Piracy off the coast of Somalia has burgeoned over the past several years to the extent that it is propping up the poor east African nation's economy.

Between 160 and 170 merchant ships, on average, have been hijacked in the Gulf of Aden every year since 2005, their crews held for ransom of up to $5 million.

An international counter-piracy conference in Perth last week (initiated and attended by the Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith) looked at policies that could be employed to put a stop to the crimes. Professor Sarah Percy from UWA's School of Political Science and International Relations was the only academic to address the delegates.

Her research on mercenaries and privatisation of security, which began with her doctorate at Oxford University, has led to her work on piracy which she says would now be almost impossible to wipe out in Somalia as it is so entrenched in the country's culture.

"Their business is hijack and ransom," Professor Percy said. "They don't have the infrastructure to move the cargo in the ships they seize, so they make money by holding the crews hostage. Their business plan is well-organised. We believe there are about 5,000 pirates in Somalia and they sub-contract other people to negotiate the ransom claims, house the crews, feed them, collect the ransom then return the crews to their ships – all relying on corrupt infrastructure."

She spoke to the conference about why control measures were not working.

"Each of the pirates would probably make between $10,000 and $15,000 profit per ship they seize. When you consider the average income in Somalia is $290 a year and the average life expectancy in a country riddled with ongoing violence is 49, you can understand why so many young men will willingly take the risk."

Professor Percy is looking at how the control efforts could actually be making things worse.

Professor Percy said a conglomerate of international naval teams had established the Internationally Recognised Transit Corridor (IRT C) through the Gulf of Aden to the Suez Canal. The route is one of the busiest in the world, chiefly transporting oil from the Middle East to Europe and is close to the Somali coastline.

"The IRTC operates a modified convoy system to protect ships through the corridor. The pirates worked out this was happening and expanded their operations beyond the protected corridor, into the wider Indian Ocean."

continued on page 2
Tough policies to target modern day pirates

“As any criminologist will tell you, smart criminals will respond to control efforts and get better at their ‘job’. They are now operating as far south as Madagascar and as far east as the Maldives.

“Some of the more ‘dodgy’ shipping companies (about 25 per cent that use the route) don’t bother using the corridor and take their chances of being attacked. The risk is just two per cent, so insurance companies still insure ships in the Gulf and the premiums are not exorbitant. These are companies which don’t care much what happens to their crews.”

There are currently 216 hostages in Somalia, waiting for their ship’s insurance companies to pay their ransom.

“Some of the ships that regularly use the route put barbed wire around their decks to prevent the pirates boarding. Others use water cannon to repel the pirates and to make their ships very wet and slippery, and difficult to board.”

The pirate boats can get close to ships because it is impossible to tell whether they are pirates or fishermen. “They say their activities began by defending their fishing grounds against unauthorised boats. Then they began to extort illegal licensing fees from these fishermen and the piracy progressed from there.”

Tough policies to target modern day pirates

Professor Percy pointed out to the conference that Somali piracy was a land-based problem which the international community was trying to solve at sea.

“Why do we have navies doing our law enforcement?” she asked.

Friends in high places

A decade of supporting women to study at UWA was celebrated with the annual Centenary Trust for Women Luncheon in Winthrop Hall.

Corporate lawyer and UWA law graduate Sarah Beshar brought with her from New York impeccable credentials as the guest speaker.

She grew up in a family in Perth which championed the transformative benefits of a good education. This photograph of Ms Beshar with her lawyer husband Peter Beshar, their youngest daughter Sophie and both the current and a former President of the United States is evidence of how far the road that starts with a good education can take you.

Ms Beshar’s family has recently established a UWA scholarship for women to become teachers.

The Centenary Trust for Women Dr June Jones Masters Scholarship in Education will be awarded for the first time this year and for the next four years to support a woman who wants to take a Masters teaching degree at UWA but who is experiencing financial hardship. It is named in honour of Ms Beshar’s mother.

Dr June Jones, a graduate of UWA, was the inaugural Chair of the Centenary Trust for Women for five years and a member of the UWA Senate for 13 years.

She is one of WA’s most respected educators and was awarded an Order of Australia for services to education and a UWA Honorary Doctorate in Education in 2007.

The Centenary Trust for Women was established in 2002 to support and encourage women facing financial difficulties while studying at UWA.

It provides advice, financial or other assistance where education opportunities are limited because of distance, economic difficulties, cultural differences, disability or responsibility for the care of children, the ill or the elderly.

CTW promotes positive attitudes towards women in education by developing programs to increase public awareness of relevant issues and by raising funds and commissioning research.

The Trust’s goal, evident in its name, is to raise at least $1 million by the University’s Centenary year, 2013.

The photograph of the Beshar family and the two Presidents was taken at a private dinner honouring Barack Obama and Bill Clinton. Sophie looks set to follow in her mother’s high-flying footsteps. Ms Beshar said her daughter invited President Clinton to speak at her high school graduation ceremony in 2015, “informing him that because she had given him so much notice, she hoped he would fit it into his schedule!”
Mia Kriznic wants to get the numbers right at UWA.

She is not a mathematician: she is the University’s new Indigenous Employment Officer and she is dedicated to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage by boosting employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on campus.

“Aboriginal people make up about 3.5 per cent of the population,” Ms Kriznic said. “In a staff of about 4,000, as we have at UWA, we should have about 120 Aboriginal employees, if we are to mirror society. Unfortunately we have only about 30, who are heavily concentrated in one area.”

As part of UWA’s Indigenous Employment Strategy, she is driving initiatives to grow employment opportunities across schools and faculties.

Ms Kriznic is based in Human Resources and is keen to work with all UWA staff to attract and match Indigenous candidates for any roles that become available across a broad range of professions.

“I also hope to educate people about the unique hurdles and barriers Indigenous candidates face when seeking employment and even getting to interview stage,” she said. “People do have their prejudices but I like to think that there is goodwill out there and those prejudices can be overcome with education based on simple but confronting facts and statistics.

“For example, according to the latest ABS statistics, the current unemployment rate for non-Indigenous West Australians is 4.2 per cent, yet for Indigenous West Australians, the unemployment rate is a staggering 22 per cent.”

“I think it’s really concerning that many Australians turn a blind eye to Indigenous disadvantage and worry more about poverty and development issues affecting people in other, third world, countries, when the traditional owners of our country face similar and complex issues.

