By Lindy Brophy

Possums in the south west are performing a high wire act every night.

But rather than being a death-defying feat, it is one that will save their lives.

The Western Ringtail Possum is a threatened species, as development – bringing roads, cars, people and cats – is contracting its habitat.

Animal biologist Roberta Bencini explained that roads were barriers to healthy genetic mixing. If a group of possums stayed in one spot, on one side of the road, they would become inbred, and their genetic diversity would become limited as they became isolated from other possums.

“This would result in animals that are not robust or able to cope with change, including environmental challenges such as global warming,” Associate Professor Bencini said.

She and her PhD scholar Kaori Yokochi have had an eight metre high possum bridge built over Caves Road, Busselton, in the heart of a Western Ringtail Possum hotspot.

The tree-dwelling marsupials don’t move well on the ground so they either don’t try to cross the road or get killed in the process.

The $10,000 steel wire and mesh bridge was sponsored by Main Roads WA and the Department of Parks and Wildlife (formerly Environment and Conservation).

“We know, from studies in the eastern states, that possums use rope bridges,” Kaori said. “What we don’t know is if the bridges aid the gene flow,” she said.

Over the past few years, Kaori and Professor Bencini have fitted radio-collars to 70 possums in an area near the bridge and microchips in 238 possums. The collars have allowed them to track the animals. Over 40 months, only three collared possums tried to cross Caves Road and two of them were killed.

The $10,000 steel wire and mesh bridge was sponsored by Main Roads WA and the Department of Parks and Wildlife (formerly Environment and Conservation).

“The microchips are read by sensors at both sides of the bridge, which was opened to possum traffic in July.

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Why did the possum cross the road? continued from page 1

“They started investigating it the first night,” Kaori said. “From the photos taken by motion sensor cameras, we know there are several possums using the bridge, staying over the other side of the road for a few hours or longer and coming back. And there have been no deaths on the road recorded.”

Professor Bencini said young male possums needed to find their own territories; others were looking for mates, food or just exploring.

Kaori will be catching possums and taking DNA samples to estimate how many young are sired by males from the other side of the road, and comparing numbers to see if breeding between separated groups has increased since the bridge was built.

“The outcome of this study will tell us if rope bridges truly prevent and reverse the negative impacts of roads on possums,” she said.

“This will give us a better understanding of the ways to minimise the impacts of road construction on our wildlife,” Professor Bencini said.

They will monitor the possum traffic on the bridge until at least the end of the year.

“The Western Ringtail Possum is an iconic species around Busselton and it is essential to ensure healthy populations of them can survive in the area,” Kaori said.

Our local and global neighbourhood

The Crawley campus has been a centre of political power this month with a visit by a deputy leader of the world’s third-biggest democracy, and the first formal State Cabinet meeting at a University.

The Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia, Professor Dr Boediono, delivered the Shann Memorial Lecture, one of the last events to mark the University’s centenary – and the 100th anniversary of the discipline of Economics.

Professor Dr Boediono is an Economics graduate from UWA and the Shann Lecture honours the founding Professor of Economics, Edward Shann.

The University bestowed an Honorary Doctorate on Professor Dr Boediono in 2011, cementing an important friendship with one of the world’s most powerful men, who has a great affection for our University.

At a State level, history was made when Premier Colin Barnett chaired the first formal meeting of State Cabinet at a WA university. Cabinet met in the Senate Room in Winthrop Hall.

The Premier and his Ministers also engaged with staff and students from across the University at a range of events to showcase research and how it benefits the community.

In their campus meeting, the State Cabinet decided to push ahead with local government reform, which includes the extension of the City of Perth’s boundary west to include all of UWA’s Crawley campus and a residential area between the University and QEII Hospital.

UWA currently straddles three local government administrative areas – Perth, Nedlands and Subiaco – with one boundary dissecting the campus at Winthrop Hall and another isolating the main Crawley campus from the University’s Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson said the boundaries added unnecessary time delays and expense to get simple things done including parking, waste management, public transport and planning.

“A move to bring the entire campus into the City of Perth will be enormously beneficial in UWA’s role as a key international focus point in Western Australia to take education and science to the rest of the world.”
If you think only humans are capable of despicable behaviour, you’re in for an unpleasant surprise. A new UWA researcher has discovered that birds are experts when it comes to being bad.

Birds kidnap the offspring of rival groups and young birds blackmail their parents into feeding them by deliberately putting themselves in danger, according to bird expert Associate Professor Amanda Ridley, a Future Fellow in the Centre for Evolutionary Biology. And these are only some of the cut-throat tactics birds use to ensure survival. Others include infanticide, eviction and divorce.

In world-first research, A/Professor Ridley spent a year camped out in the Kuruman River Reserve in the southern Kalahari Desert to establish a fully ringed bird population that could be studied long-term.

She lived deliberately quietly so that groups of pied babbler would accept her as part of their environment – and behave as if they were not being watched. Since then, she and her students have spent several months each year in the Kalahari conducting research.

The 70 to 95g birds became so accustomed to her that they even willingly hopped on a scale every day to be weighed.

“Pied babbler live in groups and cooperatively defend a territory year-round,” A/Professor Ridley said. “I study 21 different groups which range from three to 16 adults. Each group has one dominant male and female and these are the ones who breed. All the other adults help raise the young produced by the dominant pair.”

And bringing up babies in the desert is a full-time job. It involves feeding, sheltering from inclement weather, guarding and defending, and even scaring predators away by gangup on them.

A/Professor Ridley discovered that the babblers have specific calls to tell the young they are about to be fed – and even different cries according to whether there’s a hungry eagle or a mongoose nearby. The birds also teach their young to leave the nest by using the food call to encourage them.

Her intensive research – including a stint in the Middle East to observe Arabian babblers before her Kalahari project – helped to answer the question of why some animals live cooperatively despite great personal cost (including giving up their own chance to breed).

In the case of the babblers, the structure of the group, with a single dominant pair, means most individual adults never have the chance to be parents.

Now at UWA, A/Professor Ridley is continuing her research into both the pied and Arabian babblers and is setting up projects to look at our own Western magpie and Pilbara seabirds that may be affected by the mining industry.

Like the babblers, magpies are passerine (or perching) birds and also live in groups. Magpies are bigger, at up to 350g, and are known to live for around 20 years.

A New Zealander who did her undergraduate study at NZ’s Lincoln University, A/Professor Ridley won a scholarship to Cambridge University, where she did her PhD under the supervision of Professor Tim Clutton-Brock, whose world-famous research forms the basis of television’s Meerkat Manor documentaries.

For more information about A/Professor Ridley’s research, visit www.babbler-research.com
Thank you for a wonderful centenary year

For my last column in our University’s centenary year, I’d like to thank all of you for your hard work in 2013. Many of you put in extra hours to ensure that our celebratory events – and our bumper Open Day – were the highly successful events they were.

From the spectacular launch of our centenary with LUMINOUSnight – when the power of two million candles transformed Winthrop Hall into a panoramic spectacle of light and sound – to our wonderful UWA Gives Back visits to regional WA, this has been a magnificent year for our University.

