



NRF pledge \$1 million for brain tumour research

UniSA will use a \$1 million research pledge from the Neurosurgical Research Foundation to develop new drugs in the fight against lethal brain tumours, which kill 95 per cent of patients within five years. more ...





From the Olympics to helping trafficking survivors

From performing in the London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony to touring with Muse, UniSA alumna Robyn Simpson is now reaching new heights with Circus Kathmandu, a group for survivors of trafficking. more...





Increasing aggressive breast cancer survival rate

Associate Professor Claudine Bonder is working to understand how tumours grow with the aim to stop the most aggressive breast cancers by starving them of the blood supply they need. more...





Education is the key to Closing the Gap

Professor Peter Buckskin discusses how education is the key to Closing the Gap (CTG) and achieving true Reconciliation between Aboriginal people and other Australians. He argues increasing the number Aboriginal Australian teachers in our schools and early years learning centres are key to these agendas. more...

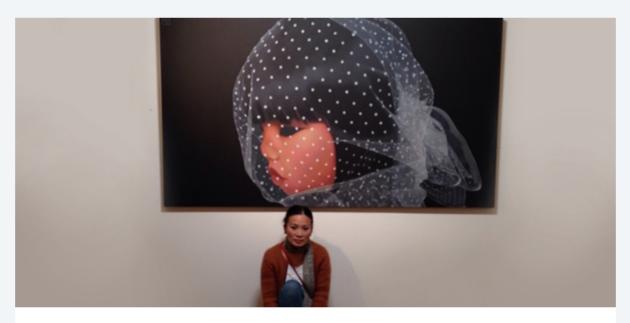




Ugly parent syndrome taking fun out of kids sport

Blowing off steam at your kids' weekend sports match is a likely driver of the decline in the number of children willing to play sport in Australia, Wendy Piltz warns. more...





UniSA celebrates 40 years of illustrative power

The University of South Australia presents The Power of Illustration: A Legacy for the Future. Covering 40 years of innovation, culture, and commerce, this exhibition will show the works of various alumni from all different areas of illustration. more...





Alumni events

03 The Power of Illustration: A Legacy for the Future - Adelaide

- NOV- This exhibition celebrates the contribution and legacy of UniSA alumni and staff
- 01 to the practice of Illustration. Spanning forty years, it documents the diverse impact of their work to innovation, culture and commerce - demonstrating the DEC connect between illustration teaching and practice on a national and

international scale. **10-** JOBEX – Adelaide

- Are you thinking of changing careers? Visit the UniSA booth at JOBEX to
- 11 discuss your options and connect with some of the State's leading businesses in NOV five emerging sectors: defence and shipbuilding, health and research, energy and mining, IT and hi-tech and tourism, food and wine.

14 Humanitarians in the Front Line of Technology – Adelaide

- Exploring issues confronting a new generation of tech savvy humanitarians NOV working in conflicts and natural disasters, with Paul White, UN Interagency Project, ProCap, and Noosheen Mogadam, formerly of the Norwegian Refugee Council.
- 15 **UniSA Enterprising Partnerships Talk: Choice – Adelaide**
- Adults makes thousands of decisions every single day, but do we really NOV
- understand these choices and how we make them? Join the University of South Australia's Institute for Choice and our partners RAA and Helping Hand, for a conversation about choice and the effects technology has on health, mobility and transport choice.

16 MBA Information Seminar – Adelaide

- If you are an experienced management professional, driven to create new NOV solutions, lead innovative teams and deliver exceptional results in a context of disruptive change, the UniSA Business School's MBA is for you.
- **17-** 2017 Narratives of War Symposium/MHSA Conference Adelaide
- 19 This three-day conference on the theme Generations of War explores the social,
- cultural and political impacts for each new generation that experiences conflict. NOV UniSA with the Military Historical Society of SA.

20 Alumni cocktail networking event – New York

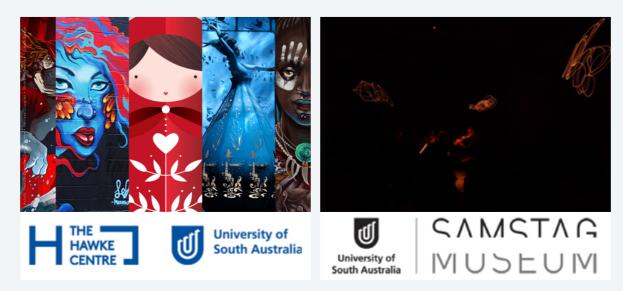
Join us for our first ever alumni cocktail reception in New York with guest NOV speaker Professor Jenni Romaniuk, Associate Director (International), Ehrenberg-Bass Institute for Marketing Science, University of South Australia.