“A ‘light bulb’ moment for me occurred during a work trip to Kalgoorlie when I was at the Barrack gold mine, one of the most profitable gold mines in the world. I was standing on the edge of the super pit and looked across at the Ninga Mia Aboriginal community camp, with people living in tin huts with no power, plumbing or heating.

“I felt sickened and disgusted with the level of poverty in parallel with the infinite wealth of the gold mine. This wasn’t something I expected to see in my own country and I felt that, by being a witness to these circumstances, that I was somehow complicit.”

Ms Kriznic said that experience inspired her to take every opportunity to work to improve the rights and conditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

She said a job was a great start in addressing disadvantage. “We need to promote the University to employers who might think that the only people here are academics. In fact, there are more non-academic staff and I want to help to swell the numbers of Indigenous staff.”

Ms Kriznic said she felt it was a privilege to work with Aboriginal staff on campus, in particular the Dean of the School of Indigenous Studies, Winthrop Professor Jill Milroy, and the Director of Indigenous Student Services, Marilyn Strother.

“It might seem strange to some people that a non-Indigenous person is working on Indigenous recruitment but I say that addressing their disadvantage is not just the responsibility of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but should be the business of all staff across the University.”
Providing an international student experience

A recent planning day for the UWA International Centre provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on the meaning and importance of internationalisation at our University.

A commitment to high quality is inseparable from a world-class university’s international focus. In the longer term, quality will be recognised and judged in terms of international impact. This is especially so in the global marketplace for knowledge in which universities and other providers operate within a climate of rapid technological advances and increased competition beyond national boundaries.

Internationalisation provides us with a fundamental opportunity to enhance our research capacity and educational programs, as well as allowing us to reach higher levels of overall performance compared to best practice world-wide.

As a research-intensive university, the phrase in UWA’s mission statement “at the highest international standards …” is critical to our future. This is the fundamental standard against which we must be measured as a University and against which we must measure our own activities.

As a result, we also have a responsibility to ensure our students are not only qualified at an international standard, but are culturally competent world citizens with the capacity to create, distribute and exploit knowledge for the benefit of society.

In order to continue to attract the highest calibre domestic and international students, we need to pay utmost attention to how well we prepare our students for their future careers.

Yet Western Australia is an island with water on one side and sand on the other. So, for our students to gain an international perspective, we must build links, many of which will be northward.

Because we share a time zone (give or take a couple of hours) with 60 per cent of the world’s population and the nations holding the greatest promise of economic prosperity in this century, it makes sense for us to build relationships with universities in our ‘zone’ and to encourage internationalisation in all our activities.

In regard to teaching, this means the development of inclusive and international curricula to ensure that graduates have the skills to operate in an international environment. It means increasing the numbers of students undertaking study periods overseas; developing a stronger commitment to international student programs; supporting international outreach; and developing more collaborative teaching programs with overseas universities.

In the area of research, our commitment to internationalisation must continue to be through the conduct of research with greater international impact.

The planned appointment in coming months of a new Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) will provide us with a new opportunity to shape our strategic international direction. In this way, we can ensure that we harness the forces of internationalisation to shape the future of the University, as well as providing enduring benefit to the State.

Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor

An award to remember

A young mother of two who died before completing her postgraduate studies at UWA has been honoured in a ceremony in the Vice-Chancellorry.

Kartiki Nishant Gujarati-Wani was part-way through a Master of Business when she and her husband Nishant Gujarati travelled to their homeland of India for a wedding about a year ago.

“Kartiki met with a tragic accident the day we arrived, and died,” said Nishant, a senior project manager in the construction industry.

Their twin sons Raghav and Rachit were just one year old.

An engineer with a Master of Science, Kartiki had migrated to Australia with her husband in 2008 and was working in Perth as a research scientist in the field of nanoparticle technology. She was studying part-time in the Business School.

Although she didn’t finish the Masters, Kartiki had completed the requirements for a Graduate Certificate in Business and her family asked if the University would confer that award on her posthumously.

“I felt honoured accepting the certificate from the Vice-Chancellor on Kartiki’s behalf,” Nishant said. “It was wonderful to have the Vice-Chancellor, the Dean of the Business School and a couple of Kartiki’s professors all there to honour her.

“The boys will grow up very proud of their mother.”

The University has bestowed five posthumous awards over the past decade.
Some people are hoarders and some people are chuckers.

“Contrary to popular belief, archivists love to chuck things out,” said archivist Justine Mc Dermott, Associate Director, Archives and Records Management.

But there are university policies, state regulations and legal requirements that govern what must be kept and for how long. It is a complex issue for universities, made even more complicated by the fact that each of WA’s public universities had, until recently, different disposal policies.

For example, at UWA, student records were kept for 10 years, at Curtin University they were kept for 25 years, and at Murdoch University, they were disposed of after just five years.

“We’re talking about student records such as study plans, all sort of forms, enrolment information, not their academic record: that is kept for ever,” Ms Mc Dermott said.

She and her colleague, Narelle Crichton, decided four years ago to turn what was a 24-page disposal schedule into a Disposal Authority that covered all of UWA’s records. When Michelle Lillico, now a project manager in UWA Archives and Records, but then working at Curtin University, heard about Ms Crichton’s project, she asked if they could build on UWA’s work to create one definitive disposal authority for all WA Universities.

“We worked together day and night,” Ms Lillico said. “We would find ourselves sitting in our pyjamas late at night nutting out another problem.” The spirit of collaboration will continue into the future as the authority will now be reviewed and updated collectively by all WA Universities.

“Even though the functioning of the universities is much the same, there was still a lot of research needed,” Ms Mc Dermott said. “It was a huge project, led brilliantly by Michelle.”

The university archivists used three criteria to determine how long each type of University record needed to be retained; research, administrative and evidential value. The 163-page document that is the Western Australian University Sector Disposal Authority has now been approved for use by the State Records Commission and covers advice, agreements, appeals, acquisitions, academic records … and that is just a few of headings under A.

It includes guidelines for disposal of records of planning, standards, donations, exhibitions, publications, event planning, media relations, energy management, maps and signs, fees and charges, clubs and societies, grievances and complaints, intellectual property, corporate identity, professional development leave, honouring and naming and, if you can believe it, much more.

