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Flinders University researchers have studied the Coorong and Lower Lakes as low water flows in the Murray River have wreaked havoc on the wetlands' ecosystems. The University will play a significantly expanded role in the training of the next generation of environmental professionals and make a major contribution to the research that will underpin future policy-making for groundwater. In 2009, Flinders was chosen by the Australian Government to lead a nationwide research collaboration with the establishment of the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. The University also drew together a wide range of teaching and research expertise across the campus into a new School of the Environment to be operational from January 2010.

Photo: © Kbo Australia
There were many unintended and unexpected spin-offs from Sydney’s hosting of the Olympic Games in 2000.

Hussam Tayeb coming to Flinders University to study was one of them.

Born in Germany to Syrian parents, Dr Tayeb was schooled in Syria and Saudi Arabia and completed his Bachelor of Science pre-medical degree at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

But when it came to choosing a place to study medicine, the 21-year-old was looking to “go somewhere else”.

“It was the year of the Sydney Olympics and Australia looked like a cool place to go,” Dr Tayeb said.

“Flinders was one of the only places that offered early acceptance and guaranteed me a spot,” he said.

“The first thing that struck me here was the friendliness of the staff, the laid-back, easygoing Australian culture, and how humble all the professors and teachers were.

“I think that’s something that’s stuck with me and that’s what makes Australia so endearing to live in.”

Considering his own multi-national background, it is interesting that the mix of people from all walks of life in the Flinders medical course appealed to Dr Tayeb.

“I met people from all parts of Australia and lots of other international destinations and from various backgrounds in terms of their first degrees which made for a very interesting mix,” he said.

“I wouldn’t have experienced that in Syria or Lebanon. Over there, everyone would have been from the Middle East and everyone would have just done a Bachelor of Science of some sort before going to medical school.”

Nine years later and in his first year of advanced cardiology training at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Dr Tayeb possibly has packed in more experiences of Australia than most Australians.

He has visited much of the country (“I need to explore Western Australia and northern Queensland”); and he is now married to “an Adelaide girl”.

He has also spent some time working in the Northern Territory.

“During my fourth year at Flinders, I had two, six-week rotations in the Northern Territory: the first one was in Darwin and the second was in Alice Springs. I ended up doing my one-year internship in the Alice Springs Hospital,” Dr Tayeb said.

He confesses that “Tassie” – where he completed his first year of physician’s training and where he loves bushwalking – is his favourite Australian destination.

“I’m not a big desert fan. It’s probably because I’m an Arab that I actually prefer the green,” he said.

“But I did a fair bit of exploring around Alice Springs. I went to every gorge and swam in every waterhole, even with floating dead kangaroos.

“It was a very interesting, rewarding and yet challenging place to be. It opened my eyes about the joys and difficulties of Indigenous health.”

“It was a very good working environment; there are very good people in the health professions there but it’s a difficult situation.”

Dr Tayeb said the Alice Springs experience has had personal and professional benefits.

“It helped me understand Indigenous patients that come to the Royal Adelaide, and it’s really given me a good understanding of how to deal with them,” he said.

“I’ve also come to accept and respect that some Indigenous patients refuse medical interventions. It’s a choice some people make.”

Dr Tayeb said he would be happy to work anywhere in Australia but his new family ties suggest Adelaide will be home base.

He is even considering coming back to Flinders to undertake training in intensive care.

“My experience studying and staying on in Australia and working has just been an incredible journey and I feel very fortunate the way things worked out,” he said.

“As an international student, it’s been a very positive experience. I’ve had an awesome time. I like this country and I like this University.”

In the meantime, Dr Tayeb wants to encourage all medical students to experience working in the Northern Territory.

“I really cherish my time in the NT. It was very interesting and it was eye-opening on many fronts: medically but also as a human being.”

Vincent Ciccarello
Rural health
a study in extremes and contrasts

House calls, NT style: Dr Jennifer Brown (left) and final-year medical student Emily Carroll returning from Galiwin’ku, a major Aboriginal community on Elcho Island, 150 kilometres north west of Nhulunbuy

“In one week at the hospital I’ve seen a croc bite, a shark bite and a box jelly sting. My friends back home are never going to believe me!”

Even by Northern Territory standards, the experience of a fourth-year Flinders medical student on placement at the Gove District Hospital in the East Arnhem town of Nhulunbuy was unusual.

But working in health in remote and rural Australia is like that — full of extremes and contrasts.

It is one of the things that appealed to Dr Jennifer Brown, general practitioner and senior lecturer in rural medicine at the Northern Territory Rural Clinical School (NTRCS) in Nhulunbuy.

Three years ago, she travelled with her children from Canberra with the notion of “spending a few months” working in Indigenous primary health care in the NT. By a series of twists and coincidences, she ended up at the NTRCS.

“The shorter rural placements I undertook during my undergraduate years were my happiest and most memorable learning experiences and they fuelled my desire to work in Indigenous and rural health,” Dr Brown said.

“I had little knowledge of rural clinical schools beforehand but the concept appealed to me and made personal sense,” she said.

Unlike many medical and allied health students and professionals coming to work in such a setting for the first time, Dr Brown pretty much knew what to expect.

“Initially it is very confronting. I know when I first came out to remote Indigenous communities, I was shocked that people in Australia could be living this way,” she said.

“Here in Nhulunbuy we have a mining town population with First World housing and sanitation, almost 100 per cent employment, high disposable income and good access to culturally appropriate primary and secondary education delivered by a relatively stable teaching workforce and a district hospital manned by GP Proceduralists.

“But in the surrounding communities we have Third World, overcrowded living conditions, variable access to sometimes culturally insensitive education programs resulting in disengaged young people with poor numeracy and literacy who are therefore unable to participate in further training or the paid workforce.

“Very few communities have a full-time doctor, none have hospital facilities, and retrieval services are struggling to meet demand. And the lack of any available accommodation, both within town and certainly in the Indigenous communities, severely hampers capacity to employ extra staff.

“The social determinants of health are just staring you in the face every time you walk out the door,” she said.

The Flinders and James Cook University medical and allied health students work in various health delivery sites, “in town” and out in the homelands.

One day they could be dealing with Rio Tinto-Alcan employees or any of the hundreds of service delivery workers in the area — pilots, fire fighters, teachers — who may have suffered a workplace or sporting injury. On another, they come “up close and personal” with the highest rates of rheumatic heart disease in the world, outbreaks of tuberculosis, youth suicide and chronic disease in 30-year-olds.

Usually, the students come away passionate about the social determinants affecting health service delivery and outcomes.

“I think rural and remote medicine is much more satisfying. You’re getting to see people within their environment; you get to know their families, and your children mix with theirs; you meet in the supermarket and on the beach,” Dr Brown said.

“Inevitably you practice more holistic medicine and you have a more holistic view of the people.”

She supports the concept of Rural Clinical Schools.

“As one third-year student said: ‘You could have put us in a lecture theatre for 100 hours with the best academics in Indigenous health and I would never have learned what I’ve learned in three days in the homeland,’” she said.

She is also excited about the NT Medical Program, being developed in partnership by Flinders and Charles Darwin Universities, and any initiatives that give local Indigenous people the support and training that allows them to deliver and administer their local health care facilities.

“Anything that allows local people to access training closer to home is fantastic,” Dr Brown said.

“They’re the people that live here, that have the commitment to the region and the most incentive to improve health in the region: it’s their relatives that are suffering and dying.”

Vincent Ciccarello
In his laboratory role (latterly as supervisor and manager) and as demonstrator for the Department of Chemistry, Mr Solly became a familiar figure and vital educational resource for generations of chemistry students.

Over his career, he has witnessed the transformation of Flinders in both scale and technical sophistication. At the time he started, for instance, the entire School of Physical Sciences comprised eight academics and 10 general staff. Mr Solly also remembers that in 1966 the major technological pride and joy of the laboratories was a large four-function calculator that was chained to a bench for security.

"Everyone was still using log tables and slide rules," he said. "Now we have highly sophisticated instruments all being run by computers."

With growing student numbers in the late 60s, it became necessary for Mr Solly to prepare solutions for experiments in 200 litre (44 gallon) plastic drums, and one of his favourite early memories is of preparing an organic compound by night with a Polish colleague to a blaring soundtrack of Cossack music. Donning rubber boots to scrub the insides of the Physical Sciences’ giant rainwater tanks is a task he remembers with less affection.

To break routine, Mr Solly would join the frenetic student cricket matches played with a tennis ball in the concrete courtyard.

Despite the inevitable breakages and spills — and one singularly careless student who managed to set off the fire alarms twice in one day — Mr Solly said the laboratory staff maintained a very high standard of safety.

"In all my 43 years, we never had a serious accident," Mr Solly said.

In his early days he did, however, have the disconcerting experience of freezing the front of his lab coat solid, thanks to an overflow of liquid nitrogen. During the incident, he carefully leaned forward to keep his clothes clear of his chest.

"You’re talking about minus 196°C — my clothes took a couple of minutes to defrost," he said.

"There were no safety procedures or risk assessments in these early days as we have now."

His unequalled familiarity with the practical aspects of the chemistry course eventually prompted him to follow up his early certificate from the Institute of Technology with a science degree at Flinders.

Studying after hours at the rate of one to three subjects each year, his BSc took a decade to complete, but Mr Solly is very glad he did it, and he remains grateful to those academic staff who encouraged him, especially Ray Booth, who tutored him in mathematics.