20 Language Policy: Cultivating Our Deepest Public Resource – Adelaide NOV

This panel will take a comparative and contrastive approach to the public resource of language, referring to the Australian innovation in Language Policy, the critical new appreciation of language rights, especially in Southeast Asia, the new public regime of the global language order in which English must accommodate for a resurgent Chinese, and new technologies of multilingualism make new kinds of communication possible.

30 Deadly Alumni Cocktail Event- Adelaide

Join Professor Peter Buckskin, Dean: Aboriginal Engagement & Strategic NOV Projects and guest speaker Dr James Charles, Podiatry Masters alumnus and 2017 NAIDOC National Scholar of the Year and network with fellow alumni.



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NRF pledge \$1 million for brain tumour research



Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation Professor Tanya Monro, Professor Stuart Pitson and Vice President NRF Dr Glenn McCulloch

The University of South Australia will use a \$1 million research pledge to develop new drugs in the fight against lethal brain tumours, which kill 95 per cent of patients within five years.

The million dollar pledge from the Neurosurgical Research Foundation (NRF), announced today, coincides with International Brain Tumour Awareness Week (21-28 October).

The funds will help UniSA's leading brain cancer researcher, Professor Stuart Pitson – the inaugural NRF Brain Tumour Research Chair – further his research into glioblastoma, a highly malignant and the most commonly diagnosed brain tumour in adults.

Brain cancer kills more adults under 40 than any other cancer, kills more children than any other disease, and takes one life about every seven hours in Australia.

Currently, people diagnosed with the most lethal brain cancer – glioblastoma – have a very poor prognosis. The median survival rate is about 15 months and only five per cent of patients will still be alive after five years. These figures have barely increased in 50 years.

Prof Pitson and his team in the Centre for Cancer Biology have identified the defect in the glioblastoma cells that appears to cause the cancerous tumour to grow rapidly and become resistant to chemotherapy.

"This single defect, involving hyper-activation of the SK2 protein, is an ideal target for new therapies for glioblastoma," Prof Pitson says.

"We have developed inhibitor drugs to the SK2 protein which are showing great promise in the laboratory and pre-clinical models.

"The continued and generous support from NRF will allow my team to enhance our promising research and bring us closer to clinical application.

"It is essential that we are doing all that we can, and as quickly as we possibly can, to find more effective treatments for glioblastoma so we can increase patient prognosis from months to years."

NRF is well on its way to providing the \$1 million pledge by the end of May 2018.

"On the front line of this disease, we are all too aware of trauma caused to patients and their loved ones," says NRF Board member and leading Adelaide neurosurgeon Dr Cindy Molloy.

"When faced with a devastating disease, such as a brain tumour, every moment spent with loved ones is incredibly precious. More research into the cause, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of brain tumours is critically important.

"At the NRF, we are proud that our committed donors are contributing towards brain tumour research and ultimately helping those sadly affected," Dr Molloy says.

Adelaide resident Kerry Buttery – who lost her husband Richard to glioblastoma in 2015 – has become a proactive fundraiser for the NRF since her husband's death.

"We desperately need this research to find a way to effectively treat glioblastoma," Kerry says.

"Sufferers and their families need some hope for a cure or at least to have a better life expectancy than the one they are currently given. Without a way of effectively treating glioblastoma, anyone diagnosed with it at the moment is given a death sentence."

UniSA Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation, Professor Tanya Monro, says the "incredibly generous gift from the NRF will allow Prof Pitson and his team the opportunity to progress their exciting and pivotal research towards real world outcomes."

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From the Olympics to helping trafficking survivors

Robyn Simpson

Bachelor of Business (Marketing) Co-Director and Co-Founder of Circus Kathmandu

Robyn Simpson has had a fascinating career involving acrobatics, choreography, performance flying, and dance. From travelling across the globe, to co-founding a circus for survivors of trafficking and having a pivotal role in the ceremonies for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Robyn shows no signs of slowing down.