Thanks to UWA Gives Back, I have travelled the length and breadth of this great State and now have a much better idea of people’s affection for the University, whether they live in Perth or in rural and remote areas.

Throughout this year, each Faculty organised its own UWA Gives Back event and I’ve been very fortunate to have been invited to participate in all of them.

Each has been enlightening. For example, our five-day Pilbara tour focused on UWA’s leading role in world-class research and expertise as a driver for business, industry and advanced tertiary education. It was heartening to see at first-hand ways in which UWA-generated teaching, research and community involvement has led to new and better ways to build WA’s economic and social fabric, especially in the Pilbara minerals and energy sectors.

On another tour, along with staff and students from across the University, I was pleased to visit high school students in the Kimberley to showcase the diversity of engineering and how it impacts our everyday lives. Our aim was to encourage high school students to consider tertiary studies and stimulate local debate on important regional issues.

In Kalgoorlie, we visited the Rural Clinical School and learnt how our medical students see and do more in their time in a rural setting than their counterparts in a metropolitan setting – and it is becoming the case that many such students end up choosing to make their career in rural and regional Western Australia because of the taste they get for it through their Rural Clinical School training.

In Albany, it was our Student Guild – also celebrating their centenary this year – who organised the Gives Back program. We are excited about Guild Volunteering’s plans to be part of the ANZAC commemorations in Albany next year – particularly as several UWA students from the University’s 1913 intake lost their lives in the Great War.

The overwhelming message of UWA Gives Back was to share our belief in the transformative power of education and the creation of opportunity – especially for students from regional parts of the State – to have access to this education. Through Aspire UWA, scholarships and camps such as those organised by the School of Indigenous Studies, we create aspiration to succeed at tertiary level.

This has been an amazing year for our University. I look forward to working with you all to ensure that we continue the momentum.

And I wish you all a safe and happy festive season.

Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor

Research funding confirms our reputation

The University has had enormous success with its funding applications for next year.

More than 75 per cent of new Federal funding for WA research will come to UWA. Of the total $40 million allocated to our State, $31 million has been awarded to UWA.

Money from the National Health and Medical Research Council will fund some big studies in infants’ and children’s health.

Just under $2.5 million will help to establish an NHMRC Centre of Excellence, bringing together a dozen UWA academics and their teams from related disciplines to improve the immediate and longer term health outcomes of pre-term infants.

A further $1.6 million NHMRC project grant will extend research in pre-term births.

The UWA Centre for Child Health Research will collaborate with the University of Canberra to try to reduce gastroenteritis in Indigenous children, with funding of $1.2 million.

Obesity, stroke, cystic fibrosis, schizophrenia and prostate cancer research have all attracted major funding for new and ongoing projects.

The NHMRC has also awarded 10 early career fellowships to young UWA academics.

The mining industry will benefit from nearly half a million dollars for the WA Energy Research Alliance. Six projects on gas pipelines will be run by the researchers in the School of Civil and Resource Engineering and the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems.

Other UWA projects to secure Australian Research Council funding include: developing fast, accurate, reliable and low-cost ways to ensure recycled water quality; investigating orbits and interactions of satellite galaxies; examining coastal reef wave dynamics; and studying the health benefits of volunteering by seniors.
A short film projected onto a silo in Geraldton ended the UWA Gives Back Centenary program, with echoes of the spectacular launch of the year with LUMINOShall.

LUMINOUS Dreams was the culmination of a community project with the City of Geraldton and local schools by the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts.

The project looked at the role of urban design in the regeneration and identity of the mid-west port city as it undergoes significant growth.

Thousands of locals gathered on the recently-developed foreshore park to watch the film, while listening to the soundtrack on local FM radio.

Students from five local private and public high schools provided a range of images for the film, described as fictional narrative in the speculative fiction genre, which was chosen for its appeal to young people.

Assistant Professor Anthony Duckworth-Smith from UWA’s Australian Urban Design Research Centre co-ordinated and curated the project, with the enthusiastic support of the City of Greater Geraldton.

UWA graduate and author Annabel Smith created the film’s narrative and alumni Sohan Ariel Hayes and Cat Hope worked on vision and sound with mid-west artists Anthea DeSilva and Rose Holdaway co-ordinating input from the schools.

Mid-west dreaming

Music of Africa alive at UWA

Songs that children sang in South Africa in the 1950s and 1960s have come alive more than half a century later in a new exhibition.

Music Dance Landscape Image is in the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery until 14 December.

It is based on the John Blacking Collection from the Callaway Centre archive and is a lively mix of photos, film, audio recordings, diary entries, notes and drawings.

They belonged to and were made by the musician, scholar and traveller Professor Blacking – who was a personal friend of UWA’s Foundation Professor of Music, Sir Frank Callaway.

Professor Blacking, who was educated at King’s College, Cambridge, carried out extensive fieldwork with Indigenous Venda musicians in Transvaal in South Africa. He also journeyed to other parts of the continent, including Mozambique, Zambia and Uganda, to document musical events.

He was expelled from South Africa in 1969 because of his anti-apartheid views and joined Queen’s University in Belfast where he developed an ethno-music program.

He was particularly interested in the songs and dances of the Venda children and in how their musical instruments were made of local woods and skins. In a diary entry about recording some songs, he remarked that “bird song added to the charm”.

Many of the children’s songs are about places, trees, birds and animals that were part of their everyday lives – and today are a record of their geophysical and biological communities.

The exhibition was curated by Dr Jennifer Post, Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the Callaway Centre.

“As we share these records with the southern and eastern African communities that shared their practices with Blacking in the first place, there will be new cultural, social and ecological benefits for each group, as well as opportunities for new dialogues on music, dance, social practice and the environment,” Dr Post writes in the exhibition catalogue.
In most classrooms, mobile phones are banned. But in Becky Steven’s and Jessica Cobley’s English language classes, they are helping the students to speak fluently.

Ms Steven and Miss Cobley recently won an English Australia/Cambridge English award for their “ground-breaking use of technology” in an action research project.

At UWA’s Centre for English Language Teaching (CELT), their students come from Colombia, France, Iraq, Japan and many more countries. The teachers are always trying out new ideas to help their students get a better grasp of English before most of them enrol at UWA.

“As teachers, we are doing ‘action research’ every day in the classroom, to work out problems,” Ms Steven said.

“But this project was a little different. English Australia provided us an opportunity for professional development and Cambridge English offered a prize for the best project,” she said.

The pair chose to research oral fluency and the best way to develop it. They found some web-based tools and applications on their smart phones which they knew their students would enjoy using.

“One of the Apps that Jessica found was a word counter, another was an Ah Counter. The students loved counting each other’s fillers (ah, um, er) and interjections (y’know, like, basically) in class.”

Ms Steven said the pair believed that fluency should come before accuracy when teaching English.

“Some people think you need to get all the words and phrasing correct before trying to have conversations and speeding up your speech,” she said. “But we think they need to keep talking and develop confidence, before concentrating on accuracy.” This is where the word counter helped, comparing the students’ words per minute from the beginning of the semester with the count at the end of semester.