"I ended up with 97 per cent for the maths," Mr Solly said.

With the degree under his belt, Mr Solly was eventually promoted to laboratory supervisor, and during the 1990s oversaw the expansion of laboratory sessions to include students from physics, organic and inorganic chemistry, forensic chemistry and nanotechnology.

As in any other long-running career, and particularly one involving toxic and potentially hazardous materials, Mr Solly said there were times of stress and tension as well as fun and laughter.

"Altogether, I’ve absolutely loved this job, and I consider myself very lucky. I particularly enjoyed assisting and looking after students, and a lot of them who graduated years ago still come up to me and say ‘hello’ and ‘thanks’.

"He remains very proud of the award made to him in 2006 for his outstanding contribution to the University.

"The award made all the hard work and worry worthwhile," he said.

Mr Solly said he can only guess at the numbers of students he has helped to educate.

"Hundreds and hundreds — it’s impossible to calculate," he said.

Charles Gent
Radical ideas calling for simple solutions

“Are you keeping up with the Commodore? ‘Cos the Commodore is keeping up with you!”

The people at the advertising agency probably didn’t have Paul Gardner-Stephen in mind when they came up with that slogan in the mid-’80s for Commodore 64 computers.

As a wide-eyed seven-year-old, Dr Gardner-Stephen – now computer systems administrator and lecturer at Flinders – clearly recalls his older brother trying to describe how the Commodore 64 connected to a printer.

“I didn’t comprehend any of it – but it was a defining moment,” Dr Gardner-Stephen said.

Before long, while still at primary school, he was teaching himself basic programming. By Year 10, as a student at Urrbrae Agricultural High School, he had written a program to control the sprinkler system inside the school’s new state-of-the-art glasshouse.

But the coup de grâce came in Year 11 when he didn’t just keep up with the Commodore 64 – he overtook it.

“I started writing software and designing the hardware to network the older Commodore 64 computers with modern PCs,” Dr Gardner-Stephen said.

Through the interest of his local computer users’ group, the software was made commercially available and sold “reasonably extensively” in Germany, the US and in Australia.

“We’re talking the early ’90s, when a lot of people still liked using Commodore 64s and the software on them but their disk drives were slow and didn’t hold much,” he said.

“It paid for my computing and Internet habits in that early period. There’s no way I got a decent hourly rate out of the process. Far from it.”

It also meant that Dr Gardner-Stephen carried a mobile phone – a large, unwieldy model by today’s standards – when he came to study at Flinders.

“I had the phone at the behest of the distributor in Germany, so that he could contact me when he needed to for orders and queries and support. But in 1995, it was still quite uncommon.”

The experience taught him something about “the commercial process” but also the non-monetary value in developing ideas – something, it seems, he has no shortage of.

“My old uni friends were quick to point out the irony of that, considering I rarely wore shoes at all when I was a student!”

He currently has a number of major research projects on the go, including a biologically-inspired spam filter; a sophisticated means of creating powerful computer networks with the potential for substantial energy savings; and a proposal that could make the National Broadband Network cheaper to roll out.

“The common theme that links my ideas is that I assume everyone else has thought of the obvious things and so I think about the less obvious and seemingly ridiculous approaches,” Dr Gardner-Stephen said.

“I tend to think about approaches to problems that haven’t been tried. The shoe phone is a classic example of that; and so is interfacing Commodore 64s to newer computers.

“The ideas just seem to come out of whatever I’m doing at the time.”

Vincent Ciccarello
A Day researching results

David Day enjoys a challenge.
As Flinders new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) settles behind his desk in December, his ambitions for the University include:

- Increasing its success rate in securing national and international research grants, especially from the Australian Research Council (ARC).
- Boosting the number of research higher degree students,
- Expanding collaboration across disciplines,
- Aligning its research program with the new political imperative in Canberra, and
- Raising the profile of research across the university and especially in the social sciences and humanities.

With an accomplished academic career and a strong track record of securing research funding behind him, coupled with a desire to make an effective contribution on return to his home State, one senses that anything short of positive, tangible outcomes will be unacceptable.

A world-renowned specialist in plant biochemistry and molecular biology, Professor Day joined Flinders from the University of Sydney where he had been Dean of the Faculty of Science and previously Executive Dean of the faculties of Science, Agriculture and Veterinary Science. A graduate of Adelaide Teachers College and the University of Adelaide, Professor

Day subsequently held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Illinois and UCLA. He was a research scientist at the French Centre D'Etudes Nucleaires in Grenoble and has held senior academic posts at the Australian National University and University of Western Australia.

Those who know him well, describe Professor Day as “a senior executive who is not afraid to get his hands dirty”, “someone who strongly supports his colleagues” and “a consummate networker who engages as easily with school students as he does with Prime Ministers”.

Professor Day arrived at Flinders as the finishing touches were being made to Inspiring Flinders Future, the University’s five-year Strategic Plan which he described as “a refreshingly simple and effective document that imposes some fairly challenging but achievable research goals”.

Asked to describe the secret to successful ARC applications, the lifeblood of university research, Professor Day replied:

“IT comes down to a track record and an ability to craft a grant application.”

“There is a particular skill to writing a grant application and the first page is so important – you have to capture your audience and drive home the significance of the research and why it should be done,” he told Encounter.

Professor Day said the ARC requirement for a track record of performance posed particular challenges for early and mid-career researchers, and was an area in which the University had to find ways to support younger researchers.

“I am very keen to increase the number of research higher degree students at Flinders, a process that should begin at the undergraduate level with research-led teaching. I will work with the faculty deans and heads of schools to really emphasise our Honours program and probably put in place a new, innovative Masters research program to sit alongside the Honours program. I’d like to see a lot more research higher degree students coming from within the University as well as from outside,” he said.

Professor Day said the Australian Government’s Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative was set to change the research landscape and pose challenges for the university sector.

“ERA is not about productivity or overall research capability. It is clearly directed towards areas of research excellence and we must develop the areas in which we can be truly excellent.”

Flinders’ model of establishing Areas of Strategic Research Investment (or ASRIs) involving cross-disciplinary concentrations of research talent and focus was “appropriate for a university of Flinders size”.

“I think a lot of really innovative research outcomes are going to emerge from this cross-disciplinary model, and that is no more obvious than in the areas of the environment and sustainability where there is a need for knowledge of everything from environmental policy to engineering to create solutions.”

“However, with the ERA focused on clusters of traditional disciplines, like physical and earth sciences for example, one of the challenges for Flinders is to extract research results from within the ASRIs so that they can be clustered as traditional disciplines for assessment purposes under ERA.”

Another of Professor Day’s ambitions during his initial five year term at the University is to increase the extent and profile of research in the social sciences and humanities.

“It is very easy for the public to recognise scientific research. The language may seem esoteric and they may have trouble coming to grips with the subject matter but they generally regard it as important. In the social sciences and humanities where people may have a greater understanding of the issues, you can hear them say: ‘Why are they researching that – it’s so obvious’.

But its not. Without the research data, you cannot draw sound conclusions.

“I think the social sciences and the humanities are areas in which we would like to see an increase in research and, coming from a science background, it will be a challenge for me to get inside those faculties and discover their research potential.”

One of the appealing features of Adelaide as his next career move was the fact that Professor Day and his family were finding Sydney “a very busy place in which to live”. It seems unlikely that his working life is going to slow down any time soon.

Peter Gill
Housing is a hot topic. It stimulates debate from the front bar of the local hotel, through the nation’s living rooms, and on to the corridors of power in Canberra and the capital cities.

In 2009, an authoritative new voice was added to the discussion with the establishment of the Flinders Institute for Housing, Urban and Regional Environments (FIHURE).

Launched in February with a brief to conduct high quality research in housing, urban and regional fields and to engage in wide-ranging research collaborations, FIHURE has delivered landmark reports on housing design for older Australians, the impact of housing stress on mental health, and challenged the notion that property prices can continue to grow.

In doing so, it tapped the ‘real-life’ experience of people in the community, added strong statistical analysis and delivered new insights into Australia’s housing market.

FIHURE Director, Professor Andrew Beer, said the Institute’s work “has a real impact on both public policy and how ordinary Australians think about themselves and their country”.

“Our publications and events bring to life the key issues affecting Australian society and help people understand what is going on in their world. For example, recent work by Associate Professor Joe Flood and Dr Emma Baker highlighted the ongoing challenge of housing affordability in Australia and the need for governments to do more to supply housing,” Professor Beer said.

“FIHURE researchers were able to shine a new light on this issue that helped crystallise general debate and public policy responses,” he said.

Dr Baker said FIHURE’s research projects aimed to provide evidence to fill gaps in society’s knowledge that would allow identified problems to be addressed. That evidence might come from reviews of the available literature, analysis of various data sources like the national Census, interviews and focus groups of individuals affected by an issue.

“We are always surprised at how incredibly generous people are with their time and views and our work has gained some very good traction with policy makers and the non-government sector,” she said.

“We definitely influence public policy by providing the underlying information behind an issue, high quality material that has come from an independent source. Our job is to provide strong, robust evidence. The decision-makers can then weigh up evidence from a number of sources and make policy based on a complete picture.

“Universities need to speak out on the big issues – it’s our job.”

Peter Gill
Flinders University's profile has been boosted in American Studies and Rural Education after two leading philanthropic organisations backed scholarship and research in these fields in 2009.