In 2O1O, Robyn and a small team of co-founders set up Circus Kathmandu, Nepal's first and only circus. All artists in the circus are survivors of trafficking or vulnerable situations, and strive to raise awareness about modern day slavery.

"The anti-trafficking work they do now is vital because trafficking is increasing in Nepal and Circus Kathmandu has a unique way of getting people's attention and engaging a community with the issues," says Robyn.

"Through circus, the young artists are fostering a love of learning and demonstrating gender equality and the power of the creative economy."



"It's potent because they're living examples of what they're teaching, and they're defenders of human rights and children's rights because of what they've experienced."

In the seven short years since Circus Kathmandu's foundation, the group have profoundly turned their lives around, fast becoming a national export. The group have put on workshops in a number of different areas such as earthquake displacement camps, spinal injury hospitals and with street children. As well as this, the group has performed at some big name venues like Glastonbury Festival, and for people such as the Ex-Prime Minister of Nepal.



"They're versatile, talented, and inspiring. Culture, creativity, and tourism are assets that can be further developed to economically benefit Nepal, help reduce poverty, and as tools against social injustice. Circus Kathmandu is proof that it is possible – it began with people from the lowest socioeconomic stratum with minimal options for the future. With assistance, Circus Kathmandu has tools to help rid Nepal of trafficking, and to protect and promote the rights of women and children."

More recently, Circus Kathmandu has been involved in a new documentary, *Even When I Fall*. Tracing the lives of two members of the circus, the film follows their journey over six years as they confront and accept being survivors of child trafficking and corrupt Indian circuses, taking control of their lives and looking towards the future.



"My secret goal is that the film creates a global storm and that the problems resulting in human trafficking are resoundingly defeated – that the film creates pressure in the right places to make real systematic change to poverty, gender inequality, lack of education and corruption."

Long before her involvement with the circus and the Olympic Games, Robyn was studying a Bachelor of Management in Marketing, when she decided to pack up her things and move to the bustling city of Mumbai. During her time there, she taught dance and PE at the American School Bombay, studied yoga, danced in Bollywood music videos, and continued studying by correspondence.

Robyn then won a dance scholarship to Vienna, and moved to London from there. She danced with the English National Opera and did daily classes with the Richard Alston Dance Company. It was not until a colleague convinced her to

audition for the Millennium Dome Show – a multimedia show akin to Cirque du Soleil – that her career path would take a rapid hook turn, launching her into the world of acrobatics.

7000 people auditioned for the Dome Show, with Robyn recalling the process being as tough as an army boot camp.

"The first day involved doing sit ups, squats and other strength exercises and then getting up onto a trapeze bar. People were cut after each round of exercises. Over the next audition days we did dance, acting, team work, and then finally a height test, and I was accepted onto a full-time circus training course in preparation for the Dome Show.

"The course was an incredible and rapid entry into the world of traditional circus – trapeze, corde lisse, circeau – and contemporary circus where I did bungee trapeze, abseiling, sway pole, and flying."

Even while she was effortlessly gliding through the air on a trapeze and balancing up a 100 foot sway pole, Robyn still continued to study, gaining her Marketing degree during this period.

Over the course of her career, Robyn has worked on many large scale events in sport, fashion, music, and film.

"Working on London 2012 was the culmination of a ten-year goal and is a definite career highlight."

"Being part of the Opening Ceremony as the 'Hero Mary Poppins' that defeated Voldemort to rescue the children was a magic moment. As Aerial Captain, I improvised and tested equipment, and helped 30 aerialists with their flying.

"Touring with Muse and having 200,000 people simultaneously roar as I jumped out of a flying UFO still makes my heart race a little when I think about it.

"Doing movement direction, or devising on films like *Les Misérables* is great because what you create lasts - they're not ethereal like live performances."

Although Circus Kathmandu has already come a long way since its inception, Robyn is adamant that there is a lot more to do to cement the sustainability of the organisation, and a large part is creating a high-profile show for tourists, allowing the business to grow.

"Ultimately, we'd also like our own training space and performing arts and circus school to continue training

circus and social circus practitioners, as well as generating a love of creative learning in future generations."

Robyn is returning to live in Australia this summer with her young family and is looking forward to the

opportunities available here to pursue her interests in dance, choreography and circus.

