By Lindy Brophy

Six faculties join to create a new city

How many people does it take to design a new city?

At least as many as there are in this photograph.

This group is most of the UWA researchers and industry and government partners who are working together in the Co-operative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRC WSC).

It is a decade-long multi-million dollar Australia-wide (and international) venture which will transform the way we go about designing new cities and improving existing ones through better urban water management.

The UWA-based hub is one of four (Perth, Brisbane, Melbourne and Singapore) and a focus here is on the design and creation of a new city, Keralup, for 150,000 people, south of Rockingham.

The State Department of Housing is one of the CRC’s industry partners and they are working together to address the problems of high groundwater and high nutrient levels at the 4,000 hectare site on the Serpentine River.

But the challenge is not exclusively about water.

Anas Ghadouani, the Regional Executive Director of the Western Regional Research Hub (encompassing WA and NT) of the CRC, is co-ordinating dozens of researchers across the University from six faculties.

“Solutions need to be integrated into the city form in an interdisciplinary manner, to foster a higher degree of climate resilience in cities of the future.

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“This is a revolutionary approach to the creation of liveable, sustainable and productive cities,” Associate Professor Ghadouani said. “The revolution is in the interdisciplinary research and external partnerships across multiple sectors.

“Researchers from the Science, Arts and Law faculties, from Architecture, Landscape and Visual Art, from Engineering, Computing and Mathematics and from Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences are all involved, as are government departments, government agencies, local government and private industry – pretty much all the stakeholders.”

Late last year, the Federal Government allocated $30 million until June 2019. This is supported by higher education institutions, government and non-government organisations, water utilities and the private sector, contributing a further $89 million.

“It’s a rare opportunity, to give researchers $120 million to undertake and integrate their research across 20 disciplines and to apply them to a blank canvas in projects such as the Keralup Project,” Professor Ghadouani said. “There are not many places where people can build new cities: WA is one of them. Keralup will have state-of-the-art water-sensitive design at both the domestic and public level.

“There are lots of new ideas that are largely untested, but that’s the whole idea behind CRCs – to implement new ideas, not leave them on the drawing board.”

The new city will be built in three phases, the first of which is planned to start in seven years.

This is the first time the Department of Housing has partnered with a CRC in a major development. Director, Strategic Projects Unit, John Savell, said the project was a great opportunity for the Department to harness expert knowledge from UWA academics.

“The CRC’s objectives align with the issues we need to address at Keralup, including management guidelines for urban water bodies, increasing their resilience and ensuring that urban growth is accompanied by an improvement in the health of aquatic environments,” Mr Savell said.

Research over the next nine years will guide capital investment Australia-wide of more than $100 billion by the water sector and more than $550 billion from the private sector in urban development over the next 15 years.

The CRC-WSC has already developed the first tranche of 34 projects, involving 167 researchers and 43 PhD students.

At UWA, 11 projects are under way with 13 academics leading research in the areas of agricultural and resource economics, history, law, environmental systems engineering, social sciences, natural resource management, computer science and the environment. The School of Population Health’s Centre for the Built Environment will also be part of the program.

Current projects will address economic, social and ecological costs and benefits of a water-sensitive city; understanding social processes to achieve that future; better governance for complex decision-making; better regulatory frameworks for such cities; urban waterways; hydrology and nutrient transport processes in ground and surface water systems; intelligent urban water systems; and planning, design and management to protect and integrate water systems.

This week, the Institute of Advanced Studies will sponsor a cross-disciplinary forum, Water and Society: How do we achieve social transformation?

The CRC WSC will come together with UWA’s Centre for the Study of Social Change and the Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy to present a new look at water.

“Water is a good model for learning about society,” Professor Ghadouani said. “It is about urban design, safety, health, economics … so much.”

Alongside him on the panel will be Professor Michael Burton, agricultural and resource economist; Associate Professor Alex Gardner from the Centre for Mining, Energy and Natural Resources Law; and Winthrop Professor Carmen Lawrence, psychologist and Chair of the Australian Heritage Council.

They will explore the social transformations needed to support water-sensitive cities, including community attitudes and behavioural change, governance and economic assessment practices, management systems and technological innovations.

The forum will be in the University Club Theatre Auditorium on Thursday 16 May from 6 – 8pm. It is a free event but you need to register at www.ias.uwa.edu.au to attend.
About 80 academic staff gathered, at short notice, to protest at the Federal Government’s proposed funding cuts to implement the Gonski Report’s recommendations.

Essentially, the report recommends more funding for primary and secondary schools and the Government has said it will find that money by reducing funding for universities.

Members of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), some wearing academic gowns and lab coats, made a stand on Stirling Highway during the morning peak-hour traffic.

With a backdrop of Winthrop Hall and bunches of purple balloons, the staff, joined by some students, held banners and waved signs proclaiming: Dumb Cuts Dumber Country and Cutting Education to Pay for Education … what the?!!

Stuart Bunt, Professorial Fellow in Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology, and Vice-President (Academic) at UWA and WA Division President of the NTEU, said it was a crazy idea to penalise one part of the education sector to boost another part.

“It’s robbing Peter to pay Paul,” he said. “It just doesn’t make sense. But there has been such a backlash

that we feel there is a chance the report’s recommendations may not be implemented. So we must keep the pressure on the Federal Government.”

Professor Bunt said Universities Australia was supporting its employees against the cuts.

Gabe Gooding, State Division secretary of the NTEU, was among the protesters.

“This was organised at the last minute and lots of our members had children to take to school and were unable to make other arrangements. But there will be another event, in May, which we are sure will be really well supported.”

She said WA would be uniquely worse off as a result of these university funding cuts. “The decision to have WA children start school later will halve university enrolments and funding in 2015, just at the time when these cutbacks will really hit hard.

“Vice-Chancellors in WA have already started talking about reducing staff. That will mean fewer lecturers, bigger class sizes and poorer quality education.

“It defies belief that the Government would see poorer quality tertiary education as the best way to fund better school education,” she said.

More than $2 billion will be cut from the tertiary sector and redirected into primary and secondary schools across the nation to help fund the Gonski reforms.

The Vice-Chancellor, Paul Johnson, said in an email to all staff: “This is a disappointing decision and appears to contradict the Government’s own goals of having 10 Australian universities ranked in the world top 100.

“These funding cuts are highly regrettable, and they will have a significant impact on the University and our students.

“While we are still working through the detail of the changes to understand what it means for us, a quick calculation based on our current funding levels shows UWA could be impacted by up to $10 million annually.”

The proposals not only include direct funding cuts to universities, but also changes to students’ HECS debts and cuts to start-up scholarships and up-front payments.

“I want to assure you that we are working closely with our national representative bodies, the Group of Eight and Universities Australia, to illustrate publicly and politically what impact these funding cuts will have on the sector,” Professor Johnson said.
A new partnership built on international engagement

A new international partnership has the potential to provide UWA students with exceptional educational and personal benefits as well as delivering further global recognition for our institution.

Many will remember the visit, late last year, of the former US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, to help launch a new UWA-based centre aimed at strengthening ties between the US, Australia and the Asian region.

The Perth US-Asia Centre, established in partnership with the US Studies Centre at the University of Sydney and the American Australian Association, will be a conduit for a deeper Australian understanding of US business, culture, politics and foreign policy.

Now, out of that strategic relationship has come an important new link with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in which our students will have the chance to study at UCLA during our June-July holiday period.

It is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience another world class university (ranked 13th in the world by the ARWU) on the other side of the globe with a mission similar to our own: the creation, dissemination, preservation and application of knowledge for the betterment of our global society.

Located on the eastern rim of the Pacific Ocean in one of the world’s most diverse and vibrant cities, UCLA reaches beyond its campus boundaries to establish partnerships locally and globally.