The University won the first national competition to host the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Political Science from 2011 and the Sidney Myer Fund supported the establishment of the Sidney Myer Chair for Rural Education and Communities in 2009.

Five distinguished scholars from the United States will be based at Flinders over the five years of the Fulbright program, adding a new dimension to the University’s teaching and research in American Studies – which extends almost to Flinders foundation in the 1960s and includes an innovative internship scheme of workplacements for Australian students in the US Congress.

The Head of the Department of American Studies, Professor Don DeBats, said the Fulbright Distinguished Chair “will build on Flinders’ long tradition in this area which started when the University’s founding Vice-Chancellor, the late Emeritus Professor Peter Karmel, responded to an overture from the American Council of Learned Societies to develop an American Studies program in Australia”.

“Peter Karmel readily took up the offer because he said Flinders was an innovative university that believed in crossing intellectual frontiers. Our department, the only one in Australia with a sole focus on American Studies, has always pursued that goal and the Distinguished Chair will build on that foundation,” Professor DeBats told Encounter.

“One of the key objectives of the Fulbright program is to encourage ongoing, collaborative research and the relationships formed between Flinders and the distinguished scholars from the US and their institutions could extend for decades to come,” he said.

The five scholars to sequentially occupy the Chair are expected to bring their own research projects to Flinders, and Professor DeBats expects there will be interest across the University, from Humanities to Law, in engaging with them.

The Fulbright Commission will also develop and deliver a program of visits and presentations around Australia for the successful applicants.

Vibrant, productive rural communities are integral to the long-term sustainability of Australia, according to Professor John Halsey.

A senior lecturer in educational leadership and management at Flinders University and consultant in rural education through the Centre for Relationalearning, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Professor Halsey was appointed the foundation Sidney Myer Chair for Rural Education and Communities in September.

The position has been established with a $1 million grant from the Sidney Myer Fund as part of the Myer Family Philanthropy’s 2009 Commemorative Grants Program.

“Access to high quality, relevant and affordable education, training and care at all ages and stages of life is vital to the sustainability of communities in rural and remote Australia,” Professor Halsey said.

“There’s a tendency to associate sustainability with the natural environment, but sustainability is dependent on other factors, too, such as measures of social capital and economic performance,” he said.

“Schools in rural communities are critical to these measures. Research and experience shows that when a school closes in a community, the likelihood of other human services and economic activities shutting down or moving, dramatically increases.”

In addition to addressing the educational challenges of attracting and retaining staff including leaders to rural and remote areas, access to relevant curriculum and information and communication technologies will also be a priority for the role.

Professor Halsey said his new role will also encompass aspects of nation building through the promotion of rural and regional sustainability and the study of the impacts of drought and climate change on rural communities.

Christine Edwards, CEO of the Sidney Myer Fund and The Myer Foundation, said the Sidney Myer Chair for Rural Education and Communities is an investment in research that will enhance the delivery of education in rural Australia.

Vincent Ciccarello
Some of the most effective lessons in life occur when people are taken out of their comfort zones. In the nicest possible way and with a deft touch, Dr Paddy O’Toole does precisely that in pushing students to achieve their best in the Flinders’ Doctor of Education program.

A significant element of the three-year doctoral program is a symposium in which students have to stand and deliver in front of a panel of academic supervisors. Adding to the general terror of public speaking—a well-documented fear for most people—is the fact that the issues they may be discussing extend well beyond their personal experience. A medical student, for example, may have to consider the impact of the global financial crisis or the role of Indigenous education on their sector.

Dr O’Toole, topic coordinator for the Doctorate, uses adjectives such as “challenging, confronting, and mind-blowing” to describe the symposium experience for students. But it is all part of a well-planned strategy “to take people out of their day-to-day comfort zone and to think and connect with a wider world.”

Stimulating intellectual curiosity and broadening horizons is a key goal of the Doctor of Education program, which, despite the apparent precision of its title, can be a qualification relevant to a diverse range of professionals—from teachers and school principals to government officials and academics. With pre-requisite qualifications of an Honours or Masters degree (or equivalent), students undertake coursework and research along with the symposium.

Dr O’Toole said the School of Education is keen to attract innovative individuals, and a key criterion for acceptance into the program is a demonstrated record that the applicant has been an “agent for change” in their particular field. The underlying ambition for the program, she said, is “to give people the knowledge, skills and attitude to become the public face of their profession, integrating theory with their practice to take their profession further.”

“We are not looking for people who have necessarily done brilliantly in a Masters degree at a theoretical level. This is a professional doctorate and therefore we are looking for people who can make change at a professional level in real and useful ways,” Dr O’Toole told Encounter.

“Instead of students just writing essays or reflective journals or that style of assessment, we have them working on conference papers, posters and journal articles that are geared towards specific events. Some of our students go on to actually submit their work to these events,” she said.

“So our students, in fact, pass over the line between simply being a good professional and being a professional who is overtly contributing to their sector—and I think that’s important because it gives a very hands-on learning experience.”

And it seems to be working. An Adelaide teacher, Sarah Wight—who took part in the Doctor of Education symposium in 2009—said, “the opportunity to be part of a supportive cohort of students from varied and diverse professional backgrounds was highly advantageous.”

“The content and skills required to fulfil the requirements of the symposium extended me far more than any of my previous studies have done,” Ms Wight said.

“Engaging in a small group setting with academics who are experts in their field, presenting academic posters, writing journal articles and conference papers for publication and presenting to academic panels ensured that I aspired to be as informed and articulate as possible in my own learning, opinions and assertions,” she said.

“Dr Paddy O’Toole has been exceptional at assisting students in making the significant step to doctoral studies at Flinders University. Paddy is an inspiring educator who has a great deal to offer not only in leading students into the doctoral program but also in modelling the very passion and professionalism as a highly skilled educator that, as future graduates, all her students aspire to.”

Peter Gill

Hands on
life lessons
in Flinders
doctorate
A consortium led by Flinders University with the support of leading defence contractor Thales is one of only 12 to have been shortlisted from an international field to take part in a global war games challenge.

Sponsored by the US and Australian Departments of Defence, the Multi Autonomous Ground-robotic International Challenge, or MAGIC 2010, aims to develop super-smart robots that complete a task involving multiple robots working together to accurately reconnoitre an urban environment, identifying and neutralising simulated targets such as mines or improvised explosive devices and enemy combatants or terrorists.

The challenge will be held in an undisclosed South Australian location in October 2010 – the first time an event of this kind has been held anywhere in the world outside of the United States.

The Flinders team, MAGICian – or Multiple Autonomous Ground-vehicle International Challenge by Intelligent Autonomous Navigators – consists of researchers and students from Flinders School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics, the University of Western Australia Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Edith Cowan University.

The international electronics and systems group Thales, serving the defence, aerospace and security industries, is the team’s major sponsor and will be an active participant in MAGICian. Sensor manufacturer SICK and defence integrator Allied Data Systems are also providing valuable support.

MAGICian team leader and Director of the Flinders Artificial Intelligence, Knowledge Discovery and Language Technologies Laboratories, Professor David Powers said the competition aims to fill a gap in existing robot technology.

"However, the existing technology might require two people to operate one robot. The challenge is to develop the technology that will allow one or two operators to manage a team of half a dozen or more autonomous vehicles simultaneously, and to have the robots coordinate and reorganise amongst themselves to ensure the task is completed effectively."

To improve the MAGICian team’s chances, Flinders Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Barber has established eight, $3000 Summer Scholarships for final-year engineering students to undertake project work over the summer.

"MAGIC 2010 is an important opportunity for Australia to get involved with a wider spectrum of defence activity," Professor Barber said.

"This project includes several critical technologies in which Flinders has cutting-edge, internationally reputed research," he said.

"Flinders has award-winning students already involved in this project, and I encourage all fourth-year engineering students with an interest in robotics to apply for one of the Summer Scholarships and to be part of the MAGICian team.

"This is an opportunity for engineering students across Australia to come to Flinders and take part in a unique research and learning experience."

In the coming months, five teams will receive a payment of US$50,000, with the promise of another US$50,000 in June 2010, to develop and build their vehicle prototypes and human-robot interfaces.

The top three ranked teams will receive US$750,000, US$250,000 and US$100,000 respectively and opportunities for contracts with the US and Australian Departments of Defence.

Vincent Ciccarello

**Flinders Engineering students have extended an already extraordinary run of success by winning the SA and NT Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET) Rex Johns Presentation Prize for the eleventh time in 14 years.**
As in 2008, Flinders students won both first and second prizes. Daix Tregenza (Software Engineering) won first prize for his presentation on Robot Teaming and Naisan Yazdani (Biomedical Engineering) won second prize for his presentation on the Brain Controlled Wheelchair.

Professor John Roddick, Head of the School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics, said that Flinders has had a run of outstanding projects and presentations by students specialising in electronic, biomedical and robotic engineering.

“Our record in the IET awards suggests that this hands-on approach, in tandem with enthusiastic and innovative teaching, is the best possible preparation for a career as an engineer.”

Another engineering student, Tony Carlisle, has topped both local and national awards by winning the 2009 AusBiotech-GSK Student Excellence Award, a program that aims to encourage students to think strategically about their research in bioscience, biotechnology or medical technology.

A biomedical engineering honours student, Mr Carlisle successfully pitched the commercial application of his prototype nasogastric tube insertion simulator to a panel of judges in the national finals at the AusBiotech conference in Melbourne. The project was developed in collaboration with the Flinders Clinical Skills and Simulation Unit.