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Increasing aggressive breast cancer survival rate

Associate Professor Claudine Bonder

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Head, Vascular Biology and Cell Trafficking Laboratory, Centre for Cancer Biology SA Pathology and University of South Australia

Innovative and exciting research, led by Associate Professor Claudine Bonder, has the potential to raise the survival rate for highly aggressive breast cancer patients by starving cancer cells of the blood supply they need to grow and spread.

In Australia, every day approximately 40 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer and nine people will die. With advances in modern medicine, a patient's survival rate is 98% if the cancer in the breast tissue tumour is less than one inch across. However, this figure drops to only 16% once the cancer has spread beyond the immediate region of the breast.

In order to attract a blood supply for the oxygen and nutrients they need, cancer cells can either send out chemical signals to draw blood vessels (angiogenesis) or build their own blood structures to create their own supply (vasculogenic mimicry).

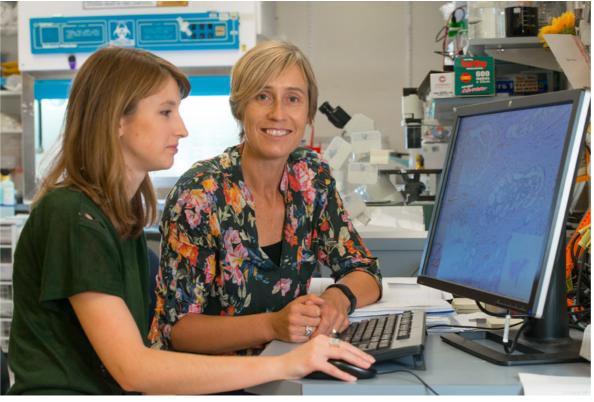


"Without a blood supply, solid cancers can only grow to about 1mm³ before they need more nutrients and oxygen," says Assoc Prof Bonder.

"At this size, these cancers may be surgically removed and the patient has a good chance at successful treatment and survival."

Until recently it was thought that cancer cells could only use angiogenesis to attract normal endothelial lined blood vessels in order to get their blood supply. A number of hopeful treatments were developed to target the endothelial cells that form the inner lining of blood vessels (angiogenesis). However this therapy has proven to not work for tumours that grow faster and spread more easily like triple negative breast cancer.

With the discovery that cancer cells can actually create their own blood supply (vasculogenic mimicry), Assoc Prof Bonder and her team are on to a very promising lead to starve these cancers of all forms of blood supply within breast cancer.



"From our studies - as well as others - we know that about 30% of the blood supply to cancer cells in breast cancer is due to this process of vasculogenic mimicry, the same is holding true for melanoma.

"We believe that some blood hormones are unexpectedly controlling factors which allow cancer cells to promote both angiogenesis and vasculogenic mimicry to build their blood supply, and we have created some good antibodies that are proving effective in blocking this function in lab models."

"On average it takes well over 10 years to turn a discovery from the lab bench into an effective therapy for patients, but with our knowledge of cancer and blood vessels we have the potential to fast-track this process.

"We are excited by the results we are seeing in the lab. However, to progress this research faster towards clinical trials we need to undertake further testing which requires additional funding.

"Ultimately this research could lead to a new therapy for breast cancer patients.

To support potentially life-saving, important cancer research at UniSA, please visit: https://donate.unisa.edu.au/donate-to-cancer-research

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Education is the key to Closing the Gap

Professor Peter Buckskin

Dean: Aboriginal Engagement & Strategic Projects, University of South Australia

As little as 2% of teachers in Australia are of Aboriginal descent. Professor Peter Buckskin, Dean: Aboriginal Engagement at University of South Australia, is working to make this an area of national focus for change as an urgent priority for Closing the Gap (CTG).

"If Australian children don't see Aboriginal Australian teachers in their classrooms, how will they learn to respect and to connect with the cultures of our nation's First People and our countries history?" Prof Buckskin said.

"Having more Aboriginal Australian teachers in the classroom and academics working in universities will inspire our students to dream big and set their goals high to chart a pathway to realise their aspirations.



"Whether it's in law, business, health or education CTG requires more numbers of qualified and skilled Aboriginal Australians in this space."