Our University, on the eastern rim of the Indian Ocean, also enjoys a location that gives us a genuinely unique perspective of the region which puts us in the same time-zone (give or take a couple of hours) as about 60 per cent of the world’s population in nations which promise the greatest economic growth of this century.

We recognise that alongside our ties with our Asian neighbours, we continue to develop our long-standing cultural and economic links with other parts of the world, notably the United States and the European Union.

Our Perth US-Asia Centre enables us to draw strength from Western Australia’s special geographic position to analyse and understand both the United States and Asia. The Centre is set to become a leading policy think-tank on the Australia-Asia-US strategic and economic relationship as well as a teaching and research centre.

As I indicated in the UWA Futures paper, in order to ensure that we deliver a distinctive, high-quality and highly valued educational experience to our students we need to use all of our assets – from our local campus facilities to our international connections – to best effect.

The new UWA-UCLA link is a fine example of such distinctiveness and contributes further to our goal of doubling the participation of undergraduate students in study abroad programs by 2020.

This UCLA partnership reflects our desire, articulated as part of the transition to the new courses structure over the past few years, to provide well-rounded graduates prepared for a global future.

Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor

Internationally recognised plant scientist Winthrop Professor Harvey Millar has become the first Australian to win a prestigious American award.

One of the world’s most highly-cited plant scientists in recent years, Professor Millar is the 2013 recipient of the Charles Albert Shull Award, which recognises outstanding investigations in the field of plant biology by a scientist under the age of 45.

The Shull Award was created in 1971 to honour a founding father of the American Society of Plant Biologists. It has not been won by an Australian in its 40-year history.

Professor Millar was recognised for his impressive body of research on plant mitochondria, which allow respiration to occur in plants.

According to the Society’s award citation, his work on the purification, proteomics, and metabolomics of mitochondria, and on the effects of oxidative stress on mitochondrial proteins, has provided important new insights into plant mitochondrial composition and function.

Professor Millar, Deputy Director at the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, has a passion for proteins and how they work and has built a remarkable career in the 16 years since he graduated from ANU with a PhD in biochemistry.

In proteomics, scientists analyse protein products made when genes are switched on, which allows researchers to learn about how plants cope with changing environmental conditions and to find genes of interest for drought, flood, salinity or pest tolerance in plants.

The proteomics laboratory Professor Millar leads is ranked among the top 25 in the world.
Huge deposits of iron ore and other valuable minerals in the remote Weld Range 50km northwest of Cue are attracting mining to the Murchison region.

But before resource companies make a move on their successful exploration, UWA archaeologists are investigating and documenting sites of extraordinary cultural and archaeological significance in partnership with Wajarri Traditional Owners.

The 60km-long range about 600km north-east of Perth, is home to the National Heritage-listed Wilgie Mia and Little Wilgie ochre mines and known to contain at least 18 more sites of critical cultural importance.

They include ecologically diverse hunting and camping grounds, waterholes, rock shelters, law grounds, specialist seed-gathering places, burial grounds, quarry sites, rock-art sites (often dominated by hand stencils of women and children), and stone arrangements, including one used to teach young boys undergoing initiation how to navigate by the stars.

“These places present a rare insight into past lives, communications, trade and marriages,” said archaeologist, Project Co-ordinator and Masters student Viviene Brown.

Wajarri Traditional Owners have worked closely for several years with archaeologists from UWA’s Eureka Archaeological Research and Consulting Centre to gather site data but there is little official record so far of the cultural and archaeological treasures they have uncovered.

“There has been very little archaeological work done in the Murchison, compared with the Pilbara and the South-West,” Viviene said. “It is such a remote area, that, without a railroad connection, large scale, open-cut iron ore mining hasn’t yet been possible, despite there being talk way back in the 1890s about potential, high-quality iron ore loads in the Range.

“It is probably the same complex geology of the area that attracted Aboriginal people thousands of years ago. Many of the rock outcrops in the Weld Range are of sufficient quality for making stone tools.”

Viviene is concentrating on tool stone and why the traditional owners selected the materials they did and how they managed it.

Ochre traces ancient Indigenous life

Her partner in the Weld Range Web of Knowledge project, with $229,800 funding from the Federal Government’s Indigenous Heritage Program, is Dr Vicky Winton.

She is focusing on the ochre mines of Wilgie Mia and Little Wilgie. With the help of UWA’s Centre for Forensic Science, she is tracing the use of ochre from both sites to other places around the state.

“We know there was an ochre trade around the state, so there will be an exciting story to tell,” Dr Winton said. “It seems ochre was used in nearly all spheres of traditional Aboriginal life, from daily body ornamentation to the production of rock art, and in practical applications such as tanning of hides.”

Dr Winton said a key goal of the broader Weld Range Web of Knowledge project is to produce a cultural heritage management plan for prospective land users to ensure a collective approach to heritage management rather than the current piecemeal approach. “The project will also foster the archaeological recording and reporting skills of Wajarri Traditional Owners to enable them to secure better heritage outcomes.”

Wajarri traditional owner Colin Hamlett said the project was important for all Australians. “We thank UWA’s Eureka group for making this possible.”

“And we are grateful to the Wajarri people,” Viviene said. “Without their cooperation and enthusiasm, none of this research would be possible.”
As Nicholas Bannan was writing new flute music last year, he was reflecting on the flute being one of the world’s oldest musical instruments.

It was not an idle historical connection, but an overlap of his latest compositions with the earliest stages in human language.

About the same time that his flute music was premiered at the 40th annual convention of the USA National Flute Association in Las Vegas, Associate Professor Bannan’s book, *Music, Language and Human Evolution*, was published by Oxford University Press.

The Professor of Music Education in the School of Music, edited the book and wrote four of the 12 chapters, contributing to and collaborating on some others.

He has been working on and fascinated by the evolution of language for 20 years.

It is clear to Professor Bannan and many of his international colleagues that music preceded language in the evolution of humans.

Until recently, archaeology had little to say about the possible role of music in human evolution, but this book builds on Charles Darwin’s speculation that human language may have had its origins in forms of vocal communication closer to the sounds that we identify as music.

“A colleague of mine and one of the contributors to the book, Hollis Taylor, is studying the birdsong of the pied butcher bird, to see if their ‘dialect’ changes across Australia,” Professor Bannan said. “These birds mimic the sounds they hear. A mimic is a generator of new sounds – just as a composer is. Birds’ use of communication tools compares very closely with human’s, which is a sound basis for believing that musical communication – like birdsong – came before the more sophisticated language.”

The flute has played a big part in Professor Bannan’s life, despite the fact that it is an instrument which he doesn’t play. “My daughter is a flautist and I have been involved with the Perth-based Fisenden Flute Ensemble, for whom I wrote the recent music, for some years,” he said. “I am interested in the nature and function of the flute in human development.

“So some of the earliest evidence of humans making music is flutes that were made 35,000 to 40,000 years ago. My colleague, Pedro Espi-Sanchis, makes and plays seaweed flutes in the South African tradition. He co-wrote a chapter in the evolution book with me on hunter-gatherer music.

“He picks up dried seaweed, cuts it, shapes it, then plays it. It is such a simple idea that people were probably doing this thousands of years ago.

“But the materials they used – seaweed, bamboo, leaves and parts of trees – would have rotted away, leaving no evidence for archaeologists.

“So it has been hard for the people who are interested in the evolution of language and the part that music played. They have been trying to open up this debate for 150 years. It is a serious and significant matter and is finally taking off in many disciplines including acoustics, zoology, linguistics, psychology, child development and education.”

As well as collaborating on the chapter on the history of instrument making, Professor Bannan worked with Vietnamese singer Tran Quang Hai to write a chapter on singing, including chant, as an extension of the voice.

*Music, Language and Human Evolution* is accompanied by a DVD so readers can hear the sounds the writers are describing.

“The final chapter is my take on Darwin’s theory, partly based on my research with pre-language children,” Professor Bannan said.