Charles Gent
Emeritus Professor Peter Karmel AC, CBE, Flinders University’s founding Vice-Chancellor and one of Australia’s most influential educationists, died in Canberra on 30 December 2008 at the age of 87. His contributions to education and research, and his influence on generations of researchers, scholars and students were profound.

Professor Karmel moved into a position at the University of Adelaide in 1949 and was appointed the principal-designate of the Planning Committee to develop a new campus of the University of Adelaide at Bedford Park. His vision for a separate and innovative institution began with the planning of a new university that became the Flinders University of South Australia in 1966, during a period of rapid expansion in the Australian tertiary education sector. It was also a time for innovation and Professor Karmel, speaking at a public meeting, explained his ambitions for the new campus: “We want to experiment bravely”.

True to his word, he devised for Flinders a non-traditional academic structure aimed at broadening student experiences and academic opportunities by establishing four schools: Humanities (embracing language and literature), Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences. Flinders was South Australia’s second university and over the next few years, it demonstrated its distinctiveness by teaching several courses not previously seen in the state, including Sociology, Drama, Fine Arts, Spanish and Indonesian, as well as Oceanography and Meteorology.

Professor Karmel was instrumental in the planning of another radical yet enduring aspect of Flinders—co-location of the School of Medicine and the Flinders Medical Centre in the new hospital’s buildings on the western edge of the campus. Professor Keith Hancock, Flinders third Vice-Chancellor and one of its six original professors, said Karmel had set the character of the University.

“Flinders University’s indebtedness to Peter Karmel is immense. He had a capacity, unique in my experience, to combine leadership with the nurturing and encouragement of the contributions of others. Peter’s talents were just what were needed in the early formative years of the University. His successors, including me, inherited a going concern,” Professor Hancock said.

Professor Karmel also continued to contribute to Flinders long after he had served his term as Vice-Chancellor, as Denise Martin, Faculty General Manager, Science and Engineering, remembers. She was appointed Executive Officer to the Review of Administration that was conducted by Professor Karmel in 1991. Ms Martin recalls it was a challenging exercise involving interviews of a then highly centralised administration. She remembers working with Professor Karmel as being a “fantastic opportunity and brilliant experience”.

The question ‘What is the origin of mass?’ has, for centuries, fascinated enquiring minds and scientists.

The discovery of the atomic nucleus, and of its constituents, in the first half of the 20th century, showed that 99.9 per cent of the mass – the substance – of ordinary matter resides in protons and neutrons. The deeper question, of where the mass of those particles, the basic building blocks of matter, came from, has only been solved more recently. Craig Roberts’ research shows us that it is generated dynamically from energy that resides in the gluons which are exchanged between quarks. Einstein’s famous formula, $E=mc^2$, rewritten as $m=E/c^2$, tells us that this energy manifests itself as mass. Therefore the origin of most of the mass in, for instance, our bodies, turns out to reside in the fundamental and strong forces that are at work in the atomic nucleus. He has elucidated the nature of the most important mass-generating mechanism for visible matter in the Universe.

Karmel Endowment Fund to commemorate great scholar

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“His standout characteristic was his wisdom, and the depth of knowledge and experience which he brought to the review,” she said.

“To work with somebody of that calibre and intellect was a valuable experience.”

It is in keeping with this sentiment that we draw upon the legacy left for us by Professor Karmel, and honour him by creating the Karmel Endowment Fund. The Fund has been developed to channel the support the University receives from friends, alumni and corporate partners to enhance and develop the distinctiveness of Flinders. Funds will be directed at projects that inspire academics and students alike; make a difference in our community and contribute to the tertiary sector as a whole. Supporting the Karmel Endowment Fund will also ensure that worthy students become the recipients of scholarships, that the Library receives funds for new books, and that the Art Museum is able to maintain and add to its collection.}

Dara Boucher
Michael Raupach
Since the beginning of his PhD studies at Flinders University, Michael Raupach (PhD EarthSc ’78) has devoted his professional life to meticulous studies of the atmospheric environment. The potential he showed for scientific and professional prowess as a postgraduate student has been confirmed by more than 100 refereed articles in internationally reputed journals. His prolific membership of international scientific committees and reviews endorse his standing in the scientific community.

Michael is a research scientist with CSIRO and Leader of the Continental Biogeochemical Cycles Team in the Division of Marine and Atmospheric Research. He is also a Tier 1 contributing author of the 2007 IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Working Group 1 report – the IPCC was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Shao Yaping
Shao Yaping (PhD EarthSc ’91) is Professor at the Institute for Geophysics and Meteorology, University of Cologne, Germany, and holds Adjunct Chairs at Beijing Normal University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He has held a Humboldt Fellowship and the KC Wang Fellowship and National Science Award from the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Professor Shao is an internationally acknowledged scientific leader in atmospheric science, physics and modelling of wind erosion, integrated computational environmental modelling systems with applications to air quality, water resources, land-surface processes and atmospheric predictions, and atmosphere and hydrosphere interactions, surface hydrology, in particular, modeling of soil moisture and dry land salinisation processes.

Mark Shephard
Mark Shephard OAM (MSc Med Cwk ’82), Director and Senior Research Fellow, Community Point of Care Service in the Flinders University Rural Clinical School, has made a real and substantial difference in the quality of life for the Aboriginal peoples of Australia. He is recognised nationally and internationally as a leader in his field.

He initiated, developed, and implemented four substantial programs that impact significantly and positively on the lives of Aboriginal people. Each project concerns early detection, prevention and management of chronic diseases and the application of point-of-care medical instruments in the Aboriginal community health sector.

His Quality Assurance for Aboriginal Medical Services (QAAMS) program, a world first, empowers Aboriginal Health Workers and their health services to provide timely, efficient and practical diabetes monitoring services underpinned by a sound quality assurance framework. This provides a powerful, culturally appropriate, effective platform to improve diabetes management in Aboriginal people.

2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Craig Roberts (BSc ’83, BSc Hons ’84, PhD PhysSc ’89) is internationally renowned for his work in Hadron Physics, which sits at the interface of Nuclear and Particle Physics, and aims to understand the internal structure of protons and neutrons forming the atomic nucleus.

Recipient of the 2009 Convocation Medal, Flinders University’s premier Alumni award, Dr Roberts is Leader of the Theory Group at the Argonne National Laboratory in the United States and is the youngest person to have held this position. Overseeing the Group and its budget of more than US$3 million per annum, he has obtained funding of US$17 million to support its research, and the Group is the USA’s top-ranked Nuclear Theory Group.

Dr Roberts also serves as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Joint Theory Institute, which is a US$1 million per year, multidisciplinary, joint research effort between Argonne and the University of Chicago.

A Fellow of the American Physical Society, Dr Roberts has been recognized by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation as an “outstanding young researcher”, and is a Guest Professor in the Physics Department of Peking University.

Flinders University recognises Dr Roberts outstanding work by awarding him the 2009 Convocation Medal.
Welcome support

Flinders University appreciates and acknowledges the generosity of donors to the Fund for the Future and the Jack Alpers Memorial Prize


City presence

The Premier Mike Rann officially opened Flinders University Victoria Square in November. The premises offer a permanent ground-floor reception and information area, Admissions/Prospective Students Office, International Office and corporate space. The first floor incorporates postgraduate lecturing and teaching spaces – in Public Policy, Health Services Management, Law and International Relations, Accounting, Business Administration and Management and Spanish – and permanent academic and staff areas. The Premier is pictured with Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Barber and ‘Matthew Flinders’ using an information touch-screen.
Flinders Course and Careers Open Days attracted 9200 people to the University

Highlights from the August events included interesting and engaging displays across all faculties, the graffiti wall, a paramedic car crash simulation, a computer gaming area and an outside broadcast by radio station Fresh 92.7.
Long before Missy Higgins’ Australian accent and well before Midnight Oil started singing political songs came John Schumann and his band, Redgum.

“We are the ones who demonstrated that you could write songs in an Australian vernacular that actually meant something – and sing them in an Australian accent peppering them with familiar geographical references – and be successful,” the perennially bearded John Schumann told *Encounter*.

“We were prosecuting an Australian identity in contemporary popular music – and you can trace that back with a very firm line to Flinders,” he said.

It’s a line that traces back, more specifically, to Australian Literature classes with Professor Brian Matthews and Professor Brian Medlin’s philosophy class, *Politics and Art*.

“As a young man about to enrol at Flinders, I was fascinated by Professor Medlin, who had a very high profile at the time as one of the leaders of the Vietnam Moratorium in South Australia, and by the fact that he was a philosopher,” Mr Schumann said.

“I also remember being very drawn to Australian literature, not least Henry Lawson. When I asked about courses, I was literally directed down the corridor to a recent appointee in the English department, Brian Matthews, who was then completing *The Reeding Wave*, his pioneering study of Lawson.

“I instinctively liked him.”

Mr Schumann enrolled in “whatever Brian Matthews happened to be teaching at the time”, as well as philosophy classes with Brian Medlin. It was the start of relationships between the jealous young undergraduate and the two Brians that would evolve into close and enduring friendships.

“The two Brians were very clearly, unashamedly, proudly intelligent, massively well-educated, well-read Australian blokes and I loved that,” he said.

“And they led an amazing strand of the academy at Flinders that had a great respect, love, admiration and affection for Australian culture and an understanding of it.”