These concerns are at the heart of Professor Buckskin's work who is driving a number of projects at UniSA to engage more young Aboriginal Australians in positions where they can themselves lead change.

"Education is the key to overcoming the issues facing Aboriginal Australians today. It has always been about two things: education of our children and education of the population about us so they can be more informed and more dedicated to reconciliation."

He sees education as critical to bridging the gap – not just in education but in all areas, especially health.

"The nexus between health and education is where we really need to invest time and funds to understand how one impacts on the other. If you're not literate and comfortable reading and discussing things with others then you're not going to be aware of what health problems you're at risk of developing.

"Without a quality education you also don't get the opportunities that others do.

"During my time working in Canberra there was the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. The Final Report identified the lack of education had a profound impact on the 99 deaths that were investigated. Obviously if you have limited education you have limited opportunities."

Recently Prof Buckskin directed the national study, More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teachers Initiative (MATSITI), to develop strategies to increase the number of Aboriginal Australians working as teachers.

"We have more than 10,000 schools, 200,000 plus teachers and over half a million school children, yet we only have about 4000 Aboriginal Australians who have graduated with teaching qualifications and not all of them are necessarily working in the classroom."

The MATSITI study also revealed that only 33% of Aboriginal Australian students enrolled in Initial Teacher Education Programs went on to graduate.

"Through MATSITI we conducted a major project to examine why there was such a high attrition rate and identified what we termed as 'walking points', these included lack of appropriate cultural support, racism and financial hardship – we found they often left due to a bad experience while undertaking teaching practicums.

"I am pleased to say the Australian Council of Deans (ACDE) are working with Aboriginal Australian lecturers to address our findings. The Australian Indigenous Lecturers in Initial Teacher Education Association

(AILIITES) was established and our Aboriginal Australian lecturers in the School of Education are making a solid contribution to this work."

Prof Buckskin started his own career as a teacher in Broome in Western Australia in the late 1970's. It was also where he was first exposed to politics and the important role Aboriginal Australians play in bringing about change.

"At the time there was this fantastic Aboriginal Australian candidate for the seat of Kimberley – Ernie Bridge who faced terrible racist episodes such as interference on polling days in remote communities by the Opposition. The 1978 WA Courts ordered By-Election which Ernie lost but he persevered and



Professor Peter Buckskin with his fellow alumni

later became the first Aboriginal Australian member in the West Australian State Government and later a Minister.

"I was motivated to get more involved in community affairs and politics during my time there, first to correct the terrible wrong that happened to Ernie and the community, but it also prompted me to return to SA to get involved in the Aboriginal Australian education movement back home to fight for a better system of education for my own community.

"At the time there were less than 100 registered Aboriginal teachers in Australia and the 1980s was a time of change. So I was well placed to take opportunities as they came up to work closely with government and eventually within government to influence and guide policy itself."

Prof Buckskin went on to work in a number of senior executive and advisory roles where he could guide the policy development within Commonwealth Departments of Aboriginal Affairs, and Employment, Education and Training. After returning to Adelaide and leaving his role within the South Australian State Government Prof Buckskin joined UniSA as Dean and Head of School of the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research.

"UniSA's founding legislation and history of commitment to Aboriginal South Australians gives us a real opportunity to realise UniSA aspiration to be the university-of-choice for Aboriginal Australian students.

"We are uniquely positioned to make a real contribution to the Higher Education Academy."

These opportunities include a focus on building the UniSA Deadly Alumni chapter to create a community of Aboriginal Australian graduates who are leaders and role models in their fields.



Prof Buckskin will be hosting **UniSA's Deadly Alumni Cocktail Event** in Adelaide. Please join him and guest speaker, Dr James Charles, 2017 NAIDOC National Scholar of the Year, and network with fellow alumni. Date: Thursday 30 November Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm Venue: Bradley Forum, Hawke Building UniSA City West campus Register here Back to Alumni News

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Wendy Piltz

Senior Lecturer: Health and Physical Education, School of Education University of South Australia

Recent headlines reported an umpire feared so seriously for his safety that he had to flee a junior football match in Victoria after being chased by brawling parents and spectators. While this might be an extreme example, 'ugly parent syndrome' is a lot more common that you might think and has a wider impact on the children and communities involved in sport.

Ugly parent syndrome is defined as the overly invested parent who interferes with their child's sport performance or event. We've all seen it or heard of it at least once, the overly stressed parent yelling advice or getting angry at the coach or umpire or even their own child or other players.