They also used an online accent archive so the students could listen to different ways to speak English: quickly, slowly, with or without fillers and interjections.

“From this, students learned that even native English speakers have flaws!”

Ms Steven said most English language course books did not structure activities to develop fluency. “Most teachers believe it will just happen naturally with practice,” she said. “But our work has shown great results, with the students attaining fluency much more quickly without developing bad speaking habits.”

The teachers enjoyed the opportunity of attending three research training sessions with other English language teachers from around Australia and the chance to run their ideas by others working in the same field.

Their action research will be published in the University of Cambridge Research Notes next May. The pair will present their research at a preconference workshop of the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language in Harrogate, UK next year.

Miss Cobley and Ms Steven received a trophy and a cheque for $1,500 and the Director of CELT, Bianca Panizza, arranged a presentation in front of their colleagues.

“Jessica was a technophile, and Becky was a technophobe. When the ‘phile’ and the ‘phobe’ came together, something wonderful happened,” Ms Panizza said.

“We were honoured that Bianca enabled us to share this with our colleagues,” Ms Steven said. “And we’re grateful for the support CELT gave us to work on this project.”
When PhD scholar Kelsey Kennedy came to UWA on exchange from the US in 2008, both she and the University became winners.

Kelsey met her boyfriend and found what she describes as a fantastic lab: the Optical + Biomedical Engineering Laboratory in the School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering.

UWA gained an enthusiastic and successful graduate student who has taken the name of UWA around the world, presenting her – and the University’s – research in a winning way.

Kelsey recently won the national finals of the Three Minute Thesis competition, bringing the title and the finals back to UWA. She is currently in London competing in the grand finals of a similar global competition, Present Around the World (PATW).

PATW is run by the Institution of Engineering and Technology. Kelsey won her way into the grand finals of a similar global competition, Present Around the World (PATW).

Kelsey’s supervisors are Winthrop Professor David Sampson, Associate Professor Robert McLaughlin and Assistant Professor Brendan Kennedy (no relation).

“They all helped me with my presentations,” Kelsey said. “I also had some great help from Winthrop Professor Jane Davidson in the School of Music, who taught me things I’d never thought of, such as how to make my hand gestures more thoughtful and how to perfect eye contact with the audience, which is really hard to do.

“Timing is the hardest thing: the Three Minute Thesis competition took that to the extreme. But I’ve always felt confident speaking in public even though I’ve had no formal training.”

She said the real winner was her topic.

“It’s so engaging, and everybody knows somebody who has had breast cancer,” Kelsey said. “You just have to be careful not to promise too much, to keep your presentation in the research context.”

She hopes to complete her PhD next year.

Our 99th Rhodes Scholar in 100 years hopes to combine her science background, her volunteer experience and her language proficiency to improve the health of the global community.

Freya Shearer (24), Rhodes Scholar for 2014, has a Bachelor of Science with Honours, a Diploma in Modern Languages and a long history of community work including coordinating weekly soccer matches for volunteers and detainees at the Perth Immigration Centre.

She is the perfect fit for the two Masters degrees she will take on at Oxford University next year, in Global Health Science and Research in Public Health.

“The double Master’s degree at Oxford will fulfill my scholarly aspirations while providing the best possible platform to pursue research and professional practice in the field of public health,” Freya said.

She spent this year working in the Emergency Department of St John of God Hospital at Murdoch and on community service projects.

Freya is also a 100m hurdler and says her work with refugees “strengthened my belief that sport transcends cultural and linguistic barriers and helps refugees meet people from the wider community.”

Researcher makes her presence felt

The University of Western Australia
Helping bright Indigenous children to shine

A simple visual memory test – used to help Pitjantjatjara children 30 years ago – is part of a new project to identify gifted Indigenous children.

Peter Merrotsy, Professor of Mathematics Education, is leading the joint project between UWA and Shenton College with $25,000 funding from BHP.

The collaboration is a natural progression of the ongoing Learning Links project with Shenton College.

"By definition, the top 10 per cent of students are gifted," Professor Merrotsy said. "But typically, when you test a group of children, the Aboriginal children won’t feature in that top 10 per cent.

“There are lots of reasons children underachieve and you see it a lot in lower socio-economic communities, migrant and refugee communities. It’s usually about kids wanting to hide their abilities to be accepted by the peer group.”

Professor Merrotsy said he did not want Indigenous children identified by the program to feel they were being singled out and set apart from their peers.

“We want them to be happy while they achieve what they want. And that doesn’t mean they are necessarily destined to be one of Australia’s future leaders. They might want to be a doctor or become a diesel mechanic. This program is about broadening their choices.”

He is working on a community-based program that will be run in three Pilbara communities.

“We will focus on helping the teachers to provide for gifted children. We also need to invent a culture. We need successful adults from similar backgrounds as models – not just footballers.

“It will be a very carefully-run program of building skills in literacy, numeracy and technology.”

Professor Merrotsy has done a lot of research in Australia and overseas on breaking down the barriers that children put up.

“The latest and very successful method of identifying gifted children has five pillars: I will be looking at fine motor skill development; their rate of reading; and their intellectual ability, through their creativity.

“I will apply a long-forgotten trick: a visual memory test which was employed very successfully with Pitjantjatjara children 30 years ago. It’s a simple test to see how much children remember of something you have shown them, and it’s very effective in helping to identify bright kids. It always gets the right proportion of children showing up at the top.

“The fifth part is a computer-based test of cognitive ability. It can be done by children who have never even seen a computer and they don’t need to speak English. They can take a laptop outside under a tree and complete this test.”

The project will set up a relationship between the Pilbara schools and Shenton College. “We are not necessarily looking at bringing the Indigenous children here but we aim to give them the opportunity to come to Perth for leadership, social and cultural development while living in their own communities.

“We will also take Shenton students up to the Pilbara to enrich their cultural development.”

A lift for long-term link

A hugely successful partnership between UWA and Shenton College has been recognised with a $30,000 grant to continue the 15-year-old Learning Links program.

NAB Schools First Fellowship rewards outstanding school-community partnerships that deliver improved educational outcomes.

Learning Links delivers even more: as well as enriching, encouraging and supporting the school students, the program provides UWA academics with participants, data and material for research projects; professional development for the high school teachers.
teachers; work experience at UWA for the students; and practicum placements at Shenton College for education students.

The collaboration began in 1999 with Hollywood Senior High School and continued when the school was transformed into Shenton College in 2001.

It brings together students, teachers and academics in almost every discipline from sport to language, from music to science, from art to agriculture.

Over the past couple of years it has resulted in gold medals for the College in local rowing and international science competitions.

Last year, a recruitment program by the UWA Rowing Club saw 25 Shenton students take up a new sport and train over the summer holidays. More than 60 students took part in this year’s Head of the River All Schools event, winning a gold, seven silver and four bronze medals.

The flagship science program in Learning Links is the Beijing Youth Science Creation Competition. Bright science students are chosen to be paired with and mentored by UWA science researchers and they work together on projects which the students present in Beijing.