“The biggest change is that each University now retains all records relating to individual research projects for the same period of time depending on the significance of that project,” Ms Mc Dermott said. “We seek advice on how important a piece of research is likely to be and flag it for later confirmation. The minimum period for keeping minor research records is seven years after publication. However, all records relating to research that is deemed of significance could be kept for anywhere between 50 years and forever.”

“The original architectural plans for Winthrop Hall are an example of records which are kept for administrative use. Those plans are still referred to for plumbing and other maintenance and refurbishment work.

“The evidence criteria covers records documenting major decisions and reasons we have invested in, researched or taught different things. The records of research into, discussions about and implementation of the New Courses would be included in this.”

Ms Mc Dermott said there were legal requirements about retention of all University records. “So if you have any questions, please get in touch with us, before you start chucking things out.”
Most people understand that air pollution is bad for your health, but there has been little long-term research to prove it.

A team at the School of Population Health is leading an international collaboration in Australia’s first study into the health impacts associated with long-term air pollution exposure. Team leader Professor Jane Heyworth said most studies comparing air pollution with human health outcomes focused on the effects of short-term exposure.

“But we understand that long-term exposure may have more of an effect on human health, and especially on the health of elderly people,” she said. The group is using health data from UWA’s Centre for Health and Ageing’s Health in Men study cohort. This study, led by Winthrop Professor Leon Flicker and funded by an NHMRC grant, began monitoring elderly men’s health in 1996.

“We have access to their health data through the Western Australian Data Linkage System, and we can link that with the Department of Environment and Conservation’s air quality monitoring from eight sites around Perth,” Professor Heyworth said.

The group is doing additional monitoring at 44 sites over two-week periods, three times a year. They are measuring nitrous oxides, predominantly from motor vehicles, and particulates, which encompass dust particles from traffic, bush fires, construction, power generation and industry in general, even including sea salt, in coastal areas.

Particulate matter is being measured using Harvard impactors and nitrogen dioxide with Ogawa passive diffusion badges. The locations around Perth, from Yanchep to Rockingham and east to Hovea, have been selected to represent different patterns in air pollution: streets with lots of traffic and those with little traffic; streets in remote areas with low population densities and city streets with higher densities.

The measurements taken by the UWA team will be combined with two modelling approaches (Dispersion and Land Use Regression modelling by CSIRO) to help classify how much air pollution each of the participants are exposed to at their home address.

The UWA group of Professor Heyworth, project co-ordinator Anna-Lena Arnold and research officer Christina Tsou, are joined in the study by teams from The WA Centre for Health and Ageing, Edith Cowan University, CSIRO, the Centre for Environmental Epidemiology, Barcelona, Spain and the Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences, Utrecht, Netherlands.

The collaborative study is part of ESCAPE: European Study Cohort for Air Pollution Effects, a group which includes Taiwan and China as well as European states.

A member of ESCAPE from the Netherlands joined the UWA team in January this year to help them set up and use the monitoring equipment they are borrowing from the consortium.

“We have lower levels of air pollution than elsewhere in the world,” Professor Heyworth said. “The patterns are quite different from Europe where there are higher, denser populations, road canyons, more diesel vehicles and more apartment living. So we are adding a different perspective to the global picture.

“This is the first study in Australia to address the health impacts associated with long-term air pollution exposure and individual health outcomes, including respiratory and cardiovascular morbidity, mortality and disease biomarkers.

“The results will provide information on what types of pollutants are harmful to human health. It will be made available to the public and provided to agencies planning intervention strategies aimed at reducing exposure to possibly harmful pollutants.”
WA has a proud international hockey tradition, with UWA students and graduates taking a significant role in major achievements over the past decade.

And we will again feel proud as Fergus Kavanagh (men’s hockey), Rick Charlesworth (men’s coach), Kobie McGurk and Teneal Attard (women’s hockey) and Adam Commens (women’s coach) represent UWA at the Olympic Games.

But our repertoire is widening. Student and sailor Elise Rechichi will be competing in her second Olympics – hoping for her second gold medal. Water polo player Jamie Beadsworth is also fronting up for his second Games – amazingly, after suffering a stroke last year.

And this month, sports science student Janine Murray becomes WA’s first rhythmic gymnast to compete at Olympic level.

Behind the public face of the athletics success is a huge engine room and UWA is contributing sports scientists, computer scientists, physiotherapy, psychology and coaching.

Neil McLean from the School of Psychology is attending his fifth Olympics, in the role of sport psychology consultant with the Kookaburras, the men’s hockey team.

His expertise helped the team win a gold, a silver and two bronze medals at the Barcelona, Atlanta, Athens and Beijing Games, and highlights the important role that psychology plays in the preparation of elite athletes.

Swimming is an Olympic sport that is often synonymous with Australian champions. And Winthrop Professor Mohammed Bennamoun and his team of researchers from the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering have been analysing the Australian swimmers’ movement patterns in a bid to help them win Olympic medals.

Their research project uses three-dimensional imaging and biomechanics to quantify the patterns. “Until now there has been no 3D motion analysis system that can do this accurately and reliably in water,” Professor Bennamoun said.

He is joined in the project by biomechanists Associate Professor Jacqueline Alderson, from the School of Sport Science, Exercise and Health, and Dr Andrew Lyttle from the Western Australian Institute of Sport.

And a UWA swimming coach’s reputation has attracted a Paralympic swimmer from India. Sharath Gayakwad has been training with UWA Uniswim coach Mel Tantrum. He is competing in the 100m breaststroke and self-funded his trip to Perth after hearing a lot about Ms Tantrum from people in India.

UWA Health and Rehabilitation Clinic physiotherapist Cindy Davis is also working with Paralympians. She has been selected as a senior physiotherapist for the canoeing and rowing competitors in the Paralympics.

And still in the water, final year law/Commerce student Heidi Gans is competing in the open water swimming event – representing her home country of Malaysia.

While most eyes are on London, not all elite sports are represented at the Olympics. Law student Verity Long-Droppert (daughter of Pro Vice-Chancellor Jane Long) is competing for Australia in the World Championships of Softball this month in Canada.

Softball was dropped from the Olympics after the Beijing Games, so the World Championships are now softball’s equivalent – while an international move is under way to get the sport returned to the Olympic arena.

And the Deputy SKA Project Scientist, Minh Huynh, is also competing at international level outside the Olympics. She is taking part in the World Ultimate Championships in Japan. Ultimate is a team sport played with a disc or frisbee on a grass field with zones similar to rugby.