“They held the proposition that our culture, our language, our literature and our art were as worthy as any other. They were different and young, but as worthy and as meritorious of study and acclamation.”

This spirit was palpable at Flinders in the 1970s, in courses such as Professor Medlin’s *Politics and Art*.

“As part of that course, you could write an academic essay or collaborate with others on a project. My classmates Michael Atkinson and Verity Truman and I got together and wrote eight songs that we performed to the class as part of our assessment,” Mr Schumann said.

“They were very well received, to put it mildly.”

The three classmates became founding band members and those songs formed the basis of Redgum’s first album, *If You Don’t Fight You Lose*. An Australian musical icon was born.

“Mr Schumann attributes much of his sense of social justice to his rigorous childhood religious instruction (“According to Brian Medlin, I was dedicated to convincing him, as my philosophy tutor, of the existence of God”), but said it was given “structure, form, context and intellectual underpinning” by Flinders’ Philosophy Department.

“The fact was a lot of political activists were trained and schooled at Flinders, and there was a whole generation of us who moved out into the world with a sense of what’s right and wrong, with a clear sense and understanding of how economic, social and cultural systems can and do militate against justice and equality,” he said.

“As the lead singer of Redgum I remember speaking to journalists. Even then, they had a very clear sense that I came with a Flinders tag on me. Flinders was a young university, it was politically aggressive, and as a graduate it was accepted nationally by people who understood such things you were not about to sit down and have the dominant ideology thrust down your throat.

“There were a lot of actors, academics, writers, film-makers and playwrights who took the Flinders badge and wore it out in the world.”

Mr Schumann wears the Flinders badge with pride and retains connections with the place and its people.

In 2007, Flinders presented him with a Distinguished Alumni Award; and he gave the inaugural Brian Medlin Lecture, in honour of his good friend who passed away in 2004.

“Flinders punched way above its weight in terms of its arts and cultural output,” he said.

“It had to do with geography and its newness; Flinders wasn’t hidebound and there was a sense that Flinders’ job was to really push the boundaries.

“This University changed this country.”

It appears to have changed John Schumann, too.

Vincent Ciccarello
The national shift away from a traditional industry base in areas such as car manufacture means that new skills are required for new industries. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Barber, said Flinders would enhance its existing commitment to the southern region, an area strongly affected by the changes in employment patterns.

"Flinders already plays a role in addressing the region’s workforce needs, and we also play a role in providing advice and conducting research in social and environmental areas," Professor Barber said.

"But we want to, and will do, more," he said.

Coordinating the University’s efforts is the Southern Knowledge Transfer Program (SKTP). Established with Commonwealth funding in 2009, the SKTP has been set up to increase the University’s contact with community organisations, businesses and government agencies in a collaborative approach designed to deliver improve skills, knowledge and innovation.

“The concept is to strengthen the connections between the University, all levels of government, the community and industry to ensure that teaching and learning at Flinders is responsive to the needs of the southern Adelaide community,” said SKTP Head, Ms Penny Crocker.

As well as developing course curricula that reflect the region’s social, environmental and economic needs, Flinders will increase its extensive network of work placements and internships in businesses and organisations.

In terms of educational opportunities, Flinders is increasing initiatives aimed at encouraging southern school students to undertake tertiary study, as well as seeking ways to improve pathways to study at Flinders, particularly through its Southern Program for Improved Participation in Education (SPIPE).

SPIPE’s Inspire Peer Mentoring Scheme has placed more than 500 Flinders students in schools and community organisations. As well increasing the awareness of tertiary education, physical access has been eased by the Flinders Noarlunga Study Hub, an IT and learning-support centre.

Medical device manufacture is one example of new “smart” industries finding a home in the south, and the Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP), led by Flinders, is a collaboration between South Australian researchers, end-users and industry aimed at streamlining the development, production and marketing of medical devices.

Five current MDPP projects involve partnerships with companies located south of Adelaide’s CBD.

The University has well established links with the southern community, particularly through its provision of clinical and research health services around the Flinders Medical Centre, the Repatriation General Hospital and the Noarlunga Hospital.

New Flinders-based bodies such as the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training, the School of the Environment and the Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity also have obvious roles to play in mapping out the south’s environmental and social future.

A newly signed agreement between Flinders University and the South Adelaide Football Club (SAFC) aims to enhance the prospects of young people in the southern suburbs, the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island. The November agreement will take advantage of synergies between two of the most influential and visible entities in the south.

As well as offering professional development via degree and short courses to the Panthers’ staff and players, Flinders will facilitate business development and sponsorship opportunities for the Club through the University’s extensive networks in the region.

In its turn, the Club will provide field placement opportunities for Flinders students, and the two organisations will assist each other in marketing and local community activities.

Flinders continues to make practical contributions to the economy of the south through its representation on a variety of boards and committees – the Vice-Chancellor, for example, is a member of the Southern Suburbs Coordinating Group chaired by Mr John Hill, Minister for the Southern Suburbs.

“Our ultimate objective is to build up the southern region’s knowledge capacity in strategic areas that will materially assist in creating a prosperous and dynamic community,” Professor Barber said.

Charles Gent
The international reach and reputation of Flinders continues to grow with a number of research and teaching initiatives in 2009.

Flinders largest offshore student cohort is in China, where Masters courses in international relations, hospital administration and education are taught in several major universities by Flinders academics. University staff, led by the Chancellor, Sir Eric Neal, recently attended the regular graduation ceremony held for Chinese graduates at Nankai University in Tianjin.

Earlier this year, the Flinders Legal Summer School saw a group of 20 Flinders students enrolled in the Legal Studies topic *Introduction to China’s Laws and Legal System* travel to Shanghai to undertake the course ‘on location’ as a two-week intensive.

As well as attending a course of lectures at the East China University of Politics and Law, the students visited a local firm of lawyers and a legal aid office, and attended a Chinese court in session.

Professor Francis Regan, who led the tour, said the visit combined the highest quality of academic experience with a rare chance to see Chinese law “in action”. The Flinders Legal Summer School will be repeated next year.

Heading in the opposite direction, 16 senior officials from the Mongolian Ministry of Education, Culture and Science came to Flinders for an intensive study program at the Flinders Institute of Public Policy and Management (FIPPM) in September.

The three-week short course, funded through the Federal Government’s AusAID Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) fellowships program, was a blend of theoretical knowledge and skills practice and included visits to South Australian government agencies.

FIPPM Director Dr Jo Baulderstone said the ALA fellowships program allows for a targeted approach to addressing a specific educational need.

“The Fellows represent areas in the Ministry as diverse as primary and tertiary education, fine arts and children’s literature. But at an overall policy level, there is a strong push from the Mongolian government for a more strategic HRM focus to improve public sector performance,” Dr Baulderstone said.

A very different ALA fellowship program, run earlier in the year by Flinders University’s marine archaeologists, won praise from the ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and UNESCO.

Following the success, a six-week ALA training program in Underwater Cultural Heritage Management has been proposed for early 2010, and nominations to participate have come from eight Asia Pacific countries: the Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

Professor Paul Arbon, Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, is the new president-elect of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM), an international organisation of some 1000 members that is devoted to improving the delivery of pre-hospital and emergency care and enhancing disaster health and preparedness.

“Unlike the Red Cross or Medics Sans Frontieres, WADEM is not a response agency; rather, it provides the scientific support for developing practice and evaluation of responses,” Professor Arbon said.

Professor Arbon is the first non-physician to be elected president, a post he takes up in 2011. The membership is interdisciplinary, comprising not only health professionals but also engineers, social scientists and historians.

In July, Flinders Modern Greek discipline hosted its 8th International Conference on Greek Research.

Some of the world’s leading academics on the territorial conflict between Greek and Turkish Cypriots discussed the latest thinking on the subject in a series of public lectures and panel discussions.

The bilingual conference also featured papers on a wide range of themes related to Greek culture from antiquity to the present day, a professional development seminar for Modern Greek teachers and an extensive cultural program including a tribute to the acclaimed poet Yiannis Ritsos.

The conference was central to celebrations marking 20 years of Modern Greek studies at Flinders.

Lecturer in Modern Greek, Professor Michael Tsiamikas said “over those
People-to-people relationships underpin links with China: Chancellor

20 years we’ve educated hundreds of students and teachers, developed a very strong postgraduate program and initiated this biennial international conference which attracts delegates from all over the world.

Flinders ventured into less familiar territory when a six-strong Flinders delegation, led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Dean Forbes and including three Spanish speakers, visited Chile.

“While we have had student exchanges and a trickle of students coming from Latin American region for some years, this was a chance to start to build some major collaborative links with universities in Chile,” Professor Forbes said.

Flinders already boasts a Spanish and Portuguese language program and has several researchers with Latin America specialties. Professor Forbes said there are also possibilities of future synergies in areas such as marine science, archaeology and nanotechnology.

At a time when the Chilean government is massively expanding its overseas scholarships program, it was also useful to promote the University’s profile, Professor Forbes said.

“The trip helped to build confidence in Australia as an educational destination, as well as giving the Chileans some idea of the character and flavour of our individual institutions.”

Charles Gent

Existing close links between Australia and China will be further strengthened by the peoples of both countries engaging on the social and economic challenges facing the world, according to Flinders Chancellor Sir Eric Neal.

Addressing a graduation ceremony at Nankai University in November – his last as Chancellor before his retirement in February – Sir Eric said he had watched the relationship between the two countries grow into one of the most important economic relationships that Australia has.

