

The 2007 Heritage Society Lunch

Guests from as far afield as Norfolk Island enjoyed this year's Heritage Society Lunch where guest speaker Professor Rob Moodie from the Nossal Institute spoke on topics ranging from AIDS in Africa and Melbourne's future to the secrets of living a balanced life.

The annual Heritage Society Lunch attracted 85 guests, including a number of new members and some who had come from South Australia and Norfolk Island.

Guest speaker Professor Rob Moodie gave us an insight into his varied career, including his current work as Professor of Global Health at the Nossal Institute and their fight against AIDS in Africa.

He also spoke about his role as Chair of the Melbourne 2030 Audit, where he is involved in identifying and implementing the priorities for making Melbourne one of the world's most liveable cities.

As an advocate of the well-balanced life, Rob is currently writing a book with well-known chef Gabriel Gate called *Recipes for a Great Life*, which presents recipes for our physical, cultural and spiritual lives as well as for our relationships, our work and intellectual lives.

Thanks to a suggestion from a member who told us that she would like the opportunity



Above: Heritage Society members Frank and Leonie Osowski with scholarship recipients Molley Kamenz and Tom Ngor, chat with Professor Ken Hinchcliff, Dean, Faculty of Vet Science. Below: General Manager, Development, Dr Ross Collier in conversation with Mrs Patricia Karas and Mrs Norma Riley.

to meet and talk to students about their studies, we invited a group of students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to the lunch. The students are all recipients of scholarships, bursaries and financial aid generated from the income left by bequests. Students and members enjoyed getting to know a little about each other.

As one member said, "It made me feel good to think that my bequest would be used to benefit future students."

We asked two of the students to share their experience with you. These are reported on the next page.



Students enjoy meeting Heritage Society members



Suki Dorras-Walker shares a laugh with Ms Beryl Challenger and Mrs Margaret Naismith.



Thomas Vasey gets to know Heritage Society member, Mrs Ellen Douglas.

Suki Dorras-Walker

Suki has just completed her first year of Arts and is studying languages.

'When I was invited to the Heritage Society Lunch I wasn't entirely sure what it was but I readily agreed. The idea of a free lunch to a hungry uni student is very enticing!

I have been part of a program called SHAP – Student Housing Access Program - and have also been granted a Housing Bursary by the University. I thought this would be a good chance to thank donors helping students, who, like myself, struggle financially throughout their university experience. I was a bit nervous though, as I wasn't completely sure what to expect.

The first hurdle was deciding what to wear. Did I even own a pair of closed shoes? Luckily, my housemate came to the rescue with a pair that were only one size too big. I got to uni, went to my first class, changed and then headed off for the lunch.

Someone came to meet me as soon as I appeared at the door, pinned a nametag on me and introduced me to an Arts graduate. I was wondering what we would talk about but soon enough, after a few sips of champagne, we were getting on well and found we both had a love of languages. I spoke to another couple that spoke French like me and were also interested in Arabic, which I am studying at University.

When we were called to lunch I also found that I had a lot in common with the people I was sitting next to. Everyone at the table was very warm and welcoming and I heard some fascinating stories about other peoples' experiences at university. A funny moment was when I was forced to eat a second dessert because I was the "hungry uni student" and we decided to hide the first finished plate so that I didn't look too greedy!

The Heritage Society Lunch was a really lovely experience for me. Having moved away from home I have less contact with people who are older than me so I really appreciated the company. I made some great connections with people and I hope that I can meet them again at another function during my time at the University of Melbourne.

I was really grateful that I could meet the people who have invested in other students' education, including my own. It turned out to be a lot more rewarding than just a free lunch!

My first year at university has been tough and the financial aid I have received thanks to people like these has been so helpful!

Thomas Vasey

Thomas is a 2nd year student studying an Arts (Media Communications) degree, with a second major in Philosophy. He was the 2007 President of the Medley Hall Student Club.

'I arrived at the Heritage Society Lunch, pleased by my invitation but unsure and hesitant. Hesitant about whether I would find some common conversational topic and worried that myself and the other students would remain on the periphery of conversations for the entire lunch. My misgivings did not eventuate. The warmth and interest of everyone I talked to, and Professor Glenn Bowses' generous appraisal of the students of the University, put me at ease. All the conversations I had were engaging. I enjoyed them and learnt a great deal.

The diversity of the lives people had led and their careers was fascinating. Professor Rob Moodie's speech was an example

The Eleanor and Joseph Wertheim Bequest - making a difference to the lives of generations of women

Thomas Vasey continued...

of this. It is always inspiring to listen to someone who is both high achieving and passionate about their work. What I took from Professor Moodie's speech was that topping your class is not as important as learning – learning in itself and learning what interests and is important to you. The significance of the University of Melbourne beyond simply getting a degree I feel can be lost to some students. Being passionate about study and sharing in the knowledge of the people you meet, mentors and peers, at the University is what makes the University experience so wonderful.

In a conversation I had, the idea of a learning community came up. The significance of this phrase tends to be lost in overuse or dulled in the everyday, but at the Heritage Society Lunch it resonated with me. Learning is so valuable in the wonder, growth and future prospects it creates, and a community which enriches and supports such an endeavour is so important to all of our lives. This is true of my experience at the University of Melbourne, and at Medley Hall, the residential college that I live in.

For me The Heritage Society is a celebration of the learning community of the University of Melbourne. I am grateful I was able to attend.'