Seven UWA students will also be competing in international rowing over the next few months. They were featured in UWAnews on 11 June.

(In more sporting news, Roberto Busi from the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative, based in the School of Plant Biology, won the Perth Marathon last month in a new personal best time of two hours, 32 minutes. Research Assistant Professor Busi was featured in UWAnews on 16 April.)
The stories on these pages, about science investigations at UWA, were researched and written by UWA Science Communication students.

The sobering consequences of a night drinking

By Tobias Grey
Science Communication student

Most of us like a drink once in a while. We accept the consequences and enjoy the benefits – the buzz and relaxation – at the cost of your inhibitions and sometimes your good reputation.

We all seem to think we understand the costs of alcohol use, but an ongoing study on memory and alcohol use from UWA PhD student Helen Shield has begun to turn up some worrying findings.

The study’s results imply that our memory may be affected by alcohol in ways that we didn’t know, until now. The research concentrates on prospective memory – that is memory for things that you are going to do, and events in the future, or ‘future memory’, if you will. The findings show that the implications may range as far as the way you organise work and deal with a large workload.

We know that alcohol impairs short-term memory, but Helen’s study points to perhaps wider-ranging deficits in prospective memory associated with higher levels of alcohol use.

The experiment has been run with university students. They were subjected to a control task and two prospective memory tasks. The first task is the easier, a simple matter of deciding between words and non-words – so easy it’s almost instinctual. The second task is more difficult, and involves thinking about the sounds that make up the word – it’s considerably harder. Response time was used as a measure of effort for each of the tasks – the longer you took, the harder you had to think.

The participants were then given a questionnaire about alcohol use, which separated those who did not drink, or drank little, from those who drank often – bordering on a dependence or addiction problem. The effort was compared across both groups of participants, and hard and easy tasks, and things didn’t look good for the heavy drinkers.

The results showed that people with alcohol dependence or abuse problems used the same amount of effort for both hard and easy tasks – putting too much effort into the easy task and vice versa. Helen believes that this shows inefficiency in the way the brain allocates attention and processing power to different tasks in high alcohol users.

“It’s a totally new result – ground-breaking,” Helen said, “and such a result in high-functioning individuals is an exciting and publishable result.”

The results can also be of use to people recovering from an alcohol abuse or dependence problem, as it gives a framework for how to deal with stress, and arrange workload.

Feeling the heat

By Mark Foreman
Science Communications student

Shane Maloney’s study of animal thermoregulation has inadvertently thrown him into the vast scientific field of global warming.

Professor Maloney, in the School of Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology, studies the temperature of animals: why it rises and falls, how animals adapt to heat and cold, and more recently, how they cope with a changing climate.

His work has taken him all over the world, including one of the hottest and driest regions in the world, the Arabian Desert, to study the oryx.

A distant relative of the camel, the oryx has adapted to one of the harshest climates in the world very successfully.

“Physiologists love extremes, and the oryx lives in one of the absolute extremes, where they go for months without drinking water,” Professor Maloney explained.

The team implanted five oryx with data loggers and monitored their core temperature for a year. The question they wanted answered was: Does water limitation drive heterothermy? Heterothermy is the fluctuation of body temperature beyond the normal limits of that animal.

They found that during the hot-dry months, the amplitude of core temperature was greater than during the hot-wet months. Similarly, a greater amplitude was recorded during the cool-dry months compared to the cool-wet months. The pattern seemed to be clear, a lack of water was causing higher maximums and lower minimums.

The research showed that given access to drinking water, the oryx remained homeothermic, that is, they kept their fluctuations of body temperature within normal levels. When water wasn’t available there was a distinct activation of
Tired? Stressed? You’ll feel better with sheep

By Caitlin Dunlap
Science Communication student

For years, insomniacs have sworn by lavender oil as the secret ingredient to a good night’s sleep while others believe that counting sheep helps those who struggle to drift off.

Now scientists at UWA have put them together and, by using sheep of varying demeanours, they have discovered another side to lavender oil that is more than sweet dreams and a peaceful night’s sleep.

Lavender oil has displayed calmative effects in animals. These effects haven’t yet been thoroughly examined in humans but potentially hold the key to an alternative treatment for people with disorders such as depression, insomnia and anxiety, who are currently taking highly addictive drugs.

Dr Penny Hawken and Associate Professor Dominique Blache in the School of Animal Biology, along with Carolina Fiol at the Facultad de Veterinaria in Uruguay, have examined the effects of lavender oil on the anxious behaviour of sheep.

Sheep are seen as a useful model for humans, due to the fact that they are not clones of one another as many people would believe, but are all individuals with their own personalities and temperaments, which make them comparable to humans.

For 15 years, UWA has been selectively breeding sheep based on their demeanour. The study used both anxious and calm sheep, fitting them with a mask containing either lavender oil or peanut oil (the control group) for 30 minutes. Their behaviour was examined, including vocalisations (bleats) and the concentration of a stress hormone (plasma cortisol) in their system. Conclusions from the study found that when lavender oil was supplied to sheep which were genetically predisposed to being calm, they became even more relaxed.

The control sheep made six times as many vocalisations as the sheep treated with lavender oil, which was expected by the scientists. What wasn’t predicted was that the sheep which were predisposed to being anxious became even more anxious when given lavender oil, recording twice as many bleats and a stress hormone concentration two-and-a-half times higher than the control group.

Genetic differences were concluded to be the key to whether lavender oil would lessen or intensify the anxiety of the sheep. Professor Blache explained that rather than just having the expected calmative effect, the lavender oil “accentuated the current state.”

With the help of the sheep, we now have an insight into the way in which lavender oil might work on the human brain. It is hoped that it can be used as a natural and effective alternative to some potentially addictive prescription drugs.

heterothermy. This evidence enabled the team to refute the existing claim that external temperature alone was the biggest inducer of heterothermy.

By inducing heterothermy, the oryx stored heat rather than using water to remove heat from the body (via sweating and panting). This water conservation is paramount to the animals’ survival.

Studies such as this provide information as to how animals might cope with further temperature increase. “The oryx is doing OK,” Professor Maloney said. “But nobody can be sure how they will fare in the long run.”

To go more than 100 days without drinking water, as the oryx can, holds it in good stead to tackle the challenge of global warming. “This is a remarkable adaptation, and perhaps they do have the capacity to adapt enough to see the survival of the species,” he said. “Global warming is moving in quickly though. There may not be enough time.”