Winthrop Professor Alan Harvey, a neuroscientist in the School of Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology, also has a long-term interest in music and its role in human evolution, and has written several articles on the topic.
Fish, flowers, Latin text and a burning lamp all feature in the University’s full heraldic coat of arms.

In our Centenary year, the different designs for crests, shields and the full ‘armorial ensign’ are seeing the light of day in the exhibition at the University Club.

But, in the International Office, the complete coat of arms has been on permanent display in the reception area for about 10 years.

Garry Hendy, Associate Director, International Admissions, said he ordered the coat of arms banner to brighten up a blank wall when the office was renovated.

“It looks as though it is an ancient design, but it was actually only designed in 1972,” Garry said.

University Archives has an outline drawing of a crest that is believed to be an early design for a coat of arms, but its creator and the date it was drawn remain a mystery.

It was not until 1928 that Rodney Alsop, architect of the earliest buildings on the Crawley campus, and Wilson Dobbs created the design of a shield with the motto ‘Seek Wisdom’. It was coloured red, silver, black and gold, and the two books at the top of the shield did not have legible words, just wavy lines.

This design had the head of a suit of armour on top of the shield, with the swan from the shield also standing on top of the helmet.

The following year, UWA’s first Vice-Chancellor, Hubert Whitfield, commissioned George Kruger Gray to design a better version and the helmet with the extra swan disappeared. The shape of the shield was changed and it started to look very like the shield we use today.

Gordon Stephenson was the next designer to make his mark when asked to redesign the shield (often mistakenly called the crest) for the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1963.

His major change was to replace the wavy lines on the books with Latin text. The book on the right represents the sciences with the words non nisi parendo vincitur or nature is only mastered by obedience to her laws.

The book on the left represents the humanities: literae humaniores or the literature that makes man more civilised and humane.

A few years later, the Senate initiated the registration of the coat of arms with the College of Arms in London.

A full design, including two ‘rampant hake’, which represented the Hackett family, the lamp of wisdom, the Seek Wisdom motto and the Stephenson ‘crest’ took several years to complete. Blue, green and gold were added to the coat of arms to represent the University’s original faculties and, according to the Archives, “red was also included at the Vice-Chancellor’s request.”

The official coat of arms was registered in 1972, nearly 60 years after the University was founded.

Later that year, William Gardner was commissioned to design a letterhead version of the shield as the full design didn’t reproduce well in smaller sizes. That design is almost identical to the one in use today.

In heraldic terms, the coat of arms is made up of the shield, the crest (the fish, the lamp and the flowers), the scroll (Seek Wisdom) and supports (extension of the flower design).
The first hint that something exciting was happening in Facilities Management was when they cancelled deliveries of UWAnews.

The whole section, with 185 FTE staff, are now ‘paper-minimalist’ and all staff are now going to read UWAnews online, as one of many paper-reducing options.

“We say we are paper-minimalist,” said FM Director Clint Walker. “Paperless is an aspiration which could be difficult to achieve. But we can certainly make a big difference with our actions.”

All senior managers and associate directors have been supplied with iPads. “They are the people who spend a lot of time in meetings,” Mr Walker said. “They will now have all their minutes and agendas delivered electronically.”

Linking their iPads to a data projector has further enabled paper-free meetings.

“I’ve been to meetings where reports of 50 or 60 pages have been printed by each person and they have hardly looked at them,” he said. “Then they have ended up in the recycling bin.

“Recycling is great, but avoidance is better!”

The initiative of Sustainable Development Projects, a section within FM, also extends to information and documents for other FM staff members. “Where possible, they will be circulated via email attachments,” Mr Walker said.

“We have also adopted a totally digital system for all our drawings. Plans and specifications will all be reviewed online. A lot of our tendering and procurement is also being done online now, which also saves a lot of paper.”

Mr Walker said that many FM employees working out in the field, including grounds, maintenance, construction, cleaning and security staff and tradespeople, meant his section already probably used less paper than some other areas in the University.

Helen Whitbread, Associate Director, Sustainable Development Projects, said FM was not the only section of the University making an effort to reduce paper use.

“Adoption of technology is racing through the university sector, and we are just one of many departments which are part of that change. iPads, especially with separate easy-to-use keyboards, are creating a revolution,” she said.

“I understand that they are even on primary school book lists.”

Last year, FM ordered 598 reams of paper. So far this year, they have ordered just 100, so it look as as though their campaign is working.

FM plans to keep paper purchase and use figures over the next 12 months to support their move to an almost paper-free office.

Academics honoured by new award

For 100 years, the academics at UWA have been seeking wisdom.

Now, a new award has been established to recognise the results of that quest. The UWA Academic Staff Association (UWAASA) celebrates 100 years of academic service by inaugurating the Centenary Award, to be presented to academics whose influence has been outstanding.

President of the UWAASA, Ray Da Silva Rosa, said the award provided an opportunity for alumni, including graduates, former and current staff, members of the Senate, patrons, corporate partners, volunteers and friends of the University to nominate an academic whose influence on them – or the community in general – had been profound.
Their voices will be heard across the globe

Next week, Billi McCarthy-Price will be in New York, taking part in the United Nations forum on Indigenous issues.

“But I don’t have any contact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at UWA,” said the Arts/Science student.

“There are 167 Indigenous students here and the only contact I have ever had with them was through sport. That really upsets me,” she said. “It’s all very well to talk about Indigenous issues at the UN, but we need to bring it down to this level. We all need to have more day-to-day contact with Indigenous people and we all need more cultural competence.”

Billi is one of two students chosen to participate in Global Voices, a not-for-profit movement that gets young people involved in international issues.

Rebecca Dracup, an Engineering/Economics student, is going to Kenya in June on a UN sustainable development study tour.

“We’ll be visiting UN projects on environment, habitat and development and we’ll be helping an NGO to build a sanitation facility,” Rebecca said.

“I’m looking forward to making new connections and learning how the UN operates. But the field work will be great. I’m considering a volunteer year with Engineers Without Borders, and this fortnight in Kenya is part of my decision-making process.”

Billi’s fortnight in New York will be spent reviewing the recommendations made by the forum last year.

“They were based on economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights,” she said. “One of the major practical outcomes in Australia has been the Closing the Gap campaign in Indigenous health,” she said.

“To prepare for the forum, we had to come up with a research proposal and write an opinion piece and a research paper for the Global Voices website. My research looked at programs and strategies to help decrease poor social and emotional wellbeing in Indigenous youth populations and whether these were culturally sensitive and relevant.”

One of Billi’s three majors is Psychology and she said there was very little Aboriginal health training in her course, “even though this is an area in which many psychologists will end up working.”

Rebecca’s research looked at funding for sustainable development projects. “Each year diarrhoea kills around 760,000 children under five,” Rebecca said. “Diarrhoea is entirely preventable with today’s technology. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities can reduce these deaths, but so much infrastructure is left damaged and unused due to inadequate funding allocated to its maintenance. For example 30-40 per cent of water pumps in Africa are now broken and neglected.”

“Many of UWA’s academics over the years have become influential figures through their teaching, their research and their broader civic undertakings,” Winthrop Professor De Silva Rosa said.

“The Centenary Year is an opportune time for those people to be recognised and celebrated. The recipients of the awards should be exemplars of UWA’s motto, Seek Wisdom,” he said.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Johnson announced the award at the Alumni Weekend and he and Professor Da Silva Rosa launched it in the last week in April.

Academics can be nominated in three categories: those currently working at UWA; those retired from UWA; and a posthumous award.

The number of awards bestowed will depend on the number and quality of the nominations. It is expected that the Centenary Award will continue to be made beyond the Centenary.

If you would like to nominate a colleague past or present, you can submit your nomination in writing between Monday 15 July and Friday 16 August.

Nominees must not be consulted beforehand, but they may be contacted by the UWAASA before the awards are announced in November.