In 2012, three Shenton students won gold medals. The same three students were all finalists in another international science quest, the BioGENEius competition. Their research work with Dr Natasha Teakle (Agriculture), A/Professor Julian Swaine (Surgery), and Winthrop Professor Karam Singh (Agriculture) was published in respected journals.

This year, UWA scientists again mentored Shenton students. No gold medals this year, but the students received an exceptional start to a career in science.

A combined science and mathematics project had students working with leading researchers on muscular dystrophy gene research, software programming to investigate free body movement in space, asthma research and gene identification in lupins.

Humanities students are also supported in the Learning Links program. This year, A/Professor Ethan Blue and Dr Sophie Sunderland from the Arts Faculty and Antony Gray from StudySmarter (Student Services) ran a critical thinking seminar before the start of the school year.

More than 60 year 11 and 12 students learned to question their reading and thinking processes, to ‘overload’ with stronger, faster, better research and to interrogate the views presented in different texts, setting themselves up for a more productive and successful year at school.

Dance and drama programs, swimming and sailing training and WACE revision seminars have all been part of Learning Links over the past few years.

The Schools First Fellowships are sponsored by NAB (National Australia Bank), the Foundation for Young Australians (an independent organisation committed to improving learning outcomes and life chances for young people) and ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research).

Established in 1930, ACER is a private, not-for-profit company with a long history and solid reputation as a provider of reliable support to education policy makers and professional practitioners.

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A hundred years ago, nobody would have designed a building made of glass. Now skyscrapers all over the world boast glass walls. People now trust glass to be strong and durable. So why, when rammed earth buildings have stood the test of time for centuries, is this building material still not trusted and used by most architects, engineers and builders?

Daniela Ciancio and Chris Beckett, in the School of Civil and Resource Engineering, are hoping to turn the tide for rammed earth at their international conference in just over 12 months’ time. They believe it will be the first science-based rammed earth conference in the world.

“There have always been lots of workshops to teach earthen construction techniques,” said Dr Beckett. “But they have not included the science behind them.”

The International Conference on Rammed Earth Construction (ICREC 2015) will be held at UWA and Margaret River in February 2015.

“Rammed earth is a sustainable, environmentally friendly yet robust material that has a significant potential to replace or complement current high energy construction materials such as fired bricks and concrete,” Dr Beckett said.

“The thickness of rammed earth walls (a by-product of the construction technique, not, as some people believe, due to a weakness in the material) also boasts significantly lower running costs for heating and cooling than buildings made of other materials.”

Dr Ciancio said many people had the wrong idea about rammed earth. “They think it will get washed away in the rain,” she said.

“We want to bring scientists and practitioners together at the conference to share problems and solutions. “One of the big problems is standards. There are no building standards for rammed earth so local councils are scared to approve of rammed earth constructions. We are addressing this in our current ARC linkage grant and are about to apply for an Australian Standard.

“There is also a ‘star rating process’ which is a rating from the Building Code of Australia (BCA). You need six stars out of ten – earned with the assessment of a building’s energy consumption – to be allowed to build a house.

“Against all evidence, according to the BCA, rammed earth is not energy efficient!”

Dr Ciancio said she and Dr Beckett were hoping for another ARC linkage grant to work on this anomaly and, meanwhile, it would be discussed at the conference.

Dr Beckett’s background is in unsaturated soil mechanics. “I have applied that knowledge to rammed earth and we want to pass that on to the industry. People have been applying concrete principles to rammed earth without understanding the mechanics of it. With that understanding will come improved confidence,” he said.

Dr Ciancio’s expertise in structures, paired with Dr Beckett’s in geotechnics is what makes their research unique and valuable.

A two-day workshop in Perth, for practitioners, will be followed by a two-day conference in Margaret River, for academics, to disseminate rammed earth research.

Speakers from Australia and the UK will join others from China and California, who will look at how rammed earth performs in these very different regions.

“Construction and energy use are topics of concern for many areas so we hope to have a good cross-disciplinary representation at the conference,” Dr Beckett said.

The submission of abstracts is now open and will close on 10 February 2014. For more information, to register or to submit an abstract, go to www.ecm.uea.edu.au/icrec2015
The platypus, which is semi-aquatic, and the echidna are the world's only living monotreme mammals. This means they lay eggs. They are mostly solitary, although they suckle their young, once they've hatched, for months. But unlike egg-laying reptiles, the platypus and the echidna are endothermic with a high metabolic rate. "Echidnas' body temperatures can vary from between less than 20 to about 34°C – humans, in comparison, have a constant body temperature of about 37°C.

"Using our sensor systems, we'll develop a detailed picture of their thermal ecology and movements," Professor Withers said. Professor Withers said that echidnas ate thousands of ants or termites each day. It is well known that echidnas hibernate, for up to three months, in Tasmania's snowy mountains – but it isn't clear what they do in Western Australia where it is not so cold in winter.

During the hot summer in WA, they forage for ants and termites in the coolest times of the day. At the moment, it is thought that echidnas don't sweat and they don't pant – but somehow can manage to keep their body temperature below environmental temperatures.

"We're interested in the extent to which echidnas regulate their internal body temperature by a combination of physiology and behaviour, compared to how reptiles rely on external heat to thermoregulate. This will enable us to understand how early mammals have made the transition from being ectotherms to endotherms," Professor Withers said.

While the new sensors will enable these biologists to predict the effects of agriculture, land degradation and a changing climate on echidnas, Professor Withers and his team hope to develop sensors suitable for a wide range of animals and to implement analysis software to quickly and easily interpret the large amounts of data collected by these sophisticated data logging systems.
Terry Young, Andrew Jefferies and Rebecca Joel have notched up 130 years of service to UWA. To round off our Centenary year, when history has been in focus, they talk to UWA news about life and work at the University before computers, when most employees’ desks had simply …

An in tray, an out tray and an ash tray

Terry Young’s first pay packet 47 years ago was in pounds, shillings and pence. His second was in dollars and cents.

“I started work on January 29 1966, just two weeks before Australia changed to decimal currency,” Terry said. “I can’t remember what my pay was in the old money, but the first one in dollars was just $13!”

Terry was 15 and had just spent a summer confined to bed with what would probably today be called rheumatic fever. “My legs were paralysed but, when my Mum went to work, I used to get up and ‘walk’ around, using two brooms as crutches. I remember climbing the jacaranda tree using just my arms. I was determined this illness wasn’t going to stop me.”

The determined boy won an electrical apprenticeship at UWA and has been here ever since.

“Electrical work now includes a lot of electronics of course, but, basically, the electrical trade is still the electrical trade and you need the same skills as you always did,” he said.

Terry (63) remembers when all the executives had bar fridges in their offices. “I was doing some work in the Vice-Chancellor’s office once and it was a really hot day, and the VC, Sir Stanley Prescott, invited me into his office and gave me a Coke.

“That was when (former Vice-Chancellor) Alan Robson was a PhD student here, and one of my jobs was to keep a lot of his equipment going.”

Terry recalls changing a light globe in the anatomy building while students were dissecting a cadaver. “I was standing on the gurney and they were working away right next to me. I still remember the smell!”