“Drawing on my experience as a long-time businessman, a Governor of South Australia, the Chancellor of a fine university, and a visitor to your country for more than 20 years, I think there is more that can be achieved between our two countries,” Sir Eric told graduates.

“And the greater depth to that relationship will develop through our people and your people coming together and working on medical discoveries that will heal our citizens, scientific breakthroughs that reduce climate change, and engineering outcomes – I’m an engineer – that will improve our transport systems and reduce energy use.

“In China, we have a partner which has already achieved so much. I think it is arguable that it took the so-called Western world more than a century from the beginning of industrialisation to reach its current standard of living. However, China has achieved a significantly improved standard of living in the past 20 years – and perhaps not enough credit has been given for this. Today China is an infinitely more successful country and an infinitely more open country than it was in 1979.”

Sir Eric noted that he addressed the graduating classes “as someone who might be called an elder citizen of Australia – as well as the Chancellor of Flinders University – and do so in that capacity because my comments will extend beyond the higher education sector”.

He added: “While I look forward to China and Australia working harmoniously together, it is only realistic to recognise that at times good friends can still have differences. As your Ambassador to Australia, Mr Zhang Junsai, said in an Australian newspaper article in September: ‘It is undeniable that we have differences. The wider our co-operation grows, the more likely it is that differences will arise. It therefore becomes all the more necessary to address them promptly, while sticking to common interests and pushing forward bilateral relations.’

‘Mr Zhang also noted: ‘The world is pluralistic. There won’t be only one model. China and Australia are different in ideologies, political systems, national conditions, stages of development, historical traditions, cultures and ways of thinking. The best solution to these differences is to treat each other as equals and with respect, accommodate each other’s concerns, and draw upon our respective strengths.’

“I think this is a very sound and perceptive statement. And on all matters, I think the common purpose and goodwill which exists between our peoples should always ensure that harmony and cooperation prevails.”

A team of government officials from Mongolia visited the University.

The Chancellor Sir Eric Neal with Nankai graduate Zhang Qiang in Tianjin.
Increasingly, Flinders is pooling its resources – financial, physical and, above all, specialist human resources – with other universities, government agencies, commercial enterprises and NGOs to get the best possible research outcomes.

And while the results are improving life in the broader community, in all sorts of ways, the process of transforming a research idea into a community benefit is far from straightforward. The research “journey” involves bringing collaborating parties together, finding areas of mutual interest and overlap; it involves conducting, coordinating and testing the research; and it involves making the connection between the research and its end-users.

With its Office of Research and its commercialisation arm, Flinders Partners, Flinders University has put in place the infrastructure to support researchers along that journey.

What follows is a selection of Flinders research projects that have either already reached or are coming to fruition as products, technologies and policy initiatives, particularly in the critical areas of the environment and health.

The Memory, Appointment and Navigation Agent, or MANA, Calendar is a case in point.

The computer-generated “person” reminds older people with early onset dementia of appointments and routine tasks such as eating meals.

It was developed by Flinders Medical Device Partnering Program, a collaboration between, among others, the Office for the Ageing, the University of Adelaide, Novita Children’s Services, Playford Capital, Entech Group and the City of Marion.

The MANA Calendar also had invaluable input from Alzheimer’s Australia SA. Team leader Professor David Powers said the device, the first application of Flinders Thinking Head artificial intelligence research program, would be available to the public in the first half of 2010.

The MANA Calendar will join other medical devices developed at Flinders that already have been commercialised.

Adelaide-based health training simulator company, Sydac Pty Ltd, has secured the rights to manufacture and sell internationally three simulation devices – the Epidural Injection Simulator, the Cricoid Pressure Trainer and the Sim Man Dental Tools. These devices allow medical trainees and professionals to practice delicate procedures under the conditions that apply when treating patients.

And Brisbane-based biotechnology firm, Xenome Ltd, has licensed Flinders intellectual property that will assist in the development of drugs to arrest acute pancreatitis.

“Xenome is currently making and screening analogs as part of the lead molecule development program in conjunction with validating animal models to be used in pre-clinical development,” the project leader, Chief Medical Scientist Professor Gino Saccone, said.

Flinders researchers are also addressing climate change by using very different approaches to the creation of alternative fuels.
Collaboration is proving to be the key to solving large research problems that are often beyond the reach of one researcher or a single institution.

Between 2006 and 2008, Flinders University undertook two consecutive biofuels research programs, exceeding $1 million dollars in total value, with a commercial partner consortium led by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), which included the Midfield Group and Food Processing Equipment (FPE).

The consortium was specifically established to develop a cold flow additive for tallow based biodiesel blend fuels.

“The additive reduces the cold filter plugging point (CFPP) of these tallow biodiesel blend fuels by around 50°C so that the CFPP of a tallow biodiesel blend fuel matches current petroleum diesel sold in the marketplace,” leader of the Flinders Materials and Bioenergy Group, Dr Stephen Clarke, said.

“This will ensure biodiesel blend diesel fuels containing our additive will not freeze and solidify in cold or alpine climates,” he said.

The consortium has taken out an Australian Provisional Patent on the development of this important new biofuel additive and is now in the process of upgrading the provisional patent to a full international patent.

“We are currently in discussion with our industry partners to identify the best way forward to manufacture this material and bring this biofuel additive product to market,” Dr Clarke said.

Another Flinders biofuel project will soon be bubbling away – literally – in a massive pond on Torrens Island.

The Algal Fuels Consortium – comprising the South Australian Research & Development Institute, Flinders University, the CSIRO Energy Transformed Flagship, Sancon Recycling Pty Ltd and Flinders Partners – is trialling the sustainable production of biofuels from microalgae.

The $9.7 million project has the backing of more than $2.7 million from the Federal Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.

In addition to the high yield biomass produced by microalgae, high value by-products of the process include Omega-3 fatty acids, bioactive peptides and carotenoids.

At the same time, the $4.2 million SA Premier’s Science and Research Fund biofuels project led by Flinders University in collaboration with the South Australian Research and Development Institute is developing biofuel technologies that will be licensed to larger scale systems.

“The team is on its way to producing the first milestone outcomes and the biofuel products have already attracted interest from other industries,” project leader Associate Professor Wei Zhang said.

“For example, businesses using Omega oils in their products are mapping out the supply chain from the biofuel industry, which will drive down costs and enable wider use of formulated food grade Omega oils that are beneficial for health,” he said.

While the commercialisation of its research is often concerned with “tangible” products and technologies, Flinders also has a high profile in research that guides national policy.

Flinders is conducting the National Healthy School Canteens project, funded by the Federal Department of Health and Ageing through the Australian Better Health initiative.

The project is developing a uniform approach for classifying foods and training school canteen staff in the delivery of healthy choices in the school canteen.

“Stakeholder input has been sought throughout the project via public focus groups and consultations held across Australia in both urban and rural areas to encourage discussion and input, as well as to inform the community about the project,” Nutrition Project Officer Lynn Field said.

A pilot training program was trialled at Flinders University in July this year. Canteen managers who attended this workshop are now trialling and evaluating the implementation of the draft national guidelines for foods and drinks to be sold in school canteens in nine schools across five states and territories.

“Final national guidelines, training program and materials and an evaluation framework suitable for implementation across all states and territories are due to be completed in April 2010,” Ms Field said.

Children’s mental health is the subject of another national project in which Flinders is playing a vital role. Based on an evaluation by Flinders Centre for Analysis Educational Futures in October, KidsMatter, the Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative received a $12 million Federal Government funding boost to extend the rollout to primary schools around Australia of a program to promote good mental health, the prevention of mental illness and early intervention where problems arise.

A further $6.5 million was committed to develop and pilot a similar program for the early childhood sector.

These projects are being conducted in collaboration with beyondblue: the national depression initiative, the Australian Psychological Society, Principals Australia and Early Childhood Australia.

While there are no guarantees that a research project will successfully make the transition from idea to the marketplace, Flinders is also improving ways to assess the commercial viability of an idea.

Flinders Partners has developed software to help researchers analyse research projects and assess their market readiness.

Known as Ask, the software is being promoted jointly with US-based Innovista Systems.

“Flinders Partners has successfully rolled out Ask into Flinders University and are using it as a tool to collaborate with researchers and to advance research projects with commercial potential,” Flinders Partners Managing Director Anthony Francis said.

“Researchers have found that the educational element is terrific and that collaboration and project management is significantly enhanced,” he said.

“We are now taking Ask to market to get its benefits out to other research institutions.”

Vincent Ciccarello
The Creative Arts stream of degrees at Flinders has been drip-feeding Australia’s cultural scene with talent for decades, but over the past year the tap seems to have been turned on full. Graduates of the Flinders Drama Centre are winning local theatre critics’ awards as well as strutting the stages of the eastern capitals, while staff and postgraduate students of the University’s Creative Writing course have become a minor publishing industry in their own right. Works by Screen Studies graduates and students are also winning public and industry acclaim.

For more than 20 years, Flinders acting and directing graduates have been the main drivers of Adelaide’s alternative theatre productions, notably through their presence in companies such as the Border Project and the Red Shed. Now a new company, principally devoted to performing works that originate in non-English speaking countries, is further expanding the local repertoire.