Nominations must include: the category in which the academic is nominated; the period during which the proposer was taught by the academic (if this is applicable); and a signed draft citation of no more than 500 words setting out the positive influence which the academic has had on the proposer’s life and/or career.

A nomination may include additional material such as newspapers articles and photographs.

Nominations must be sent to UWAASA, W2 Winthrop Tower, M005 or uwaasa@uwa.edu.au

Please contact the UWAASA with any queries: uwaasa@uwa.edu.au or 6488 3836. The office is not attended full-time, so please be prepared to wait for a reply.
The rate at which academic papers are cited by other academics is one of the measures of a leading university.

So it should come as no surprise that UWA, in the year leading up to its inclusion in the Academic Ranking of World Universities Top 100, doubled its rate of highly-cited academic papers between 2009-11.

Thomson Reuters, the international industry leader in publications information, identified 123 UWA researchers as authors involved in 58 highly-cited papers published in 2011.

Since 2011, the University has celebrated its successful highly cited staff members. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Robyn Owens hosted an event last month to congratulate both the 123 authors of the 2011 Highly Cited Papers, and 24 individual researchers classified as being Highly Cited Researchers by Thomson Reuters.

Two leading researchers spoke briefly to the gathering at the University Club about their research experiences.

Winthrop Professor Mark Randolph, a Highly Cited Researcher in Civil Engineering from the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems, passed on some advice he had been given many years ago.

"Just after I’d finished my PhD, about 25 years ago, I was given this advice," he said. “Never publish a complete piece of work. Others won’t be able to stop themselves from latching on to it and finishing it for you!”

He also admitted that he had found an error in his second most highly-cited paper – a few years after it had been published and frequently cited.

Winthrop Professor Ian Small, Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, asked what makes a highly cited paper?

"Everybody has published papers that they are very happy with but are rarely cited," he said. "Equally, we have all had papers that we are not so proud of which end up with heaps of citations.

“How useful your paper is to the scientific community is more important than it being seen as excellent.”

Professor Small said providing a new method for doing things or summarising a field would usually result in lots of citations. “Of course, the best way to ensure citations is with a scientific breakthrough. But that’s not all that common.

Professor Owens said there was a vast difference between disciplines. "What might be highly cited in the journals of one area could be almost ignored in the journals of another," she said.

“Our aim is to conduct high quality research that the world cares about. Citations are one proxy for quality that works reasonably well at the level of the whole University.”
Piracy and high speed ocean pursuits are the stuff of books and movies.

But PhD candidate Caroline Coombs is up to her neck in it, as she researches the doctrine of hot pursuit under international law.

Caroline is a lawyer and, after working in a legal capacity for the military, has a love of the law of the sea. She is doing her research within the Oceans Institute (OI), supervised by Professor Erika Techera, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Deputy Director of OI.

The Institute staged its first Postgraduate Student Conference last month, with 17 PhD candidates presenting their research. Subjects included nitrogen fixing, coral resilience, tidal dynamics, ecology of reef sharks and ‘hot pursuit’.

“Hot pursuit is a limited but significant exception to the freedom of the high seas,” explained Caroline Coombs. “It is a legal tool which permits coastal states to conduct law enforcement over a range of issues in its maritime zones. Australia has played a role in recent development of hot pursuit due to the series of arrests conducted in the waters near Heard and Macquarie Islands. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing was observed and a warning was given to the suspect vessel which fled onto the high seas.

“Pursuit and apprehension in the ocean to the south and south-west of Australia is extremely challenging due to the weather and the proximity to Antarctic waters. A number of hot pursuits have been made possible with the assistance of South African, French and UK vessels, contributing to a new concept of ‘multilateral pursuit’.

“The motivation for the enforcement of the laws of hot pursuits in these circumstances cannot be underestimated but is difficult to quantify. IUU fishing is a political issue in terms of Australian ownership of marine resources and preservation of so-called ‘Australian jobs’ and industry as well as the environmental concerns generally,” she said.

“However, the approach to prevention of IUU fishing is largely a bipartisan one and it has never even been close to constituting a significant election issue. The appropriate management and ownership of marine resources contributes to both the long-term security of marine industries and ecological sustainability.”

The winners of the best presentations were Julia Reisser and Matt Fraser.

Julia spoke about marine plastic pollution around Australia and the search for solutions. She explained that Scanning Electron Microscopy images showed evidence of a rich and diverse biofilm growing on some plastics.

“This shows that the ocean is a potential environment for the finding of species capable of biodegrading plastics,” she said.

Her research is supervised by Winthrop Professor Chari Pattiaratchi, Dr Michele Thums and Dr Chris Wilcox.

Matt’s research into the phosphorus cycling in seagrass sediments looked at how seagrass could grow in nutrient-poor ecosystems. This includes Shark Bay, where the seagrasses contribute significantly to the health of the entire ecosystem and Shark Bay’s status as a World Heritage Site.

His research is supervised by Winthrop Professor Gary Kendrick, Dr Pauline Grierson and Associate Professor Greg Skrzypek.
Since it opened its doors, the University has played a big part in the cultural life of the community.

In 1913, UWA was holding public lectures in Perth and in regional areas. The Perth International Arts Festival began 40 years later, as the Festival of Perth, to provide evening entertainment for the UWA Summer School participants.

The UWA Cultural Precinct, Institute of Advanced Studies, UWA Publishing, UWA Extension, Friends and Alumni groups and faculties initiate or host many hundreds of community events on campuses each year.

The UWA Centenary Planning Committee established grants of $3,000 to support creative projects by staff and students to commemorate 100 years of community and culture.

The four successful applications are from the University Archives, The University Dramatic Society and two from the UWA Historical Society.

“Most of our work comes from enquiries,” said Mim Congdon from University Archives. “And we get to learn all sorts of amazing things when we look for answers to those inquiries.”

University Archivist Maria Carvalho said the team had not yet finalised the list of inclusions for the online exhibition, UWA – 100 years, but they wanted to take a different approach from that expected of archivists.

“How many blocks of limestone were used to build Winthrop Hall? What is wrong with the Roman numeral for 4 on the Winthrop clock face? Where are the conifers donated by Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie?”

These and other “weird and wonderful” facts, mysteries and stories about UWA will appear on a new website, courtesy of the Centenary Grants.

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“We are like detectives,” said Christina Garnett, the third member of the team working on the exhibition. “It’s not at all the boring job that some people think it is.”

The Centenary Grant of $3,000 will pay for a web designer to create the exhibition once Maria, Mim and Christina have gathered and collated the information and images.

“We have a lot of inquiries from people writing their family histories and from professional associations researching theirs,” Maria said.

Up until the 1950s, an application to study at UWA included the full names and occupations of the parents of the prospective student, his or her school and references from the principal.

“This sort of information is so valuable for people wanting to know about their families,” Mim said.

“We love seeing these histories coming together, whether it’s a family project or a PhD thesis,” Christina said. “It’s very rewarding.”

The archives team hopes their exhibition will be on the University Archives website later this year.

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**Take a Centenary stroll**

UWA graduates and Historical Society stalwarts Joan Pope and Wendy Birman are also on a mission to solve some mysteries.

They have researched the names of buildings, rooms, courtyards and walkways on the Crawley campus and are putting them into a small book that will be the ideal companion for a walk through the grounds.

What did Noel Bayliss do to deserve having the Chemistry and Biochemistry building named after him? Who was the Saw after whom Saw Promenade is named? And what do we know about May Tannock, who has a room honouring her in the Guild building?

Joan and Wendy are using their $3,000 Centenary Grant to publish the small book, with colour photographs of the locations taken by Ron Bodycoat, supplementing 70 short biographies, each illustrated with an original black and white photo.

“There are many places on UWA’s other campuses which are named after people who are significant in the University’s history, but for this first book, we are focusing on the Crawley campus,” Joan said.