Terry became mechanical supervisor for a few years in the late 1990s, but difficult personal circumstances resulted in a breakdown and four months off work, then he returned to his electrical trade.

“Life deals you different things, all for a reason,” he said.

He doesn’t use a computer much at work but uses an online booking system at home for the stretched limousine he drives on weekends. Terry has never been overseas but has driven around much of Australia, with a caravan and a faithful dog.

“I’ve started to think about retirement, but I’m not sure when,” he said. “I’d like to discover some more of Australia by road.”

Rebecca Joel has been at UWA since the days when married women were not expected to want to work.

“There was no rule about not being allowed to work,” she said. “They just didn’t expect young women to return to work after their wedding. So they paid you a ‘marriage allowance’ which was your accumulated long service leave.

“I think they were a bit surprised when I accepted the allowance, then turned up for work again after my honeymoon! I was married at 19 and they didn’t pay that allowance to me until I was 21.”

Rebecca started work in 1972 in the old University Bookshop (in the building now known as Admin East) as a 16-year-old.

“I worked in accounts and used to lug big bags of cash to the bank at the end of each day. Luckily the bank (and a Post Office) were both housed in the same building as the bookshop,” she said.
She used a ledger machine which she describes as a typewriter and adding machine in one. The telephone exchange at UWA (and everywhere) still used the plug and board system. Female staff were expected to make tea (in a pot) and coffee (instant) for male staff.

“My first adding machine was about a metre square. And it gave me an electric shock. Nobody called an ambulance, but they did call the electrician (not Terry Young) and when he arrived, he asked: ‘Where’s the operator? In hospital or dead?’ I was back at my desk with burn cream on my burnt hand trying to complete my work. These days there would be an inquiry, but back then I didn’t even go to hospital.”

Rebecca now works in Safety Health and Wellbeing, and thinks that perhaps her interest in this field began that day, “But I grew up with it too, with Mum being a nurse and always interested in her work.” Rebecca was featured in UWAnews in 2008, after using her newly-acquired first aid skills to save the life of a young neighbour found floating in his backyard pool.

“I think the most interesting job I’ve had at UWA was in the library but I have loved all of my 41 years here,” she said.

She took long service leave when the first of her two children was born and even less leave with the second. When her husband got a job in Kununurra, she decided to stay in Perth. “It was only for six months and we needed the money, but my husband often says I’m more attached to UWA than I am to him!”

Andrew Jefferies is 81. He doesn’t quite know why people retire. “I enjoy my job, I have good health, why would I want to stop work?” asked the senior accounting officer in Financial Planning.

He works four days a week and will probably reduce that to three days a week next year. “It takes me a bit longer to get all the other things done at home now,” he said. Home is a 1,200 square metre block in Mount Lawley with a big house and extensive garden, from which he brings flowers and vegetables to his colleagues.

After 21 years at pharmaceutical company Fauldings, Andrew joined UWA in 1971 as budget officer in the Bursar’s Office. Since then, the budget for the University has increased by 1,500 per cent.

“The total budget for the whole university for next year is close to a billion dollars,” he said. “But, apart from using computers to do the work, the work itself hasn’t really changed. You still have to add up, you still pay accounts and issue receipts for money coming in.”

Andrew has filed paper copies of the University’s financial statements from the mid-1940s to the present day in a safe. CDs and thumb drives will go the same way, so paper is best for retaining corporate knowledge.”

He says that after 42 years he is not thinking about retirement yet. “You want to be very careful of retirement. So many men retire, then die within six months!”

Academic John Melville-Jones (56 years) and carpenter Kevin Bradley (50 years) are the two longest-serving employees at UWA. Their stories have been told in UWAnews over recent years.

And 53 years ago, Lyall Munslow-Davies (now senior physicist in Safety Health and Wellbeing) first became associated with UWA when he was one of the State’s first radiation safety officers in the Medical Department. In 1975, he became the University’s radiation safety officer but worked out of Radiation Health at QEII Medical Centre and had his salary paid by the Health Department. It wasn’t until 1993 that he actually became a UWA employee.
A Young Australian of the Year and successful lawyers, doctors, teachers and social workers are living proof of the success of UniSkills.

The award-winning program helps first year undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds to make the transition to university life and continues to support them. And it has been going for 25 years.

UniSkills students include those from rural or remote areas; international students; students who are the first in their family to go to university; mature age students; students who have recently immigrated or speak English as a second language; students who travel long distances to university; students with medical conditions or disabilities which impact on their study; and students with family commitments. The program also supports students entering through alternative pathways such as UWaY and Special Consideration, Broadway, Aspire and Fairway.

Sarah Evamy, UniSkills co-ordinator, said the program was launched in 1987 with the aim of assisting these students to succeed and remain at university.

“We had 30 students in 1987; this year, more than 570 students.

“Since its beginnings, about 6,700 students have benefitted from the comprehensive year-long program which provides academic, social and personal support,” she said. “Thousands of other students have benefitted indirectly from the developing range and depth of partner programs to UniSkills within Student Services.

“The success of the program has been judged by the higher retention rate of UniSkills students progressing from first to second year. Another measure of its success is that many UniSkills participants go on to become leaders in the program.”

UniSkills has been recognised at University and national level (winning an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Award in 2008), with other Australian universities adopting similar programs.

Akram Azimi, current Young Australian of the Year is one of many success stories from UniSkills.

“I am deeply indebted to the Flying Start Program. Not only was it a great way to learn about the university’s services but it doubled as a ‘welcoming party,’” he said.

“For a kid from a low-socio-economic non-English speaking background, this was exactly what I needed: a bold statement by the University that I belonged on campus. Looking back now, the friends that I made from this program gave me the confidence to fully immerse myself in the life of the campus – perhaps this is why I have been a full-time undergraduate for nearly eight years!”

Tongowona Brian Mutete has a Bachelor of Arts and has just completed a Master of Social Work at UWA.

“Having been educated in a third world country (Zimbabwe), the prospect of going to university was daunting. As a first year student in 2009, I decided to get myself as much help as I could so I enrolled for Flying Start, an orientation program run by UniSkills, and that
proved to be the wisest decision I have made,” Brian said.

“From my second year as a student I was given the opportunity to give back to the first year students and I became a UniSkills Leader.

“I have never forgotten how Sarah Evamy and the UniSkills team always kept their doors open for me to drop in.”

Courtney Taylor is studying graduate Medicine at Notre Dame. “I came from a country school to the big city and UniSkills was the platform from which my comfort, connection and confidence on campus was able to leap. The events and free study group sessions were both great fun and great support throughout the year and even now I pass on things I learnt from my study group leaders,” he said.

Gavin Knott found starting University knowing only a handful of people at UWA a daunting prospect. “So I signed up for UniSkills and it was the best decision I could have made!” said Gavin, who is now studying for his PhD in Biochemistry at UWA.

“Throughout my undergraduate years, I worked as a UniSkills volunteer where I got to provide the next generation of UWA students with the same brilliant experience. Through volunteering I gained the opportunity to tutor and mentor where I discovered my enthusiasm for teaching, something I incorporate into my work even now. I believe a lot of my success and passion for university can be attributed to the positive influence of UniSkills.”