Which animals will survive global warming?
The Arabian Oryx can go 100 days without water
Stepping towards a cure

By Sally-Ann Jones

Even if researchers got only “half an inch” closer to a cure for mesothelioma thanks to money raised on a 600km charity walk, Derryn Carnaby would be happy.

Mrs Carnaby of Bullsbrook was the organiser of the inaugural Kalgoorlie to Perth walk to raise funds for research and was thrilled with the $75,000 total.

The cheque was recently handed over to medical oncologist Professor Anna Nowak at the National Centre for Asbestos-Related Disease in the School of Medicine and Pharmacology at the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre.

Mrs Carnaby knows the heartache of the deadly lung cancer better than most. Before she was born, her parents and two of her brothers lived, played and worked in Wittenoom, Australia’s only supplier of blue asbestos. Her brothers Phillip and Cleve Noble died aged 36 and 53, each leaving two young children behind. Her father Ray died when he was 71 and her mother Fay died two months before her 80th birthday.

“If we could just stop one person from dying, those 600km would have been worth it. Even better pain relief would be a great result.”

About 30 walkers aged from 17 to 80 took part in the walk, including the cooks and the nurse in the group. Each person walked between five and 30km on each of the six days. Senior Australian of the Year in 2011, Robert Vojakovic, who has spent 33 years campaigning to help victims of asbestos-related diseases, and who heads the Asbestos Disease Society of Australia, was one of the walkers.

Three lawyers from Slater and Gordon, who handle most of WA’s mesothelioma claims, and the firm’s head of corporate services, Siri Siriwardene, also joined in.

“Slater and Gordon in WA have been helping asbestos victims and their families secure compensation for more than 25 years and is a good friend of the Society,” Mr Vojakovic said.

“Every bit of ground on the road from Kalgoorlie to Perth was covered,” Mrs Carnaby said. “People sponsored us, we had auctions and along the way we had raffles in pubs in the towns we walked through – Kellerberrin, Merredin and Northam. Everyone was so supportive.

“The heartbreak of losing four members of my family to the disease – and the concern that thousands of others exposed to asbestos fibres will suffer the same fate – drives me to help find a cure.”

So far, asbestos-related diseases have claimed the lives of more than 2,000 Wittenoom workers and their families. Medical experts warn that anyone who lived in Wittenoom during the mining period would have been exposed to asbestos and are at higher risk of developing lung cancer, mesothelioma, asbestos and pleural diseases.

There is also concern for the next generation of victims as evidence mounts of a new wave because of home renovations.

According to the Asbestos Disease Society, epidemiologists expect asbestos diseases to peak in Australia around 2025, with as many as 45,000 people dying over the next two decades if an effective treatment or a cure is not found.

“Even though the Wittenoom mine closed at the end of 1966, we’re seeing more and more people being diagnosed with asbestos-related illnesses,” Mr Vojakovic said. “This insidious product made its way into the wider community through its use in everyday products such as insulation, carpet underlay, vehicle brake pads, fire retardant, kitchen appliances and building supplies.”
Let your voice be heard

How do you rate your working life at UWA?

If you set aside some time between Monday 13 August and Friday 31 August to fill out the three-yearly online Working Life Survey you’ll be in the running to win one of the iPads being offered as a participation incentive.

Rod Dewsbury, Associate Director at HR Policy and Planning, said about 40 per cent of UWA’s 4,500 staff members had completed the 2009 survey and he hoped more would spend the 20 minutes online needed to take part in this year’s.

“We want to know what we’re doing right, what we’re doing wrong and how we can improve,” Rod said.

“We’d particularly like to encourage staff members who aren’t on computers all day to take part. We want as many people as possible to voice their opinions about how UWA is performing.

“Based on the responses to the last survey, we’ve made some important changes at UWA. You – our staff – told us that you wanted us to focus on three particular areas: leadership, co-operation between different units and departments within the University, and flexibility.

“As a result, we’ve put more work into programs such as the new Leadership Transition program. And the very successful Leadership Development for Women program continues to be popular.

“As for cross-unit cooperation, we’ve promoted the Staff Sports Fun Day and we have a record number of UWA teams in this year’s Global Corporate Challenge. We also have a new Wellness Office.

“In the area of flexibility, we’ve developed new HR policies around flexible work practices and a focus on an inclusive campus culture which not only encourages staff members to embrace cultural differences, but different ways of working as well. And the University’s flexibility in adopting a new course structure is in itself a great model for how we can all benefit from being flexible.”

Rod said UWA staff in 2009 were mostly happy working at the university. UWA has more people than other Australian university who stay for between five and 15 years and has been recognised for many years as the best workplace in the nation for women.

However, it was a concern that more women were not recruited to high management levels and that there could be more opportunities to develop a career.

While people reported having issues with high workloads, this was balanced by respect for the University’s mission and values.

“UWA has an environment that encourages people to share knowledge and participate,” Rod said. “If people feel they have something to say, they like to have their voice heard. Many staff members have deep loyalty to UWA, whether it’s because they admire what the University does, because they were students here or because their children are studying here.

“The 2012 survey will ask some new questions, for example, about the impact of New Courses and why you might choose to stay on as a staff member and why you might choose to leave.”

The survey is administered by the Voice Project through Macquarie University.
Medical research reaps it rewards

Seven was a lucky number for young UWA medical researchers last month.

Seven of the major prizes awarded during Medical Research Week went to UWA researchers and graduate students. And seven of the eight new research grants from the WA Department of Health were won by UWA staff.

Medical Research Week is the Australian Society for Medical Research’s annual symposium. ASMR is the peak professional society that represents medical researchers in Australia and members present their research each year to politicians, the corporate sector and community groups to encourage their ongoing support.

Prizes for the best presentations went to researchers in the fields of cancer, sleep apnoea, exercise science, HIV infection, cardio-vascular disease and viruses.

Yu Shen from the School of Medicine and Pharmacology won an award for her research into quercetin (which is found in fruit and vegetables including onions, apples, tea and grapes) and its potential cardio-protective effects, which are readily achieved through diet.

Dr Anna Johansson from WAIMR was rewarded for her work on strategies to enhance immunotherapy on tumours that are resistant to immune rejection. Shruti Krishnan’s winning research also focused on tumours and how methods of stimulating the host’s immune system to destroy cancer cells may be improved by targeting immune suppression at the same time.