**Accidental Productions**, founded by drama lecturer Joh Hartog and a handful of graduating students in 2008, has not only brought a series of ambitious and provocative productions to Adelaide audiences, but has won critical acclaim and, perhaps more remarkably, commercial success. The company recently earned several nominations in Adelaide’s Curtain Call Awards as well as winning the prize for best professional ensemble for their production *Worlds End*, while recent sell-out audiences for *Arabian Nights* produced some welcome income for cast and crew.

Some of the profits will be ploughed back into future productions, sustaining the company’s two main aims: to stage interesting works, and to help graduating students into the market.

Mr Hartog said providing performance opportunities for graduating students is important, since finding acting work, let alone major roles, can initially be difficult for new actors.

“It maintains their confidence and it also maintains their skills,” Mr Hartog said.

**Two other Flinders drama graduates**, meanwhile, have made the leap from roles with the local State Theatre Company to jobs in Sydney. Multi-talented performers Amber McMahon and Cameron Goodall were both snapped up by the Sydney Theatre Company, currently under the creative direction of Cate Blanchett and her playwright husband Andrew Upton.

In the written word, staff from the Creative Writing course in the School of Humanities have been productive in very different parts of the literary spectrum. Lecturer Dr David Sornig recently published *Spiel*, a novel narrated through the persona of a Melbourne architect visiting Berlin, who narrates a Byzantine quest to trace an enigmatic woman that also becomes a journey of self-discovery.

Dr Sornig said his story was fed by notions of the fictionalised self, drawing on characters like Frankenstein and the folktale of the golem, and references to the unauthorised biographies of its citizens produced by former East Germany’s secret police, the Stasi.

Dr Ruth Starke’s newest project, by contrast, was driven by a whodunit mystery. In collaboration with local artist Greg Holfeld, she has written a graphic novel aimed at a primary school readership. *Captain Congo and the Maharajah’s Monkey* is the second outing for the gorilla detective and his penguin sidekick. A veteran author of children’s literature, Dr Starke said she found writing for graphic novels required an approach more akin to screenwriting.

It’s not only Creative Writing staff who have been active: Dr Benjamin Chandler, whose interest in the representation of Japanese and Western heroes in fantasy fiction was the basis of his PhD thesis, has transformed theory into practice.
Eclipsing the Twilight zone

Flinders drama graduate Xavier Samuel is an international star in waiting, thanks to his role in the latest film of the hugely popular Twilight movie franchise.

Xavier, 25, will star as new vampire Riley in Eclipse, the third film to be based on Stephenie Meyer's bestselling books.

He won the part against established film actors including Tom "Draco" Felton from the Harry Potter films.

Xavier graduated from the Flinders University Drama Centre in 2005, and is described by Professor Michael Morley as "a very very talented actor and performer." He has starred a number of Australian movies, including the low-budget thriller Road Train, before successfully auditioning for Eclipse in Los Angeles.

Eclipse is currently filming in Vancouver, Canada, and is due for release in 2010.

Charles Gent
The answers to these questions have helped shape the current brand re-fresh project at the University. The process included market research to articulate a clear, relevant and distinctive positioning for Flinders and to develop strategies to achieve more focused and cohesive marketing and communications within and beyond the University.

Established in 1966, and taking its name from the British explorer Matthew Flinders, Flinders University grew under the dedicated leadership of Founding Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Peter Karmel. Inspired by Matthew Flinders’ pioneering spirit, and with a vision to “experiment and experiment bravely”, Professor Karmel set about creating an institution that would challenge traditional academic structures and broaden educational opportunities. This began Flinders University’s proud history of innovation, exploration and excellence in teaching and research. It is this bold legacy that sits at the heart of our identity. From the core elements of our corporate logo, to the significant achievements of our staff and graduates, we seek to shine a light on education, research and community engagement and to inspire the highest achievements in these fields.

With a bold strategic plan, Flinders is well positioned in a competitive environment. How do we stand apart? We possess a set of unique attributes. We are bold in the way we set out to achieve in all fields, without being aloof. We aim to be inspiring in building on a history of innovation in teaching and research and our graduates are led towards achievements that illuminate the future. We are not complacent in our approach to scholarship and professional practice.

Our aspirations and achievements in illuminating excellence across all aspects of the university are represented in our gold colour scheme (the sun illuminating from the crest) We are a research achiever, fostering an environment of intellectual rigour and excellence in scholarly outcomes. We value our people and act in ways that enhance educational opportunities. We are not indifferent to individuals and do not possess the attitude of a huge or elitist university.

All of these qualities guide the brand narrative – but how do we represent these unique attributes visually? How do we represent these attributes so that the wider community uphold and strengthen them? How do we secure our position every time we interact with anyone from within and outside the university? For audiences to understand who we are and what we stand for and to distinguish ourselves, we need to present consistently clear and cohesive brand identity that people can engage with. The Flinders Master brand represented by the Flinders University crest acts as the umbrella brand under which all others exist. The ship signifies exploration, new frontiers, being bold, being brave and the full sails represent always moving forward. The sun reflects a new day dawning – optimism and full of bright light, gold and illuminating. The dark and the light blues represent depth of knowledge, the Gulf waters, Port Lincoln, Mount Gambier’s Blue Lake and the seas upon which Flinders sailed. New colours will be added to the palette to represent our regional centres in Alice Springs, Darwin, Renmark and beyond, as well as our new city presence in Victoria Square. We look forward to a brand which will be embraced by everyone and of which everyone is proud.

Diané Ranck
Director, Marketing and Communications Office
In 2009, the University’s Marketing and Communications Office (MACO) embraced and developed a number of new communication tools to take those stories to a broad audience, from the local community to the online global community. They included the social networking sites Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, and a 12 month sponsorship with popular radio station Fresh 92.7. MACO’s online communications team also revamped Flinders web news platform, establishing RSS feeds, a news blog and drawing on the available stories to add specific content to individual faculty web sites.

This integrated web-based information platform, coupled with the traditional media outlets and the email alumni newsletter e.NCOUNTER ensures that Flinders stays in touch and engages with all of its stakeholders, including potential students, existing students, alumni, research and business partners.

Peter Gill

### New ways to spread the word

Flinders University has some great stories to tell – from terrific teachers encouraging students to aim high and to achieve, to researchers solving scientific riddles that might support new medical breakthroughs or underpin environmental sustainability.

#### FACEBOOK

Employing one of the most widely used of the social networking sites, Flinders Facebook page played an influential role in settling new students into the University at the start of 2009. Facebook was the centre-piece of a ‘Friends at Flinders’ campaign developed by MACO ahead of Orientation Week as part of an intensive marketing strategy. This initiative, which included the distribution of hundreds of coloured wristbands depicting study areas to new students, saw many students engage with each other through Facebook on subjects as diverse as course content, textbook availability and accommodation.

In early November, Flinders had nearly 2500 Facebook fans and the site had become the second highest external referrer of people to the University’s website.

#### INDAILY

Flinders became a foundation sponsor of a new media product in May with the launch of Indaily, an electronic newspaper delivered by email to nearly 20,000 subscribers by Adelaide publisher, Solstice Media.

Employing world-leading technology, Indaily is a rich media format incorporating traditional text and photos plus audio and video files and flash-animated advertising.

Flinders Indaily page, taken fortnightly on Thursdays, also provides direct links to Flinders website.

With strong news stories showcasing the University’s research and teaching achievements backed by the latest advertising campaign, Indaily also became a significant source of visitors to Flinders website.

Indaily: Subscribe for free: www.indaily.com.au

#### YOUTUBE

The short videos produced for Flinders Indaily page have also provided content for the University’s YouTube Channel established in late 2008. With other content including television news footage of Flinders activities and events and videos produced by various faculties, Flinders YouTube Channel attracted more than 18,000 channel views over the 12 months to early November. The most popular video, attracting more than 25,000 video views, was television news coverage of a Maxwell Smart-style ‘shoephone’ developed by Flinders staff member, Dr Paul Gardner-Stephen (see page 5 profile).

#### MEDIA

Subscribe to the Flinders news RSS feed: www.flinders.edu.au/news

#### TWITTER

Follow Flinders News: www.twitter.com/flinders
Postgraduate student Chris Wilson – whose trip to assist in the retrieval of Ngarrindjeri ancestral remains from two United Kingdom museums was featured in Encounter 2008 – was recently appointed to the Australian Government’s International Repatriation Advisory Committee.

While more than 100 sets of Indigenous remains from countries including the UK, the USA, Austria and the Netherlands have been returned in the past 18 months, around 1000 more remains are held in museums around the world.

Mr Wilson, whose involvement in the process extended from negotiation to reburial, was appointed in October to the committee of eight Indigenous Australians who will provide expert advice and provide Indigenous perspectives to the Government’s repatriation programs.

In addition to a teaching role in the archaeology discipline at Flinders, Mr Wilson is currently researching a PhD that will explore the history of Ngarrindjeri people in their Lower Murray homelands. He also works as an academic adviser for Yunggorendi Mande, assisting in the recruitment and support of Indigenous students at Flinders.

The Flinders Centre for Science Education in the 21st Century (Science 21) and its Director, Professor Martin Westwell, profiled in last year’s Encounter, are already influencing the State’s science education policy.

In August this year, Science 21 released a major report urging Governments and the higher education sector to join forces to boost the qualifications of high school science teachers in South Australia. The study revealed that many teachers are not qualified to teach the subjects for which they are responsible.