Jesse Li graduated in Medicine and is now studying to be a surgeon. He has also studied at Harvard Business School.

But Jesse felt lonely when he arrived on campus from a northern suburbs public school. “UniSkills really helped me out. As well as showing me the ropes to university life, I made a whole heap of new friends, some of which I still keep in touch with now. I even made a few romantic connections through UniSkills! I gave back to the UniSkills program by becoming a leader of the Transition Support Program as well as a Study Group Leader. This was incredibly rewarding because I able to watch the younger students develop and grow,” he said. “My student days were truly the best days of my life.”

Rebecca Halse came to UWA from the country.

“In this strange new environment, 420 kilometres away from my hometown of Denmark, UniSkills became my guide: at once my mentor and academic tutor, career counsellor and social secretary, support network and friend,” she said.

“Later, conducting help classes and study tutorials, and taking part in the UniSkills Flying Start program for new undergraduates helped to foster my love of teaching and confirm my choice of future career.”

Rebecca now teaches at Shenton College. “I aim to provide my students with the same experience afforded to me by UniSkills: to think critically, to challenge opinions, to be creative, and to ask society’s big questions in a safe environment where there is someone there to catch you if you fall.”

Van Truong has a double degree in Law and Commerce and a position at PwC as a senior tax consultant.

“Tongowona Brian Mutete

I came to UWA from an under-represented school and the UniSkills program provided me with the best support that I could have hoped for. Their social events offered me opportunities to meet other students and the study groups allowed me to get additional support in my academic studies and were a great way to discuss and work through problems with other students studying the same units,” she said “Just knowing that I could go to someone at UniSkills, even if it was just for a chat, made all the difference in my first year.”

The University of Western Australia
UWA graduate Ron Davidson remembers his colleague Brian Horan, a brilliant and idiosyncratic early computer programmer whose life was cut short by a tragic car accident in the 1960s.

During UWA’s 100 year history few students have enrolled with so varied a provenance as my friend Brian Horan.

But once he was on campus his mind focused then flared so brilliantly that anything seemed possible. Those hopes were snuffed out by a tragic car crash.

Brian Horan was the son of Clayton, a steam loco driver on the Midland line, and Pauline, the maker of the wonderful pies sold at railway refreshment rooms in the 1920s. He had been in the army as WWII ended, been a tram ticket collector, a tram driver, and a bus driver on suburban routes. He stacked timber, ran a shop which fitted Venetian blinds, was an amateur actor, wrote television scripts for the satirical Mavis Bramston Show; and lots more. Brian carried a secret which made life difficult for this gentle father of two – and for his young wife Kate. He was a genius, trapped in a tram driver’s uniform.

The Horan legend has it that in 1957, when Brian was 33, a ‘breakdown’ took him to a psychiatric hospital where someone had the clever idea of giving him an IQ test. The test was too easy: the call went out for more difficult tests. Even the fiendishly difficult Vygotski Blocks test was a breeze and he quickly completed the Raven’s Progressive Matrices which was designed never to be finished. Horan’s life had changed. The secret was out.

Brian Horan arrived at UWA in January 1958, a gangling figure who was much older and cleverer than the surrounding undergraduate population. He graduated with first class honours in psychology and in 1962 he started his PhD on extensions to psychological scaling methods. At the same time UWA bought its first computer, a small IBM accounting machine with a card output. Horan tinkered. Soon you could type ‘Get one apple’ and the computer would come back with ‘No core available’. Horan humour.

Meanwhile Ron Taft, the Psychology Department’s controller of post-graduate students, had the difficult task of getting Horan to submit his quarterly PhD reports. Threats were made: an absolute deadline given. The final night I found Horan typing his report on a primitive Remington which pierced the paper with each of his heavy-handed stops and zeros. Next morning he delivered his report to the long-suffering Dr Taft. The report tackled a coterie of the big names in psychological scaling. Scaling had in the 1950s extended from one to many dimensions. But this could only be done for one person at a time. Horan’s quarterly report showed he had found a way to do multi-dimensional scaling for several people at once, finding a fundamental structure for the group, then deriving individual dimensional structures from that. It was an extraordinary achievement for someone who was still a student.

But Horan was becoming more interested in programming than in his ground-breaking findings in psychological measurement. His supervisor John Ross often had trouble finding him to talk about what he had just done. He dubbed Horan the Phantom. The name stuck.

Fortuitously UWA made a bold move in choosing its next computer. Instead of getting a newer and bigger IBM machine the university went for a research computer, the PDP-6, from a little-known company in Boston. When it arrived in 1965 UWA was the first organisation anywhere to have a multi-access time-sharing computer. A light-pen and a high-precision display fostered interaction. The PDP-6 and Horan was a match made in heaven. He spent whole nights in the computing centre working on programs. Computers then had very limited memory and ran at relatively slower speeds. Horan was particularly clever at developing code that got around these constraints and allowed him to write programs which could not have worked
otherwise. The director of the computing centre, Dennis Moore, questioned this search for the extra microsecond. Horan rebuffed him. ‘You are a poor programmer saved by my intelligence,’ he told Moore. Moore offered him a job – as programmer on a project sponsored by British Petroleum to examine management of their refinery.

Brian Horan’s fame as the programmer of the new breed of computers was spreading. He programmed the Totalisator Agency Board’s (TAB) vast betting network; he also brought considerable expertise as a punter to this task. US scholars arrived with apparently intractable data for Horan to work his magic code, usually after midnight. The Psychology Department benefited with a collection of Horan programs used by staff and students and unlike programs anywhere else. His programs remained idiosyncratic. Sometimes you had to enter an arbitrary bit of information – like the university phone number or the Dewey reference for Jane Austen’s novels – to make them work.

Come 1967… Brian told me that for the first time he felt secure; and not just financially. He was almost happy. He was taking his 12-year-old son Terence to see big computers at work at the Carnarvon space tracking station. His car rolled outside Northampton. Horan was killed instantly; Terence was injured but recovered. (Terence and his sister Leda now work with computers.) Horan’s paper on extending multi-dimensional scaling, based on the original thesis report, appeared in Psychometrika in June 1969 with a footnote stating Horan had been killed in a car crash and that John Ross had revised the paper. Horan’s ideas live on. At last count there had been 143 citations of the paper – which is a lot for a Psychometrika paper.

I shall not look on his like again.

Note: Ron Davidson was born into a Perth newspaper family. He graduated in psychology at UWA and won the British Psychological Society prize for his thesis. He worked as an international journalist before returning to teach psychology at UWA for 25 years. Here he became friendly with Brian Horan. Ron now writes. He has written six books, including Fremantle Impressions, mostly with Fremantle Press, been short listed twice for the Premier’s Book Prize and he has won several awards.

UWA staff and students shine in WA Science Awards

Winthrop Professor Stephen Powles and Winthrop Professor Mark Randolph have been selected as finalists in the Scientist of the Year category.