Laila Abdulai from the School of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine looked at the effects of HIV infection and antibody responses.

The use of the sleeping pill Temazepam was found not to aggravate the severity of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) by Carolyn Visser (Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology) working with WA’s sleep medicine expert Winthrop Professor Peter Eastwood. People with OSA often suffer insomnia and it had been thought that using Temazepam would make the OSA worse.

Marc Sim, in the School of Sport Science, Exercise and Health used 10 trained athletes in four running and cycling trials, to look at iron levels and liver function during and after exercise.

And Laura Masters studied the Human Cytomegalovirus (HCMV) and its persistence in human populations around the world.

Later in June, grants of $10,000 from the Department of Health were awarded through the 2012 New Independent Research Infrastructure Support (NIRIS) awards.

Two grants were awarded to the Centre for the Built Environment and Health, to Assistant Professor Hayley Christian and Associate Professor Lisa Wood for their research into the influence of the built environment on people’s health.

Dr Natalie Ward in the School of Medicine and Pharmacology received funding for her work in nutrition and lifestyle and their roles in heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke.

Pre-term births and their relationship to infections and inflammation in the mother will be studied by Dr Matthew Kemp in the School of Women’s and Infants’ Health.

Dr Alison Reid (WAIMR) will use her grant to look at improving the occupational health and safety of migrant workers.

Rett Syndrome, early onset scoliosis and the CDKL5 disorder in children will be the focus for Dr Jenny Downs from the Centre for Child Health Research.

And Dr Gianina Ravenscroft (Centre for Medical Research) won a grant for research that involves identifying genes and developing therapies for genetic skeletal muscle diseases.
Ocean ties

“We are tied to the ocean,” said the late US President, John F Kennedy. “And when we go back to the sea ... we are going back from whence we came.”

This is a sentiment with which Winthrop Professor Carlos Duarte, Director of the UWA Oceans Institute, identifies.

And he argues that if we ignore our close emotional attachment to the ocean, then the future is dire for the future of our species and for our planet.

A scientist who knows more about the sea than almost anyone, Professor Duarte contends that the view that humans evolved in the African savannah does not explain the major deviations in morphology, anatomy and physiology between us and other terrestrial mammals, including closely-related apes.

The alternative hypothesis, supported by Professor Duarte, is that humans evolved in coastal environments. This is consistent with the positions of the oldest human dwellings and evidence of seafood in early human diets, he believes.

“The oceans have continued to play a key role in human culture and history as well as on our psyche,” he said.

“Our fascination with the ocean can be best explained through the long evolutionary history of the relationship between humans and the sea.

But the rupture of this relationship has important consequences for our health. Whereas our emotional and psychological attachment to the oceans is strong enough to provide the impetus to initiate a returning pathway, this pathway will be most effective if illuminated by scientific knowledge.”

Professor Duarte led the 2010 Malaspina Expedition, a Spanish circumnavigation that sailed the world’s oceans to explore their biodiversity and examine the impacts of global change.

In 2011 he received the Prix d’Excellence, the highest honour awarded by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas. He has published more than 500 scientific papers and two books and has been associate editor for many journals.

Professor Duarte talked about the importance of the relationship between humans and the oceans in a free public lecture, The Role of the Ocean in Human Evolution, History and Future, last week at UWA. The lecture was presented by UWA’s Institute of Advanced Studies as part of the Ocean Solutions for Humanity’s Grand Challenges series.

The books are back again

Books on town planning, poetry, science fiction, diet, Australiana, sport, food and wine, war history and many more categories will be on sale along with paperback and hardback fiction, sheet music and CDs.

The sale opens on Friday 17 August at 5pm but there is still time to donate books, to make room for those you will buy at the sale.

Donation boxes are on the Crawley campus, in the Octagon Theatre, in the Reid Library and in the foyer of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

All books, music, CDs and DVDs are welcome except textbooks, encyclopaedias or periodicals.

The Save the Children Book Sale will run from Friday 17 August to Wednesday 22 August.
Thinking about schools for your child?

Moerlina is an independent primary school providing a nurturing educational environment for pre-kindergarten (three year olds) to Year 7. Centrally located in Mount Claremont, Moerlina is close to public transport and nearby to a shuttle bus servicing the QEII/UWA precinct. A partner school to UWA’s Faculty of Education, Moerlina provides an academic program of excellence. Moerlina’s point of difference is providing a child-centred, inquiry style of teaching and learning. Our programs foster curiosity, exploration and critical thinking skills to enable our students to emerge resourceful and independent thinkers. Our goal is to support the development of creative and higher order thinking skills – skills for success.

“Moerlina is an ideal learning environment and an excellent partnership school for our pre-service teachers”

(Professor Val Faulkner, UWA Faculty of Education)

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UWA NEWS classified

RESEARCH GRANTS
Grants awarded between 28/05/2012 and 6/07/2012

ADVANCED GEOMECHANICS
Dr Conleth O’Loughlin, Associate Professor Christophe Gaudin, Offshore Foundations Systems (Centre for); “Borehole Development Centrifuge Modelling of Skirted Shallow Foundation for Dry Tree Units (DTUs)” – $188,659 (2012)

ALCDA WORLD ALUMINA AUSTRALIA
Assistant Professor Rachel Standish, Professor Richard Hobbs, Professor Raphael Didham, Animal Biology (School of), Plant Biology (School of); “Climate Change Impacts on Jarrah Forest Restoration” – $26,500 (2012)

AMANDA YOUNG FOUNDATION
Associate Professor Charlene Kahler, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (School of); “Pathology”

AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED
Kahler, Associate Professor Charlene $26,500 (2012)

AMANDA YOUNG FOUNDATION
Restoration’ – $26,500 (2012)


Cancer Australia
Dr Jason Waithman, Cancer Research (International Centre for); “Studies of Cancer Genes in Human Nasopharynx” – $75,000 (2012-13)

CANCER AUSTRALIA
Dr Jason Waithman, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, “The Initiation of the Cellular Immune Response to Cutaneous Melanoma” – $90,000 (2012)

CITY OF ALBANY & COMMITTEE FOR ALBANY
Professor Matthew Tonts, Earth and Environment (School of); “Albany Baseline Study” – $22,728 (2012)

