketing strategies.

“Apparently, for The Rocks the silencing has been thoroughly effective, given the lack of contest over the visitors’ perceived authenticity,” Dr Waitt said.

**Students favour college lifestyle over the HSC**

*From Page 4*

Although fees apply through the college, all the students agreed they would be far better off financially as they would be entering the workforce much earlier than their school counterparts.

And for someone like Chantelle Smith, who left a private school to join the college it has proven an even cheaper option.

Australian students entering the college need only do one session lasting 14 weeks if they are able to score better than 85 per cent in their various subjects. Otherwise students must complete a second session lasting another 14 weeks. International students are sometimes required to undertake a third session for English training lessons.

Chantelle, Jillian and Mark (from Kareela) all managed to fast-track through the 14-week session. Fees per session are $4,000.

Jillian, a Bachelor of Commerce student, said she would otherwise now be studying for her HSC and believes if more Year 11 students knew about the college they would be opting to join.

“It was a much more stimulating learning environment, with subjects presented in an interesting way by university lecturers,” she said.