When Dr Eleanor Wertheim, a Senior Research Fellow in the Faculty of Arts for a number of years, died in 2001, the Eleanor and Joseph Wertheim Scholarship trust was established.

Her husband Joseph Wertheim, who died four years earlier, was a science alumnus. It was their intention to leave a legacy that would have a positive impact on the lives of women for future generations.

The Scholarship trust is intended to assist "unmarried, widowed or divorced women over the age of 25 years in difficult circumstances to pursue undergraduate or graduate courses."

In 2007, Sally Frith, a single mother aged 31 living in Tyabb with three young children, became the most recent beneficiary of the Wertheim's generosity.

Sally has had a life-long interest in photography. She had previously undertaken a one year media studies course at a TAFE college and worked part-time in a photography lab, but could not afford to pursue full-time study. Through the generosity of the Eleanor and Joseph Wertheim bequest to the University of Melbourne, Sally is now studying a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the VCA, majoring in photography.

When we spoke to Sally she told us she discovered the scholarship



Sally Frith received the Eleanor and Joseph Wertheim scholarship.

quite serendipitously. She happened to be looking on scholarship databases and clicked on the "for single women, over 25 experiencing financial hardship". The Wertheim Scholarship appeared and she felt she was the ideal fit.

For Sally, attaining the scholarship has had a huge impact. "It has meant that I no longer have to always opt for the limited choice – it has enabled me to pay my HECS as I go rather than end up with a huge loan to repay. The scholarship has also helped to pay my travelling and equipment costs".

Before getting the scholarship Sally was looking for work on the weekends to help cover her extra expenses but now she is able to spend extra time with her children. The scholarship has removed so many pressures.

Sally's only regret is that she is not able to thank her benefactors in person and to let them know what a difference this scholarship has made to her life, both as an artist and a mother.

"The fact that this couple have left a bequest specifically targeted to women in difficult circumstances who wanted to study shows such insight". Sally noted that she hopes to one day be able to leave a legacy for someone in her position.

Sally is very positive about her experience at the VCA. "Everyone is so passionate about what they are doing, it's a very friendly and collegial place to study". When she finishes her studies Sally hopes to teach photography.



Discovering Egypt

Members of the Heritage Society who attended our recent *Behind the Scenes* tour of the Discovering Egypt exhibition at the Ian Potter Museum of Art were treated to a very personalised and passionate tour by the curator of the exhibition, Dr Andrew Jamieson (pictured above, centre, with guests Winsome and Rob Martin).

His knowledge and enthusiasm about the exhibits made us all want to get on the next plane to Egypt! Our interest was further heightened by a slide show presentation of some of the recent archaeological excavations made by Dr Jamieson and his colleagues from Monash University in the Dakhleh Oasis in Egypt.

The feedback from those who attended was very positive:

'I really enjoyed the *Discovering Egypt* event. Andrew Jamieson was an inspiring and engaging speaker who shared the depth and breadth of his knowledge with great passion. Thank you for organising such a great event; the well organised tea/coffee and delicious nibbles were appreciated, too!'

Suzanne and Sue would like to wish you well for the coming festive season and our best wishes for a happy and healthy 2008.

We look forward to seeing you at our events next year.

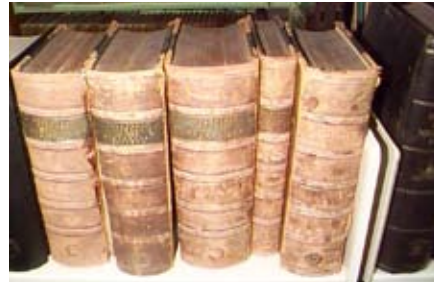


WHAT'S ON

Heritage Society Event

Tour of the University Archives

Monday 3 December



The University of Melbourne Archives houses a unique collection of archival material including historical documents and records dating back to 1495.

The tour will be led by Senior Archivist, Jason Benjamin who will reveal those unexpected treasures.

The tour will start at 10.30am and finish with morning tea at approximately 11.30am.

The Archives are located at 120 Dawson Street, Brunswick (Melways 29E8).

For those taking public transport, take the No. 55 West Coburg tram from William Street in the city to Stop 31 at the corner of Grantham and Dawson Street.

To RSVP please contact Suzanne McGraw on (03) 8344 1754 by Thursday 29 November if you would like to attend.

Guests are welcome.

The University offers many lectures and events each week. Here are some highlights that may interest you.

Chancellor's Human Rights Lecture

Thursday 13 December, 6pm

Radhika Coomaraswamy, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict will speak on:

The Protection of Women and Children During Armed Conflict - Whose Responsibility?

Carrillo Gantner Theatre, Sidney Myer Asia Centre

RSVP required to:

community-relations@unimelb.edu.au with 'human rights' in the subject line or telephone (03) 8344 1176.

At the Potter Museum of Art

From nature: John Gould and Margaret Stones

6 September 2007 to 20 January 2008 (except Mondays)

Drawn from the University of Melbourne Art Collection, this exhibition brings together celebrated works that illustrate the natural world in exquisite detail.

Facing Percy Grainger

Until 3 February 2008

Presenting more than 100 works of art, photographs, personal items and more.

If you are thinking of attending any of these events or would like more information please let us know and we can organise to meet you and get together a group of members with similar interests for discussion afterwards over tea or coffee.

Contact the Bequest Team

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