DAFF CARBON FARMING
Winthrop Professor Karam Singh, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, UWA Institute of Agriculture (IOA); “Strategies to Provide Resistance to the Economically Important Fungal Pathogen, Rhizoctonia Solani” – $1,200,000 (2012-15)

DAFF CARBON FARMING
Winthrop Professor Karam Singh, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, UWA Institute of Agriculture (IOA); “From Fire Stick Farming to the Friendly Frontier – Landscape Change at Albany WA” – $30,340 (2012-13)

FUTURE FARM INDUSTRIES CRC
Associate Professor Philip Vercoe, Agricultural Biochemistry (School of); “Perennial Forage Shrubs Project” – $90,000 (2011-13)

GARNETT PASSE AND RODNEY WILLIAMS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
Dr Peter Santa Maria, Surgery (School of); “Senior – Principal Surgeon Cancer Research Fellowship 2012 – Santa Maria (2012)”

GRAINS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Winthrop Professor Karam Singh, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, UWA Institute of Agriculture (IOA); “Strategies to Provide Resistance to the Economically Important Fungal Pathogen, Rhizoctonia Solani” – $1,200,000 (2012-15)

GRAINS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Winthrop Professor Karam Singh, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, UWA Institute of Agriculture (IOA); “From Fire Stick Farming to the Friendly Frontier – Landscape Change at Albany WA” – $30,340 (2012-13)

INTERNATIONAL MINING FOR DEVELOPMENT CENTRE EX AUSAID
Professor John Miller, Earth and Environment (School of), Exploration Targeting CET (Centre for); “An Open Central-African Geodata Info System” – $48,000 (2012)

KALGOORLIE CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINES PTY LTD
Winthrop Professor Ian Jacobs, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care (School of); “The Ubique Study: Template and Recommendations: An Update” – $45,960 (2012)


Cancer Australia
Dr Jason Waithman, Cancer Research (International Centre for); “Studies of Cancer Genes in Human Nasopharynx” – $75,000 (2012-13)

CANCER AUSTRALIA
Dr Jason Waithman, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, “The Initiation of the Cellular Immune Response to Cutaneous Melanoma” – $90,000 (2012)

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Winthrop Professor Karam Singh, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, UWA Institute of Agriculture (IOA); “Strategies to Provide Resistance to the Economically Important Fungal Pathogen, Rhizoctonia Solani” – $1,200,000 (2012-15)

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Professor John Miller, Earth and Environment (School of), Exploration Targeting CET (Centre for); “An Open Central-African Geodata Info System” – $48,000 (2012)

KALGOORLIE CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINES PTY LTD
Winthrop Professor Ian Jacobs, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care (School of); “The Ubique Study: Template and Recommendations: An Update” – $45,960 (2012)

MARIE CURIE FELLOWSHIP
Winthrop Professor Karam Singh, Professor Grant Morahan, Emeritus Professor Craig Atkins, Medical Research (School of), Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Plant Biology (School of), UWA Institute of Agriculture (IOA); “Characterisation of Lupin B Conglutin Seed Proteins with a Focus on Health Benefits and their Role in Allergenicity” – $76,458 (2012)

MEDICAL AND HEALTH RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
Dr Matthew Kemp, Women’s and Infants’ Health (School of); “New Independent Researcher Infrastructure Support” – $10,000 (2012)

Assistance Professor Natalie Ward, Medicine and Pharmacology (School of); “New Independent Researcher Infrastructure Scheme” – $10,000 (2012)

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Associate Professor Rhonda Clifford, Sandra Salter, Associate Professor Richard Loh, Medicine and Pharmacology (School of), Child Health Research (UWA Centre for); “Pharmacists’ Response to Anaphylaxis in the Community: the PRAC Study” – $3,980 (2012)

PILBARA IRON PTY LTD
Dr Joseph Dortch, James Stedman, Social Sciences (School of); “Rio Tinto Rail Capacity Expansion (Central) Site Avoidance and Site Identification Work” – $115,810 (2012)

RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Dr Geoff Woodall, Natural Resource Management (Centre of Excellence in: “Developing a Small Native Vegetable Industry Based on Platysace Deflexa” – $50,000 (2012-14)

SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC ANAESTHESIA IN NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA
Dr Britta Regli-von Ungern, Dr Mary Hegarty, Medicine and Pharmacology (School of); “Culturally appropriate dental services for Indigenous children: Safer Anaesthesia for Children with Asthma – SAFIA Trial – Can Exhaled NO Levels Predict Children at Risk for Respiratory Complications – a Pilot Study” – $10,000 (2012)

THE APEX TRUST FOR AUTISM
Professor Murray Maybery, Associate Professor Andrew Whitehouse, Psychology (School of); “Language Impairment and Typical Development” – $1,500 (2012)

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
Winthrop Professor Paul Flatau, UWA Business School; “Understanding Decision Making in the Not For Profit Housing Sector – Longitudinal and Comparative Components” – $14,177 (2012-13)

WA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Dr Michael Wheatley, Learning Technology (Centre for); “The SPICE Program” – $4,302,404 (2012)

WA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Associate Professor Pamela Nicol, Paediatrics and Child Health (School of); “North Metropolitan Area Health Service – Early Dental Care and Culturally Appropriate Dental Services”
for Pre School Refugee Children’ — $16,744 (2012)

Professor Jeffrey Hamdorf, Assistant Professor Olivia Hill, Associate Professor Rosemary Saunders, Helene Metcalfe, Julie Williamson, Hannah Soloman, Surgery (School of), Population Health (School of); ‘Audit of the Trauma Nursing Core Course TNCC Implementation within the Western Australian Health Service’ — $37,914 (2012)

WATER CORPORATION WA
Associate Professor Anas Ghodouani, Environmental Systems Engineering (School of); ‘Biochemical Indicators of Biological Wastewater Treatment Efficiency’ — $20,750 (2012)

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ENERGY RESEARCH ALLIANCE WAERA EX WOODSIDE R2D3
Winthrop Professor Liang Cheng, Professor David White, Hongwei An, Scott Draper, Civil & Resource Engineering (School of), Offshore Foundations Systems (Centre for); ‘O‘Tube Services for Browse LNG Development — Phase 2 — Physical Model Testing’ — $615,600 (2012)

Winthrop Professor Liang Cheng, Professor David White, Hongwei An, Scott Draper, Civil & Resource Engineering (School of), Offshore Foundations Systems (Centre for); ‘Improvements to Large O Tube LOT Setup’ — $124,660 (2012)

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

TRACTOR: UWA has a tractor for sale. A member of staff wishes to purchase this vehicle. To ensure UWA remains impartial and complies with policy, this offer to purchase the vehicle is open to all who wish to bid. Asking price: $5,000. Ford Tractor Model 1120. 2 range hydrostatic transmission, 3 cylinder, 0.9L engine, 4WD. Front Loader. Approximately 1,500 hours run time. New tyres. New linkages for steering. Not licensed. If purchased, the buyer must arrange transport for the tractor to be moved. If you would like to place an offer, please contact James Morgan on 6488 2827 or james.morgan@uwa.edu.au.