She was at UWA in the 1950s and Wendy was a student in the 1940s.

*Personalities and Places on the Crawley Campus* documents only places to which staff, students and visitors have free access.

The book begins at ‘the front door’ of the campus, with Whitfield Court, Winthrop Hall and the Hackett buildings. Buildings and avenues are then listed in order of a walk south towards Sport Science, Exercise and Health and the Business School.

“Then we come back along the river side to the Guild, Law and Arts, ending at the Somerville Auditorium, completing the loop.”

**Archives reveal the best stories**

How many blocks of limestone were used to build Winthrop Hall? What is wrong with the Roman numeral for 4 on the Winthrop clock face? Where are the conifers donated by Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie?

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University Archivist Maria Carvalho said the team had not yet finalised the list of inclusions for the online exhibition, UWA – 100 years, but they wanted to take a different approach from that expected of archivists.
They are not sure yet how many copies of *Personalities and Places on the Crawley Campus* will be printed or how they will be distributed. *UWAnews* will keep you informed.

**History finds a voice**

**Oral historian John Bannister prepares to record an interview**

Oral history is what lifts records out of the ordinary and makes them exciting.

People’s voices, recounting their own recollections and perspectives, are like vivid embroidery on fine linen: a fascinating and delightful detail to enhance something that’s already valuable.

Long-time friends, colleagues and UWA Historical Society members Christine Shervington, who works for two different UWA centres, and Susan Marie, Director UWA Extension, have sought to create 100 Voices, a hundred oral histories to celebrate the Centenary.

Christine, the inaugural UWA Archivist and Susan, an experienced librarian, are both interested in history and the people that make it.

“Oral history is very expensive,” Christine said. “It costs between $1,000 and $1,500 for a quality interview, recording and index. Oral history interviewers are highly trained and do a lot of research before they interview their subjects.”

The $3,000 Centenary grant supplements funding from every faculty for the project, with some donating for up to ten interviews. There are already 35 oral histories completed. When the 100 are finished, the project will be available on the UWA website.

“It is too expensive to totally transcribe 100 oral histories – they can be up to three hours long,” Christine said. “But they will be indexed, with timed summaries and key words noted every three minutes or so, to facilitate finding the area of interest among several hours of recording.”

There will also be sound bites online and Christine and Susan are investigating the best way to do this.

Along with academics, staff involved with the Guild, the grounds, and other important aspects of University life will be interviewed.

“These are the voices that make up the history of the University,” Christine said.

If you would like to help build this collection of voices, please contact Susan on 6488 2634.

**Students celebrate on stage**

In the tradition of one of UWA’s (currently) best-loved sons, Tim Minchin, the University Dramatic Society’s Centenary production is a darkly comedic musical show.

It ran for four nights early this month in the Dolphin Theatre, where the now famous comedian/musician began his career.

*Viva La Restoration* had a cast of 37, as well as a production team, stage crew and musicians.

“It is a hugely collaborative effort,” said director and co-writer Cal Silberstein, a UWA Arts graduate who is doing his Masters of Primary Teaching. “UDS is a 96-year-old society and we really wanted to do justice to its history,” he said.

Cal and his co-writer Thomas Owen, another Arts graduate, started writing the script in October.

The original music is composed by music student Jackson Griggs, while Engineering and Science student Ben McAllister is the producer.

“The more than 50 students involved are from all walks of life and academic disciplines,” Cal said. “We are brought together by our love of the theatre.”

The Centenary Grant of $3,000 will go towards the $4,000 hire fee for the Dolphin Theatre.

“UDS used to have a reputation of putting on shows specifically for students, but we have become more sophisticated over the past decade,” said Cal, who was UDS president for four years.

“Being part of UDS has been one of the most valuable experiences of my time at UWA,” he said.

“This cast and crew realises that this is an important production for the society and they have all given 100 per cent. I think their efforts were amplified by the excitement of producing a brand new creation.”

*Viva La Restoration* tells the story of two artists in a world without colour, who seek to restore colour in different ways.
Clean water for Nepal

It wasn’t until 2010 that the United Nations declared clean water a basic human right.

Perhaps it’s not surprising then that so many children in developing countries die from diseases associated with dirty water and lack of sanitation.

Dani Barrington, research associate in the School of Environmental Systems Engineering, is leading an AusAID-funded program to help bring clean water and sanitation to Nepal. It is an Australia Leadership Award Fellowship Program.

Dr Barrington worked as a volunteer in Nepal for nine months, with Engineers without Borders, developing a methodology for water safety planning in remote communities.

Now 14 Nepali water managers, including engineers and members of local water and sanitation committees, are learning about integrated water management in a four-week program run by UWA and the International Water Centre in Brisbane.

“They are in Perth for three weeks and the program includes presentations and workshops by UWA and Murdoch academics, and water practitioners from WaterCorp, the Swan River Trust and others, and field trips,” Dr Barrington said.

“Our WaterCorp is recognised around the world for its best practice in many areas and the Nepali Fellows are learning a lot from the utility. They have been on a Swan River cruise, investigated small scale household technologies, visited wastewater, groundwater and wastewater recharge plants,” she said.

“They can’t understand what Perth people’s objections are to drinking recycled water!”

Dr Barrington said Nepal officially had ‘water supply coverage’ of 80 per cent. “But in reality, half of those systems don’t operate properly. And sanitation rates are less than 50 per cent. In a country of 30 million people, tens of thousands of people die from diarrhoea each year. They would be very happy to be able to drink clean recycled water.”

She said the Nepali Fellows all speak very good English but they use different terminology. “So I’m able to help them ‘translate’ while they are here.

“In the industry we use the term WASH to describe integrated water management: WAter, Sanitation and Hygiene. They are keen on learning how to improve their piping, but they also have to learn how to work with stakeholders to design that piping. It’s all part of the integrated system.

“We are helping them to think outside the square and to look at the social side as well as the economic and environmental aspects.”

What causes the stalemate?

Do you find the American political system difficult to fathom?

Professor Burdett Loomis may have some answers for you. He holds the Australian Distinguished Chair in American Political Science, one of the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program.

Professor Loomis will present the Fulbright Flinders Distinguished Chair Lecture at UWA on Wednesday 22 May.

Stalemate in American Politics: Sorting Out the Culprits will examine the roles played by political parties and organised interests in producing the stalemate in the US political system.

It has become an increasing problem over the past 30 years, often making it difficult for Presidents to implement their policy agendas or respond quickly to major policy problems.

The Distinguished Chair is hosted by Flinders University from 2011 to 2015. Professor Loomis is also a Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Kansas and a Fulbright Senior Specialist.

The public lecture, in the University Club Theatre Auditorium from 6pm to 7pm is hosted by the Institute of Advanced Studies. It is free but please register your attendance at ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/loomis to ensure a place. Please register by Wednesday 15 May.
Feeling safe on campus

"Look out for the vest: we'll do the rest" could be the motto of the new contract security staff who are patrolling the Crawley campus.

The University now employs security guards 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They wear blue vests with bands of red and white checks to ensure staff and students notice them and know they can ask them for help.

Garin Collins, a UWA staff duty officer and field supervisor, said there was a fine line between providing a presence and unnecessarily interrupting people as they work.

“But we want everybody to know we are here to help,” he said. “I think, at first, people weren’t approaching us because they thought we were parking inspectors!”

The contract staff constantly patrol the campus four at a time – in two pairs. They are part of a complete security upgrade being implemented by Bob Leaver.

Mr Leaver has been the Manager of Security for 18 months and is completing a new master plan for the University.

“It started with a lot of staff training, then we got the Wilsons Security contract guards on board,” he said. “We are in the process of creating improved response services and hoping to get an electric vehicle to make our night time escort service quicker and more efficient and enhance response capabilities to incidents and emergencies.”

The most visible change is that security guards are now also on duty during daylight hours. There were only night shifts before the new regime.