Known in agricultural circles as ‘the undeniable global leader in herbicide resistance’, Professor Powles is Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative and has influenced Australian and international thinking on the need for more sustainable herbicide usage.

Internationally recognised geotechnical engineer Professor Randolph has helped put Perth on the map as an internationally recognised hub of excellence in geotechnical engineering.

The Woodside Early Career Scientist of the Year finalists include Assistant Professor Hayley Christian (Centre for the Built Environment and TICHR), and A/Professor Shazzad Hossain, ARC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems.

Professor Christian’s work focuses on developing, evaluating and translating strategies for increasing physical activity and wellbeing in adults and children.

A geotechnical engineer pioneering a new field of mine tailings rehabilitation research, Professor Hossain’s work is likely to be incorporated into the WA guidelines on safe design and operating standards for tailings storage.

UWA PhD scholars Tristan Clemons and Matthew Fraser are finalists in the ExxonMobil Student Scientist of the Year category.

Winthrop Professor David Pannell and Professor Myra Keep are finalists in the category of Science Ambassador of the Year. And the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology is a finalist in the category of Chevron Science Engagement Initiative of the Year.
A hand-picked group of students is getting a hand-up into the world of research and international collaboration while still undergraduates.

Nine students recently attended the Australasian Conference for Undergraduate Research (ACUR) in Sydney and met their ‘global classmates’ from Otago University for the first time.

They had been collaborating with them online as they researched teaching and learning issues during the first semester.

The Undergraduate Learning and Teaching Research Internship Scheme (ULTRIS) was developed in 2009 by Professor Sally Sandover, Academic Director, Educational Strategies Office, and Associate Professor Lee Partridge from the Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. Dr Wayne McGowan is a co-supervisor on the project.

The Matariki Network was the logical next stop to expanding the program, and the Matariki Undergraduate Research Network (MURN) was born.

“The first ULTRIS students completed a semester of research of significant value to UWA, and learned valuable skills along the way,” Professor Sandover said. “Adding the global connection last year was a bonus.”

The students, who are given a scholarship of $3,000 so they can spend their own time on their projects, without needing to take on outside work, were not the only ones to learn from the MURN collaboration.

“We learned a lot,” Professor Sandover said. “Technology often failed, time zone differences were really difficult (we were working with Durham and Queens universities in UK and Canada, as well as Otago in New Zealand), and different semesters also made it hard for the students to get together online.

“But we know that students actually learn more from their individual supervisors, and, while interaction with their peers is icing on the top, it doesn’t have to be synchronised.

“The global classroom doesn’t mean you have to sit together at the same time. It means something far broader: to be able to communicate with each other about a topic and discuss your projects through other platforms enriched the students’ research.”

Professor Sandover and A/Professor Partridge wondered if they were asking too much of the students.

“But when we saw them at the conference in Sydney, we knew it had been a success,” Professor Sandover said. “They have now all presented at an academic conference as well as at a UWA research colloquium; they have published papers in our online journal and presented at ACUR.

“Our research skills and the work they produced was equivalent to Honours level.”

She said they had followed the undergraduate students who had taken part in ULTRIS over the past five years and more than 70 per cent of them were now doing a higher degree by research.

“So are studying law or medicine or have jobs in institutional research.

“So, by and large, ULTRIS and MURN provide a fertile ground for research.”

One of the UWA participants, Patrick Vu, won a prize at ACUR for his project on the impact of online courses on international students’ preferences for UWA.

The students will present their findings to the relevant areas at UWA, including the International Centre.
Better data management

UWA’s Research Data Online is a new service for managing and documenting your datasets in a safe and secure environment.

It is a powerful tool, provided by Information Services (IS) to help both the University and the individual researcher to store and share information about research data, and to make datasets readily accessible for reuse.

Mary White, Project Manager, Projects and Performance in IS, said the service would also help to increase the world-wide visibility of the University’s research activities.

“For researchers, it means increased ‘discoverability’ and citation because their research will have greater visibility and impact,” Ms White said. “Researchers can showcase their work globally through the major search engines and through international catalogues such as Research Data Australia and the new Data Citation Index.

“The impact and value of their research can be based on the quality of their datasets, as well as on their publications. The potential for research collaboration through data sharing is also significantly increased.

“Datasets will be stored and managed in accordance with the strict backup and security environment of UWA’s central data store. So, no need to rely on portable hard drives or USBs!”

The Centre for Microscopy, Characterisation and Analysis, the Oceans Institute and the Centre for Rock Art Research and Management are already using the new service.

The Centre for Rock Art’s Indigenous Australian Rock Art Data System was showcased at the Research Data Alliance’s second plenary meeting in Washington DC in September.

Their project was developed with funding from the Australian National Data Service.

It is a repository for the centre’s rock art research data collections, and provides contextual information about research grants, associated researchers and other key metadata.

It has improved the ‘maintainability’ of archaeology datasets and enabled the Centre to share data with collaborating researchers and the wider research community, and make it available to Indigenous communities.

Culture and environment come together at the lake

Ancient science and modern technology are the perfect fit at the Herdsman Wildlife Centre.

Adjunct Professor Kevin Kenneally from the Centre for Regional Development and A/Professor Jan Dook from the UWA Spice program joined forces recently to create an iPad application on the food web at Herdsman Lake.

The app was launched by WA’s Chief Scientist, UWA Professor Lyn Beazley.

Sponsored by the Department of Education, the WA Gould League, of which Professor Kenneally is the president, provides unique environmental and Aboriginal learning experiences for more than 7,000 students each year at the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre.

The League wanted to extend the experience into the classroom and Professor Dook provided the solution. She and the Spice team had created a Kimberley Food Webs app for middle school students and that project has now developed into a state-wide approach. The app is free and available from iTunes.

Food webs describe the dynamic interaction of multiple food chains within an ecosystem and they help students to understand relationships, including the effects of human activity.

Alongside the latest technology is the League’s Ancient Science initiative which is a finalist in the 2013 Chevron Science Engagement Awards.

Professor Kenneally said the program introduced students to local Aboriginal customs, creating a unique science engagement experience where contemporary science met traditional Aboriginal wisdom.
The worst-kept secret on campus was finally out in the open at the annual Staff Sports and Fun Day.

A flashmob, code-named Beetroot, had been rehearsing for five weeks and they burst onto the stage in the University Club amphitheatre during the sports opening ceremony.

Aya Kelly and Jenny Yeap from the Business School (which produced last year’s memorable Gangnam Style) taught, supervised, organised and enthused more than 30 non-dancers to create a performance that they hope dazzled their colleagues.

The Registrar, Peter Curtis, handed over the flame to Professor John Dell, whose Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics will take over the running of the SSFD from next year.

Then more than 400 competitors played team sports including volleyball, netball, soccer, boccé and table tennis while others took part in the inaugural Centennial Challenge, which involved hula hoops, eggs on spoons and water bombs.

Samantha Shepherd, who competed in the 2011 New York Marathon, after training with a group of young Indigenous athletes under Rob de Castella, won the women’s VC’s dash. (Sam is an engineering graduate who is currently working in the Aspire Office – part of the Registrar’s group.)