Among Year 11-12 teachers, only 58 per cent of physics teachers and 72 per cent of chemistry teachers were adequately qualified in those subjects. Among biology teachers, 75 per cent of Year 11-12 teachers were qualified, and 84 per cent of science teachers of Years 8-10.

While significant commitments have already been made to improving the quality of science education and increasing the numbers of students following pathways to work involving science, technology, engineering and maths, more initiatives are required, Professor Westwell said.

“Science teachers being asked to teach outside of their area of expertise should be supported to develop their skills and extend their qualifications through custom-made science courses to be offered by universities like Flinders,” he said.

Charles Gent
Since its launch in July 2008, the Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) led by Professor Karen Reynolds (pictured demonstrating a new medical device to the State Minister for Health, John Hill), has brought together a network of stakeholders in the medical device development process, facilitated new, targeted partnerships between research organisations and companies, and provided practical assistance in bringing ideas closer to market.

During this relatively short period of time, this unique collaboration of researchers, industry, clinical end-users and government has engaged approximately 50 companies into the program, resulting in 30 new industry-focused projects.

In addition to the development of MANA Calendar (see page 20), the MDPP has evaluated and validated a number of products, provided advice regarding product redesign, facilitated relationships between relevant parties and assisted in the coordination of small scale product trials. The MDPP have also been involved in prototype development, for example, a hand hygiene event logging system to aid research in the area of infection control. Ten prototype loggers were installed in the coronary care unit of a local hospital, where real-time data was obtained for evaluation.

One of Flinders Young Tall Poppy Science Award winners in 2008, Associate Professor Wei Zhang, is involved in the Algal Fuels Consortium which is trialling the sustainable production of biofuels from microalgae (see page 20). In addition to the high yield biomass produced by microalgae, high value by-products of the process include Omega-3 fatty acids, bioactive peptides and carotenoids. The $9.7 million project has the backing of more than $2.7 million from the Federal Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.

“Our team of researchers is developing various methods – such as sampling techniques, analytical techniques and mathematical modeling – for the accounting of fugitive greenhouse gas emissions from the wastewater industry,” Associate Professor Zhang said.

“We are also developing biological processes for the remediation of greenhouse gases and wastewater nutrients, such as phosphates and nitrates, using microalgae for biofuels and biorefinery processes,” he said.

“At the same time, we are getting good results in the bioremediation of intensive aquaculture wastewater by culturing aquaculture species with marine sponges and micro- and macroalgae.”

Vincent Ciccarello
CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION

In less than two decades, sociology has shed its image as an abstract and esoteric discipline: according to Professor Anthony Elliott, social theory now makes vital contributions to debates on major issues as well as helping us to understand the rapidly shifting nature of everyday life.

Professor Elliott, Head of the Sociology at Flinders, has published his 22nd book, Contemporary social theory: an introduction. It is a book he believes will have appeal "well beyond the academy".

"When we look at the big issues of the day – globalisation, climate change, energy, water and so on – the contribution of social theorists to public policy and political debate has just been immense in recent times," Professor Elliott said.

The text outlines and reviews the key developments of social theory over the last century, but also takes the unusual step of using real-life scenarios as a means of exposition.


CRONIES OR CAPITALISTS?

In Cronies or Capitalists?, Flinders historian Dr David Lockwood analyses the comparatively brief history of Russia’s moneyed middle-classes and industrial entrepreneurs. Dr Lockwood said that the bourgeoisie in Russia essentially came into being in the second half of the 19th century: after a drubbing in the Crimean War, Russia’s rulers realised that to keep up with the rest of Europe in military terms, industrialisation was a necessary evil.

"Russian capitalists made great strides forward, but the regime was always distrustful of them, seeing them as an alternative source of power and regulating them heavily," Dr Lockwood said.

According to Dr Lockwood, the hostility of the Tsarist regimes backfired, with the bourgeoisie becoming increasingly sympathetic to the reformist – and later revolutionary – movements that championed their liberties. Lenin, however, gave them short shrift. Cronies or Capitalists? The Russian bourgeoisie and the bourgeois revolution from 1850 to 1917 is published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Spiel

With Berlin as a backdrop, an encounter with a mysterious woman sounds like the stuff of fiction – and indeed it is. For Flinders lecturer David Sornig, however, a real episode in his own life almost 20 years ago provided the starting point for the central character in his new novel, Spiel.

Dr Sornig said travelling to Berlin as a 21-year-old was a defining moment. "Coming to a place where history had happened, and to feel yourself stepping through a place where some of the most momentous events of the 20th century had occurred, was really powerful for me," he said.

For the Melbourne architect-narrator, the shifting quest to discover the identity of the enigmatic woman brings his own past: he has left behind something in Melbourne that he has to atone for as well," Dr Sornig said. Spiel is published by University of Western Australia Press.

CAULONIA IN THE HEART

Some 8000 South Australians can trace their heritage back to a single, picturesque, hilltop town in southern Italy.

In a chain of migration extending over five decades, more than 1600 former residents of Caulonia came to settle in South Australia, where they became the State's largest group of Italian migrants from one town of origin. Their story has been traced in Caulonia in the Heart, a lavishly illustrated history published in both English and Italian by Flinders language academics Dr Daniela Rose and Professor Desmond O’Connor.

They researched archival sources and conducted interviews with more than 140 immigrants and their descendants in Adelaide, Perth and Mildura, as well as current residents of Caulonia.

Professor O’Connor said the migrants from Caulonia have been very successful, both in personal terms and in their contributions to the Australian society. "They have integrated with the wider community, but they have also maintained their traditions," he said.

Caulonia in the Heart (Caulonia nel cuore) is published by Lythrum Press.
A vision for Flinders future

In the past year we have tapped the ideas, imagination and introspection of a wide range of people at Flinders as we crafted the University’s Strategic Plan for the next five years. Entitled Inspiring Flinders Future, the Plan is our blueprint for the challenging times ahead. It will drive our priorities and inform our choices. It is a statement of who we are and what we strive to be.

How we position the University in the face of increased competition in the tertiary education environment and an increasingly globalised world where the challenges require solutions across all discipline boundaries, will be crucial.

The Plan contains nine key strategies, each of which supports and enlarges the others to form a matrix of our future ambition and endeavour. Taken together, the successful realisation of these goals will make a constructive and enduring contribution to the lives of our students, staff and the communities with which we engage.

The Key Strategies

The nine key strategies are:

1. BUILDING SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES
   By being outwardly engaged, with strong links to our stakeholders and serving the communities in which we operate

2. ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
   Through innovative and flexible entry pathways, a relevant and dynamic course profile, and improving the retention and progression of students

3. ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
   By showing respect for their views and care for their welfare, by providing effective support services, and by maintaining a lively campus culture

4. VALUING QUALITY IN TEACHING
   As an unswerving commitment and a defining characteristic of Flinders

5. FOCUSING RESEARCH
   On those who are research-active or have the potential to be, and on high quality, targeted and collaborative research and research training that makes a difference

6. STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONALISATION
   By expanding opportunities and benefits for students, staff, and our communities to engage in the global society

7. VALUING OUR PEOPLE
   By supporting and encouraging all staff to achieve the highest level of performance, deliver our vision and adapt to the changes required

8. COMMITTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE
   By becoming internationally recognised for innovative research and teaching and by reducing the environmental impact of our activities

9. IMPROVING OUR FINANCIAL CAPACITY
   By ensuring that our available resources are increased and used in the most effective and efficient ways

The Strategic Plan sets challenging but achievable goals and I am particularly focused on boosting our research performance and enhancing our environmental commitment.

On the research front we aim to increase annual research expenditure from $62 million to a target of $100 million by 2014, and lift the number of articles published in leading peer-reviewed journals by 20 per cent over the same period.

Our decision to establish a new School of the Environment will bring together staff and resources from the University’s highly respected undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses in the areas of environmental sciences, management and health.

By grouping our world-class skills, experience and capability, Flinders will upgrade its capacity to make a contribution towards meeting Australia’s mounting environmental challenges, both through research and through provision of a dynamic education for tomorrow’s environmental professionals.

The new school will incorporate the newly established National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training in which Flinders leads an Australia-wide collaboration of 11 other universities and eight industry and government agency organisations in the pursuit of knowledge and effective management solutions for the nation’s groundwater.

The School of the Environment, to be housed in a new state-of-the-art ‘green’ building incorporating a range of energy saving measures, will play its part in the University’s ambition to achieve a 10 per cent per capita decrease in the University’s carbon footprint by 2014. Another Strategic Plan goal is to double the number of undergraduate students enrolled in environmental programs in the same period.

Many of the readers of this publication will be among the many thousands of students that the University has attracted from more than 100 countries over the past 43 years. We have maintained contact with many of you and, in looking to extend further our overseas networks, the Strategic Plan has set a target of increasing the number of international alumni with whom we have contact by 20 per cent, from the 2009 level of 5825, over the next five years.

Flinders values its ongoing relationship with graduates and we will continue to foster and energise relationships with our alumni, in Australia and overseas. I encourage you to read the University’s Strategic Plan, which can be found on our web site, and welcome your feedback.

Professor Michael Barber
Vice-Chancellor
Flinders in the city

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY IS NOW OPEN IN THE CITY AT 182 VICTORIA SQUARE

It's an alternative, visible and accessible location where we will:

- provide information and advice to students wanting to find out about studying at Flinders
- teach a selection of our courses and topics
- engage with business, government and the community.

www.flinders.edu.au/victoriasquare