“We’ll find that our incident statistics will increase,” Mr Leaver said. “But that doesn’t necessarily mean more crime on campus. It means we are detecting more incidents and dealing more efficiently with crime and problems.”

He said the guards recently made a citizen’s arrest of a man who was trying to break into a vending machine near the Maths building.

“The evening patrol noticed the locks had been tampered with and they assumed whoever had done that would come back. So we put on extra patrols the next day and the man came back with a drill to drill out the lock – and he was arrested.

“That could not have happened last year, without security staff working in daylight hours,” Mr Leaver said.

The contract staff provide the foot patrols; the UWA staff supervise and help them, and are available for emergencies.

Mr Collins said he thought students were slowly getting used to seeing the uniformed guards around the campus and even inside some areas such as libraries. “At first, it was like seeing police walking through your work area. You ask: What’s happening? Now they realise nothing’s happening, but I hope they are feeling safe.”

Mr Leaver said the new guards were high quality employees who had a focus on customer service, had good education and experience, and were able to deal with any incidents.

He said he anticipated that the new security plan would eventually include improved closed circuit television cameras, ‘Help’ points and lighting to make the campus even safer.
Hundreds of students are keen to comply with one of the proposals in the Vice-Chancellor’s UWA Futures paper.

They are all but rushing overseas to reach the targeted figure for undergraduates studying abroad. The goal was to double the current participation figure by 2020. But Carole Rakotonirina, co-ordinator of Study Abroad and Student Exchange, said the target may well be reached long before then.

“The program is growing fast,” she said. “We had 435 applicants for outbound travel in the last round of applications and we have about 250 incoming students either on exchange or as fee-paying Study Abroad participants.”

The annual Study Abroad Fair last month filled a marquee on James Oval, having become too big for its previous location in the Guild Village courtyard.

There were 14 new Student Exchange partners, including the universities of Toronto and Western Ontario and Dalhousie (Nova Scotia) from Canada; Sciences Po Lille and University Pierre et Marie Curie from France; universities of Zurich and Lugano from Switzerland; University of Ferrara from Italy; and three new universities from each of the US and the UK.

Maastricht University in the Netherlands has been a partner for a few years and exchange student Patrick Mackenzie, who spent a semester there last year, was reunited with one of his economics lecturers, Tom van Veen.

All Maastricht’s courses are based on Problem-Based Learning, which appealed to Patrick.

“I did four units of economics at Maastricht’s School of Business and Economics,” said Pat, who is also studying Law. “They were all small classes, no big lectures, which is just what I like.”

He said he had been looking for a small university town and when he found Maastricht with its student population of just 16,000 and the method of learning he preferred, the decision was easy.

“I’m not the only one who sees these benefits,” he said. “There were nearly 1,000 exchange students at Maastricht from all over the world. There were nine different nationalities represented on my floor of my apartment building.”

Pat said he chose to do a semester abroad because he wanted to break up his six year (double) degree.

“You learn so much more about a place and a culture when you’re living and studying there, rather than just travelling through on a holiday,” he said. “I made so many friends. Some of them are coming to Perth for my 21st birthday later this year.”

Dr van Veen said almost all undergraduate students added a fourth year, and a Master’s degree, to their Bachelor’s degrees. “The labour market almost demands it now,” he said. “It is the same in many countries and I’m sure it will move that way in Australia too.”

Business School students are putting theory into practice in a pop up shop in the city.

Members of Enactus have teamed with Oxfam and the WA Fair Trade Collective to run a Fair Trade Pop Up Shop on the corner of King and Hay streets.

They opened their store on 4 May, selling Fair Trade tea, coffee, chocolate, jewellery, beauty products and homewares, with an eye to the Mothers’ Day market.

Co-ordinator Lauren Ziegelaar said the project enabled students to raise awareness of the global Fair Trade movement while giving them practical management and retail experience.

“Our pop up shop can help producers and disadvantaged workers in developing nations to tackle poverty and seek greater equity in international trade,” Lauren said.

Enactus, formerly SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise), is a program through which students learn business skills while providing a service for the community.

The pop up shop will trade until Sunday 19 May.
The UWA Motorsport team is already at full throttle this year, with enthusiasm fuelled by a daring state-of-the-art suspension system.

It was a heartbreaking end to last year for the dedicated students and supervisors when they had to withdraw from the final competition because their vehicle was not ready to race.

But they have started 2013 with great success.

Competing in the first Formula SAE-Australasia West competition in February, the UWA team won first place in three out of the four events: acceleration, autocross and endurance.

The team is on track for another tilt at national and international success this year, now that its inventive suspension has been approved by judges who were unsure about its legality.

Project Manager Matt Schrader said the team had developed renewed enthusiasm and excitement.

"Reviewing 2012, we discovered critical organisational and communication components that affected the outcome," he said. "An additional challenge this year is in obtaining sufficient financial resources to achieve our goal.

"But this challenge means we have developed new skills and we are confident that we are now equipped to push ourselves to greater horizons."

The controversial suspension in the 2012 car was inspired by the Lotus T88 Formula 1 car, which was banned before it could race competitively.

"The concept was the basis of much discussion around the pits, with fellow competitors and judges," Matt said. "The judges reserve the right to disqualify cars which do not represent a serious attempt at an operational suspension system."

With the UWA team withdrawing from the competition, it was not until months later that the rules committee accepted the vehicle’s suspension, without making comment on whether or not the design was good engineering.

"Normally, it is just final preparatory work," she said. "But the amount of work left to do last year at Werribee was insurmountable. Sadly, it was a combination of problems built up over the year.

"With ongoing engine and electrical issues, we decided not to push to finish the car for the dynamic (racing) events because we felt we wouldn’t be competing at a respectable level."

Spokesperson Suzie Delahunt said the last-minute work needed on the vehicle at the race venue in Werribee, Victoria, varied from year to year.

Some of the UWA team members were taken on by other crews for the weekend and gained valuable experience.

UWA Motorsport is supported by more than 40 sponsors, who are looking forward to more of the national and international success for which the Motorsport project has become known.
Building healthy habits

If this is being healthy, bring it on!

Staff enjoyed the good life at UWA’s first Wellbeing Expo in the Undercroft last month. They were treated to a showcase of the services available on campus to assist employees to manage their wellbeing – including shoulder and back massages, fruit smoothies and a table groaning with healthy snack food.

Sarina Radici, UWA’s Health and Wellbeing officer, said she was pleased with the turn-out and she hoped that staff had learned something new about building healthy habits at UWA.

About half of the 16 stalls were run by UWA staff or associates promoting services including the Health and Rehabilitation Clinic in Sport Science; ergonomic assessments by our resident experts in Safety and Health; confidential counselling services; UWA Sports; and a local on-campus chapter of Weight Watchers.

Others stalls included private health insurance companies, nutritionists and the Scott Kirkbride Melanoma Research Centre.

Staff also learned about classes offered by UniSwim, help available from Equity and Diversity and the services of the Men’s Advisory Network.

“Wellbeing has many elements to it, and there are so many offerings that staff can take advantage of here on campus. The Expo was a great way to showcase UWA’s services, as well as those in the wider community,” Sarina said.

Staff who wish to know more about wellbeing services should visit safety.uwa.edu.au/wellbeing

Preserving the present

Nothing could capture the early 21st century better than portable technology.

So the Guild’s Centenary Time Capsule will almost certainly preserve an iPod, a mobile phone and a USB.

Jonathon Zahra, Guild business manager and Centenary executive officer, is seeking suggestions for inclusions in the time capsule, which will be interred in the wall of the Guild student centre, to be opened in 100 years’ time.

“We have started collecting things but we’re still looking for good ideas,” Jonathon said. “A committee will select the best 20 items for inclusion in the capsule before it goes into the wall, probably late in second semester.”