Mike Brutty from Finance and Resources seemed to float above the ground as he won the traditional Indigenous game of Fly as well as the men’s VC’s dash.

Determined group from Finance and Resources won the hotly-contested tug-of-war, beating even the fit young Sport and Recreation staff who had worked so hard organising the event.

Unicredit provided hundreds of bottles of cold water and the major prizes; the University Club provided a very welcome late lunch; UniPrint and UWA Sport and Rec were also sponsors. Thanks to all of them for making it a successful and memorable day.

New café is cool

The premium spot for coffee on campus over the coming hot summer days is the new U Café.

It is part of the new redeveloped University Hall and nests in the deep shade of the Moreton Bay fig trees between the College and Stirling Highway, positioned to catch the sea breeze from its shady deck.

U Café is run by the University Club and offers regular specials including the Morning $5 Fix (coffee and house made muffin); the Afternoon $8 Fix (any sandwich or wrap with bottled water) and a TGIF happy hour with 25 per cent off on Fridays between 3pm and 5pm.

University Club members can charge back any purchases at U Café to their Club account.

U Café is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. Give it a try!
2013 Christmas cards are now available at uniprint.uwa.edu.au

Visit uniprint.uwa.edu.au and using the “DIY Stationery” online ordering service, log on using your existing account, or the generic login
Username: xmascards
Password: xmascards to view and purchase the beautiful UWA Campus inspired greeting cards for the festive season.

If you have something else in mind for your cards, UniPrint can even help you create your own personalised cards. Contact uniprint@uwa.edu.au

See UniPrint for all your printing needs.

Centenary canine

Meet Arnold, the Guide Dog puppy sponsored by the staff and students of UWA.

Arnold, named after Arnold Cook, the UWA academic who brought the first Guide Dog to Australia, arrived last month from Melbourne to begin his training.

The last $1,000 of the $30,000 needed to train Arnold was raised by the staff who took part in the Staff Sports and Fun Day. During the year, students, staff and their families and friends consumed 11,000 Freddo Frogs, raising $11,000 towards the dog, which is a gift from UWA to the Association for the Blind, to celebrate our joint centenaries this year.

Sue Boyd, Chair of the Centenary Committee, will present a cheque for $32,000 to the Association for the Blind-Guide Dogs WA on Tuesday 26 November.

There will be opportunities next year for the people who supported this campaign to meet Arnold on campus.

2013 Christmas cards are now available at uniprint.uwa.edu.au

Visit uniprint.uwa.edu.au and using the “DIY Stationery” online ordering service, log on using your existing account, or the generic login
Username: xmascards
Password: xmascards to view and purchase the beautiful UWA Campus inspired greeting cards for the festive season.

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See UniPrint for all your printing needs.
Bad breath can affect both business and personal relationships as well as the sufferer's self-esteem. But thankfully ‘malodour’ can be successfully treated using new knowledge and techniques practised by Dr Chai Lim and his team.

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Good riddance to bad breath.
A once in 100 year opportunity to own limited edition Collector’s prints.

Luminous Night

Photographs by Edwin Janes, YERBURY PRESS

Edwin Janes, architectural photographer, captured this historic event in a series of exclusive photographs, now available for sale at www.yerburypress.com

The evening of February 8th 2013 saw the power of two million candles transform the University of Western Australia’s landmark Winthrop Hall into a kaleidoscope of colour and sound. The projection was the centrepiece of Luminous Night, a public celebration of art and culture to mark the University’s Centenary.

The show was conceived by the Director of the UWA Cultural Precinct, Winthrop Professor Ted Snell and produced by Event Manager Ian Lillburne while the work itself was created by Illuminart under the direction of Cindi Brennan.

This huge light projection, a form known as architectural storytelling, used ten powerful projectors and told a twelve thousand strong audience the story of the creation of the state’s first university. Utilising animation, photography, music and personal narration, the imagery was perfectly coordinated with the architecture of Winthrop Hall.

These stunning reminders of the extraordinary Luminous Night celebrating 100 years of learning at The University of Western Australia are a fitting and collectible reminder of a great institution.

Special UWA news Offer:
Limited edition archival quality framed prints from $385
Boxed set of 10 prints for $195

For sales and more info call (08) 9386 9980 or visit www.yerburypress.com
Reflections on a shining year

By Cameron Barnes
100th UWA Student Guild President

It is with a feeling of both sadness and relief that I write this column as one of my last acts as the 100th Guild President.

Thanks to a generous grant from the University, our Centenary year has been an incredibly exciting affair, with events including a time capsule, a gala, a museum exhibition, a centenary publication and ‘the big 100’.

I kicked off the year with a Future Directions paper containing 22 ambitious proposals for the Guild. This included stronger representation for postgraduate and international students, an expansion of core welfare services and greater inclusion of colleges, Indigenous students and students who don’t drink alcohol. In an attempt to gain some perspective I gave up alcohol for three months.

In addition to the ‘big picture’ strategies we also created the Guild 100, an ambitious set of 100 goals for the 100th Guild Council ranging from improving food on campus to strengthening engagement with Albany students.

Importantly for the University, our new direction involved strategic alignment with the UWA Operational Priorities Plan. This will result in shared goals and interests so that we can truly create a world top-50 student experience. I like to tell people the story of how in 1931 students came to the University’s rescue and finished digging the Reflection Pond. This year we have put that partnership into action again on issues like sustainability, service learning and health promotions.

This year has also been a significant year of education advocacy for the Student Guild. We have worked closely on the Education Futures project and conducted a widespread survey of students across faculties to identify ‘best practice’ education. We have also fought to receive SURF scores to better help us identify units requiring more attention, whether it be resources or support. Finally, we have worked with the National Union of Students to protest against cuts to higher education.

However, the Guild has also faced its fair share of setbacks and challenges over the course of the year. Most notable of these was the publication of unacceptable material in this year’s Prosh paper. We responded to the incident with mandatory cultural awareness training, apologies from editors and directors and a full independent review which has resulted in significant changes to the editorial process.

I also used the unfortunate circumstances around Prosh as a catalyst for change within the UWA student community. The WA Student Aboriginal Corporation (WASAC) truly inspired me in the way they stepped up, running a new Marnda Week to promote Aboriginal culture and doubling their efforts to work with the Guild to support Indigenous students. The creation of a new Guild representative position on the WASAC Committee (which will hold a vote on Guild Council) is an exciting opportunity for Indigenous student leaders to have a greater say in the running of the Guild.

Finally, it is worth noting that the centenary year of the Guild has seen some truly inspiring student leaders come to the fore. Guild Environment Officer Dan Stone has revolutionised the way we think about sustainability and won national awards for the Guild Sustainability Plan. Laura Smith as Societies Council President has overseen one of the largest expansions ever in the number of clubs on campus. The Cruickshank-Routley Memorial Award Prize was given to Josh Bamford for an outstanding seven years of service.

In the end, I have learned more than I ever could have imagined and look forward to seeing the work of the 101st Guild President Tom Henderson.

When I leave UWA, I will leave as not just an individual student, but as a member of a vibrant community of which I am proud to have been a part.