APARTMENT: A charming, fully renovated and two-bedroom apartment in Mt Lawley (Guildford Road) for sale by the owner. Floorboards, dishwasher, a small balcony and breath-taking views of the CBD (fifth floor). Bus-stop in front of the building; ten minutes away from Beaufort Street; conveniently located shopping, and twenty minutes away from the University via the Graham Farmer freeway. The apartment is currently fully furnished ( excellent washer, dishwasher, dryer, fridge and freezer and Sony TV, a fully appointed kitchen and tasteful quality furniture in plain wood and earthy colours). The entire furniture package could be included in the price of the apartment, leaving absolutely nothing to do but move in. An excellent investment, hide-away or dwelling for students. Price $370K. Please contact daniela. kambaskovic-sawers@uwa.edu.au

TO LET

QUINDALUP: A charming, recently renovated, fully self-contained redbrick cottage only 400m from beautiful Geographe Bay and 2km from Dunsborough township. Located at the end of a private road, this cottage offers privacy and security, a lovely natural vista out over Toby Inlet Reserve, and is a great cottage for all seasons. Please go to www.quindalup.net.au for further information.

HOME EXCHANGE

HOME SWAP — THE NETHERLANDS: Modern home, fully furnished house available for exchange between October 2012 and January 2013. This 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom home was built in 2011, and is fully equipped with all comforts, internet, floor heating, induction cooking etc. There is a separate dining area, family, open-plan kitchen and sunny living area. We have an additional granny flat with kitchen and bathroom that sleeps two. Photos available. Large garden (will be managed). We live in the small town of Venhuizen, near the historic towns of Hoorn and Enkhuizen, and less than 60km from Amsterdam. Would love to exchange homes any time between October 2012–January 2013. Minimum three weeks, preferably within 20km from Crawley. Please contact our daughter marit. kragt@uwa.edu.au, or 08 6488 4653.

ACCOMMODATION

LONDON: Newly converted fully equipped London accommodation (can sleep four) with panoramic views and excellent transport to Central London. Available in nice area of Peckham from one week to three months, at very reasonable price from £400 and £600 during the Olympics. Cleaning fee of 10% and 50% deposit required at time of booking with £500 damage deposit and remainder of rental due before arrival. Contact: mel.morton@optusnet.com.au

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Need a photographer?

Prize nights, book launches, significant visitors and events: most staff want them captured by a photographer.

The University does not have an official photographer, but Public Affairs can provide advice and recommend a range of professional photographers.

Contact UWA Public Affairs for more information:
Kate on 6488 7302 or Jeantine on 6488 8000.
A year for centenary celebrations

By Sue Boyd
Chair of the Senate Centenary Planning Committee

A sundial created by Academy Award-winning graduate Shaun Tan; a weekend full of alumni celebrations; a spectacular light and sound show; and Faculty contributions to the community will all be part of our centenary celebrations in 2013.

While the Act of Parliament that established the University was passed in 1911, the University’s first students were accepted in 2013. Next year’s celebrations are an opportunity to celebrate our achievements and set the scene for a continuing world class contribution to the State, to Australia and the world.

We celebrate with pride the more than 100,000 graduates who have passed through our doors and been launched on their careers.

We celebrate the pioneering contributions made by research and teaching in agriculture, medicine, science, human movement, music, mathematics, indigenous studies, education, literature, history, anthropology, geology, mining engineering, marine science and a host of other fields.

And we renew our gratitude to our founder, Sir John Winthrop Hackett, whose far-sighted and generous bequests established the university, and to the thousands of philanthropic benefactors who have contributed over the century, to our splendid buildings, to Professorial chairs, to scholarships, to sporting facilities and in many other ways.

The celebrations kick off on Friday 8 February with the Centenary Alumni weekend. The weekend starts with a welcome party for some 1,500 alumni expected to come ‘home’ for the celebrations. They will be joined by the people of Perth, who will be invited on to the campus to celebrate LUMINOUSnight – a spectacular light and sound show on Winthrop Hall.

On Saturday we will launch the centenary plant, bred for the occasion by the Friends of the Grounds, and launch the Centenary History, from UWA Publishing. Following the LUMINOUSnight will be a day of ‘luminous ideas’, with special lectures and discussions. A Writers’ Corner running the entire weekend will include readings and discussions by the many well known authors who come from our university.

The centenary launch coincides with the opening of the 2013 Perth International Arts Festival – an ever more stimulating and successful festival which grew out of the University summer school and has a special relationship with UWA. World class festival events will be part of our celebrations. We’re also preparing a centenary gift set of original music that will showcase the cream of the University’s past and present musical talent. The Centenary Music project has been supported financially by a generous group of alumni music lovers.

The book of 100 Treasures from UWA, a perpetual diary featuring 100 of the University’s most interesting objects and features, has also been produced as a lasting memento.

The Faculties will each mount a celebratory project during the year in the regions of our State. To be known as UWA Gives Back, the projects will take the centenary message to the wider community and highlight our work in the regions. For example, in the Kimberley a project focusing on children, youth and communities will cover writing, media, art, music, design and digital media; and in the Pingelly, Brookton and Narrogin areas the UWA Future Farm will coordinate agricultural research projects involving teachers, parents and students from local schools. In the Murchison a space research project will involve hundreds of schoolchildren.

Our centenary is a time to look back and celebrate, as well as launch ourselves into the next 100 years of service.

Centenary Planning Committee Chair Sue Boyd and Executive Officer, Virginia Rowland with Cento, which they hope will find its way into photographs taken all over campus and internationally as a wandering ‘mascot’ – an idea unashamedly filched from Cambridge University’s 800 year celebrations, whose Octo was photographed in an amazing range of locations.