Proposed refurbishments to the Guild student centre include a wall with a purpose-designed cavity to take the 850ml long 500ml wide stainless steel cylinder.

A plaque will then mark its spot.

“I’m sure the building will be redeveloped before 2113, but the plaque will alert the developers to the capsule so it can be retrieved and re-interred,” he said.

As well as the technology, other suggestions for inclusion include a print of the Big 100 photo, a copy of Trove (the Arts Faculty’s online creative journal), Guild club shirts, some student course readers, a lecturer’s hand-written notes, poems, pictures and awards.

The Guild would love your suggestions, so please send them to Jonathan at centenary@guild.uwa.edu.au

Guild President Cam Barnes hopes staff can help with inspired suggestions for filling the time capsule. Photo: Matt Galligan
University Hall – one of the largest capital projects undertaken by UWA in the past decade – has opened its doors to a new generation of students who will live and study on campus.

Construction on the major development began in October 2011, and in March this year, less than one-and-a-half years later, University Hall welcomed more than 500 new residents.

The project included the construction of three new accommodation buildings and facilities including media, games and music rooms, undercroft parking and bike storage. New landscaped courtyards have also been constructed, featuring recycled timber decking and outdoor furniture.

The significant scale and timeframe for the delivery of the development required coordination of many teams across the University to make it a success.

The Campus Development team delivered the construction project, with support from many others within the Office of Finance and Resources including University Hall, Financial Services and Facilities Management. The University Club also delivered a new dining hall within the existing facilities. Other departments involved in the project included Legal Services, Public Affairs and Information Services.

The development, supported by the Australian and State Governments under the National Rental Affordability Scheme, required the team at University Hall to introduce new processes and operations to manage the increase in students living on campus.

UWA Director Student Residences Chris Massey said the project teams involved all worked towards a common goal – to deliver the development at an extremely high standard.

“As a result, the feedback we have received from residents has been outstanding, with everybody impressed by the quality of the rooms, fit-out and facilities,” he said.

“It’s been a major undertaking, and remaining focused on the outcomes as well as maintaining a positive experience for existing residents was a priority.”

Residential rooms in the Hall were completed in March, enabling residents to move into the new accommodation during Semester 1, while the contractor finalised landscaping, common room fit outs and internal road works during April.

Some of the accommodation was not quite ready for the start of semester, but the University assisted residents with alternative accommodation and reports are that it was a smooth transition.

An official opening will take place later in the year.
Although it still remains one of the mysteries of modern life, it does seem that physical and mental well-being might help to ward off cancer. So look after yourself by coming to the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea at the University Club on Thursday 23 May (10am to 11.30am).

Salsa dancing will provide some exercise while coffee, cake and good company can go a long way towards mental health.

Cindi Dunjey, from the Centre for Exploration Targeting is running the morning tea for the fourth consecutive year, after starting it as a small event soon after she lost a colleague to cancer. Each year the morning tea is run by volunteers all across Australia in the last week of May. Cindi’s has become bigger and better each year.

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Many guests at last year’s event said they would happily pay more for a great morning and a good cause, so tickets this year are $15. As well as the University Club’s excellent tea, coffee, cakes and some home-baked goodies, there will be a salsa dancing demonstration by Jacky Shue from Humphries Dance Studio – and anybody can join in.

There are also lots of door prizes, including five gourmet hampers, valued at $75 each, donated by FoodRescue Perth; dancing courses from Humphries Dance Studio; and a functional movement assessment and fitness classes from PhysioFit, donated by Craig Soley.

A weekend at a charming cottage in Quindalup (near Dunsborough) has been donated by UWA graduate Shane Langsford. The weekend will be raffled at the morning tea.

You can also buy home-baked cakes to take back to your colleagues.

Tickets are available from Cindi in the Centre for Exploration Targeting (west of the Geography and Geology building). She is at cindi.dunjey@uwa.edu.au or 6388 2640. Or you can buy your tickets at the Club on the day.

If you can’t make it to the morning tea but would like to support cancer research, you can make a donation at: http://wa.cancercouncilfundraising.org.au/UWABiggestMorningTea2013

A poetry revival?

Poetry, that oft-forgotten art, is sneaking back into life at UWA.

A group of poetry-loving graduates who form a group called Well Versed, have put together a program of poetry written by some of the better-known graduates from the past 100 years.

They will be performing works by Dame Alexandra and Sir Paul Hasluck, Dorothy Hewett, Randolph Stow, Fay Zwicky, Walter Murdoch, Nicholas Hasluck, Hal Colebatch, Bill Warnock and many more on Sunday 19 May at 2.30pm for a UWA Historical Society Centenary celebration.

The group began public readings last year. They entertained the Friends of the Reid Library at Christmas; they added value to the 1962 exhibition at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery; and presented a program at the Dolphin Theatre for GRADS, supported by Seniors’ Week.

Theirs were the voices we heard during the spectacular LUMINOUS night projection.

Could it be that these old friends and performers (one of whom is now in his 100th year) are returning an art which had fallen from favour back to its rightful place on the Crawley campus?

Come and listen to Faith Clayton, Joan Pope, Collin O’Brien, Pat Stroud, Valerie Melrose, Rayden James, Philip Mackenzie and (centenarian) David Goodall in Australia and Beyond in the Old Senate Room, in the Irwin Street Building.

Tickets for the performance are $10 at the door, but reservations are advisable for this small venue. To ensure a seat, call Joan Pope on 9385 9980 or 0488 935 501 or email popejoan@westnet.com.au

Eat, dance, raise money

Humphries Dance Studio – and anybody can join in.

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Deirdre Gleeson has been exploring one of the frontiers of science, albeit a very tiny one: soil microorganisms.

The findings of the research, by Associate Professor Gleeson and her colleagues in the Institute of Agriculture have been presented in international journals and conferences. “Some of the findings were relevant to farmers and we were pleased to see reports in regional newspapers about the project’s findings,” said Professor Gleeson.

Their work is helping unravel two of the mysteries of soil microorganisms: How do soil organisms contribute to greenhouse gas emissions? And why is their biodiversity so extraordinarily high?

The ARC Discovery Project was the first to examine how, in semi-arid soil, water influences a group of soil microorganisms that help regulate the Earth’s climate. These microorganisms help to do this by producing the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide.

“These findings help us understand how nitrous oxide emissions from soil microorganisms may be affected by changing rainfall patterns. They may become relevant to other regions of the globe if climate changes cause them to become semi-arid.”

“One of the most intriguing puzzles in soil microbiology is how so many different bacterial species can coexist in small volumes of soil,” said Professor Gleeson. “One promising theory has been tested in artificial soils but our research was the first to find evidence to support it using real soil.”

Discovery project unravels soil mysteries

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PROSH repairs the damage

The students who wrote the PROSH paper are taking part in cultural sensitivity training, after a column purportedly written by an Indigenous person caused offence and distress.

Guild President Cam Barnes said he was committed to doing everything possible to ensure that future PROSH papers met appropriate community standards.

“I have apologised unreservedly for the article and for the lack of scrutiny of the publication,” he said. “It is a real shame that something in such poor taste detracts from the core efforts of the event, which is to raise money for local charities and good causes.”

One of the charities, Indigenous Communities Education and Awareness foundation, refused to accept the money raised for it by the sale of The Over Exaggeration last month.

The other charities, The Song Room, Miracle Babies and Uni Camp for Teens have accepted the Guild’s donations.

A bomb hoax early on PROSH day meant that the total raised was significantly lower than expected.

About 6.30am, a young man, believed to be a student from another university, told a UWA Wilsons Security guard that there was a bomb in the Guild Village.

Just two days after the Boston bombing, security and the police took the threat seriously and evacuated the Guild Village for an hour while they searched for the bomb.

Almost half of the papers and collection tins had to be left behind and in some areas there was a notable absence of students on the streets during the morning rush hour.

“We raised around $100,000,” Cam said. “Last year we made just over $140,000 so that was a bad start to the day.”

The cultural sensitivity training will be run with the help of the School of Indigenous Studies and will be made compulsory for future editorial teams.

Cam said the Guild would also be working closely with the School and the WA Student Aboriginal Corporation to institute new policies, procedures and initiatives to promote cultural awareness at UWA.
ORCID reduces confusion

“I. Newton, B. Franklin, A. Einstein – in the smaller scientific community of the past, a surname and initial sufficed to identify a researcher.”

With these words, the Nature Publishing Group launched, with 16 other universities and publishers, a registry of researchers which will help to identify authors in the global, mobile 21st century.

Some UWA academics have already registered with ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) and say it takes just 30 seconds to create an ID.

The ID, a 16-digit number, will help colleagues, collaborators and interested readers track your contribution to scientific literature. It was created to solve the problem of many scientists sharing surnames and even initials.

The ID becomes a unique code that researchers can link with their papers and other research output, and is recommended by the UWA scientists who brought it to the attention of UWAnews.

IN A CAMPUS EMERGENCY

DIAL 2222

Security staff will call the emergency services, direct them to you and come to help you while waiting for their arrival.

THE NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO OUR

2013 National Community Conversations

In this free event, let us share with you what’s been achieved over the past 18 years. And we’d like you to share with us your views as to where breast cancer research, and cancer research in general, should head. What community needs and research questions would you like addressed?

When: Tuesday 21st May 2013
5pm to 6.30pm

Where: Perth Town Hall,
Barrack St, Perth WA 6000

RSVP: Please RSVP to NBCF Events Producer,
Richard Hughes
02 80984865 (direct) - 02 80984800 (main)
richard.hughes@nbcf.org.au
The University of Western Australia

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSE SITTING

HOUSE SITTER: wanted for June, July and August. Nice 4 bedroom house in Fremantle close to river and beach. Adorable but lively 9 month old dog to go with it. If interested please contact Christobel Saunders@uwa.edu.au

FOR SALE

EVOO: Award winning quality extra virgin olive oil (EVOO) from Australia’s South West. Goccia d’Oro Olive Grove is a family business and uses no pesticides or chemicals in the production of its EVOO. Available in a range of sizes and varieties. Contact 1: 9449 5520 or email: info@gocciaadoro.com.au

TO LET

FRANCE – DORDOGNE: Holiday accommodation. Self-contained apartment in one of the most beautiful Medieval Villages of the Périgord Noir, Belvès. Train and all amenities. For more details see website www.belvess.info or contact Susana Meło de Howard on 9246 5042 or 0438 878 425. Email: susana@belvess.info

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.

LONDON: Newly converted fully equipped London accommodation (can sleep four) with panoramic views and excellent transport to Central London (including the new Overland or “Museum” Line, connecting twelve museums). Available in nice area of Peckham from one week to three months, at very reasonable price from $400. Contact melhon@optusnet.com.au or call (08) 9727 1279, or email: info@trencreekchalets.com.au or call (08) 9727 1279, or email: info@trencreekchalets.com.au

SUBIACO HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION: Are you looking for short term holiday accommodation in Perth? Inner city fully furnished Spacious Loft (about 100 m²) accommodation with ensuite in Subiaco available for short term stays. It can accommodate up to 4 people. Rate per night: $150 (Daily rate) – min stay of 3 nights; $140 (Daily rate) – min stay of 7 nights. The loft accommodation has a queen bed and 2 single beds; cycling, heating and cooling air conditioner; ensuite. For more information and booking contact: latha.samuel@uwa.edu.au

NOTICES

Satu Suara: A Celebration of World Music

Perth Undergraduate Choral Society (PUCS) presents two concerts:

Satu Suara means ‘one voice’

These concerts are a celebration of world music

Sunday, 19 May 3:30pm

Perth Modern School
90 Roberts Road, Subiaco
Tickets: Adults $23, Children/Concession $18
Online Ticket Sales: www.trybooking.com/CULB

Saturday, 25 May 3:30pm

Kalarnanda Performing Arts Centre
48 Canning Road, Kalarnanda
Tickets: Adults $23, Concession $18, Children $10
Online Ticket Sales: www.trybooking.com/CULF

Tickets are available online or at the door.

www.pucs.org.au

available May – Dec 2013 (period negotiable). One main bedroom + en suite, 2 other double bedrooms, large living area, separate lounge room with double study, outdoor eating area and full size pool. Located in a quiet cul-de-sac, 300 m from Canning River foreshore parklands and cycleway, 100 m from Shelley Primary School and shops, and 3 km on a bus route from Rosslynne Senior High School and major train line. Sabbitval customers welcomed. Rent is $600 per week + $75 per week utilities (including wifi/internet). Please contact Julie at towerplumber@gmail.com or phone (06) 9259 5663.

ACCOMMODATION

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION: New to Australia’s South West, Tren Creek Chalets and Goccia d’Oro Olive Grove provide luxury accommodation in a Mediterranean setting. It features a natural tranquil environment amongst fruit trees, vineyard, beautiful Tren Creek, and an organic olive grove boasting some top extra virgin olive oil awards. Family owned and operated, it displays sustainable living in tune with nature. Visit our website www.trencreekchalets.com.au or call (08) 9727 1279, or email: info@trencreekchalets.com.au

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Go to www.quindalup.net.au for great cottage for all seasons. Please send your ad to: staffads@admin.uwa.edu.au before each monthly deadline.
Everybody’s talking about MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses) but what’s it like to take one? I decided to find out.

In March I completed an eight week course in Data Analysis taught by a bio-statistician at Johns Hopkins University. It used the Coursera Platform.

There were approximately 102,000 students enrolled in the course, about 51,000 watched videos, 20,000 did quizzes, and 5,500 did everything. ‘Everything’ meant watching the videos, doing the quizzes and assignments and also grading the assignments using the peer review process.

I was one of the 5,500 and found that I spent between eight and 20 hours per week on the course. I was on sabbatical which was just as well as the course had tight deadlines with weekly content and quizzes which we received on Sunday and had to be completed a week later.

What were the highlights of the course?

The discussion boards were great. With that many people on the course it is easy to get help and fun to give it. People went to extraordinary lengths to explain things even developing alternative examples and R code to help me understand when I struggled with an idea. All the help came from other participants.

The teaching assistants were mainly there to police the board and to make sure people weren’t giving the answers out and to deal with technical issues like not being able to download data files. I found that when I didn’t grasp how one person had explained something, others would jump in and try alternative approaches. Sooner or later someone would have an explanation that I could follow.

The peer-peer grading was an interesting experience. We had to write a formal report (Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results, Conclusions and References) for both assignments. After submission we had to grade four of our peers using a marking key. Following this we had to grade our own report. I then had the opportunity to compare what I had scored myself against the average score from my four assessors. In the main, it was very close.

I did the course for a number of reasons. I needed to learn R, a statistical programming language and the course would force me to do so. I also wanted to develop some competence in data analysis so I could collaborate more effectively with my colleagues in the Statistics department. Finally I wanted to see what all the hype of MOOCs was about.

As a result of taking the course I’d also like to try some of the teaching processes they used. In particular: a) short recorded lectures followed by quiz questions that require you to use to material in the lecture to solve a specific problem; b) having four tries at answering the quiz question (I learned more when I made a mistake than when I got it right first time); and c) peer-peer marking. Of course all of these require an appropriate software platform which is one of the selling points of Coursera.

I’d also like to be able to see all the data that the course generated, see which quiz questions we struggled with, and what people did when they struggled: all of this is captured by the software.

Though we would need data analysis skills to analyse it of course!

For those interested in seeing what the lectures are like, the course videos are on Youtube and tagged by week: http://bit.ly/16PPtuI; and the course lecture notes are on Github: https://github.com/jtleek/dataanalysis