Unfortunately what we don't see is the embarrassment and psychological distress this can place on the children involved and the reduction in the numbers of sport participants when parents decide they don't want to expose their own children to this aggressive behaviour.



There are a range of reasons why a parent may behave badly at a sport match – but Wendy Piltz thinks it is more about perspective and the management of the sport that can cause things to get out of hand.

"From what I have seen some parents seem to have a lack of perspective about what their child playing sport is all about," says Wendy Piltz, Senior Lecturer in Health and Physical Education at UniSA.

"Some parents behave badly because they are too caught up in the result of the game and for some they are living 'their own dreams' through their children.

"An overemphasis on winning distorts the true value of sport participation for children.

"Instead of valuing effort, improvement, enjoyment and cooperation a win at all cost attitude can lead to negative behaviour from parents including abusive criticism of umpires, arguments between spectators and unsupportive comments to players."

Sporting organisations have a responsibility to actively promote the positive values of junior sport. This can be implemented by projecting the positive values and the desirable behaviours expected at junior sporting events and making these live in real time at junior games. It involves structuring the season and finals to promote even competition and maximise participation.

"If parents are reminded that sport is also about getting out there and trying, learning, doing your best and having fun then that ugly behaviour is diffused."

Wendy has witnessed and experienced the 'ugly parent syndrome' through her extensive career in sports; as a coach, coach educator and most recently she has been working as a Junior Coordinator for Lacrosse SA with a focus on junior participation and development. She has also had a lifelong involvement in sport and played a wide variety including lacrosse and cricket at a national level.

Wendy believes the responsibility lies with everyone who participates in junior sport to remember that it is about supporting healthy development for children and young people.

"There are ways to counteract ugly parent syndrome which requires considerable effort on the sport clubs behalf to communicate with parents and engage them in appropriate behaviour."

Wendy would like to see further shifts in junior sport, particularly in the structure of the sports themselves so that they stop mimicking senior sports and further facilitate positive sport environments.

"The structure of junior sport just duplicates the competitiveness of senior levels without question.

"For example if we change the finals structure in sport to encourage all children to play and be included rather than just those kids who potentially get to practice more and get better faster we might see more kids staying in sport into their teenage years.

"We want kids to stay in sport because it is so beneficial for them - it gives them the structure they need to be successful in life, particularly in teenage years as it will set them up to be healthy active adults."

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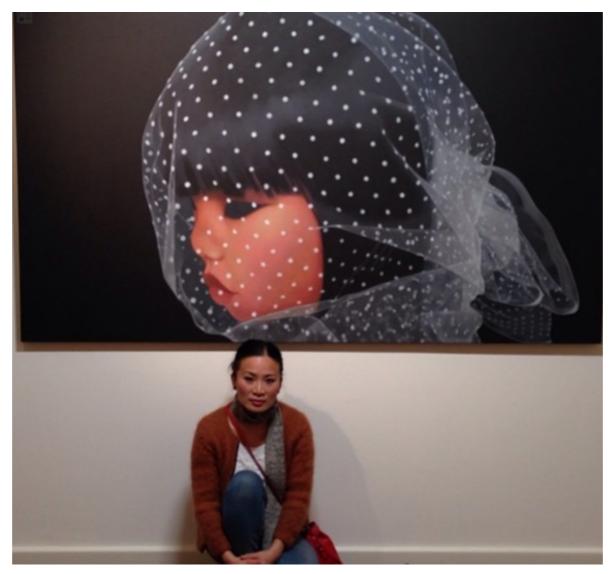


UniSA celebrates 40 years of illustrative power

Beginning in November, the University of South Australia presents The Power of Illustration: A Legacy for the Future. Covering 4O years of innovation, culture, and commerce, this exhibition will show the works of various alumni from all different areas of illustration.

From book illustrators, to brand specialists, and even tattooists, this exhibition will demonstrate the power of teaching and practice on a local, national, and international scale. With over 50 illustrators set to display their work during the month-long exhibition, the exhibition promises to be a feast for the eyes.

Below are just a few of the illustrators presenting:



Poh Ling Yeow **Bachelor of Visual Communication**

"Yeow's works emphatically explore notions of belonging and origin. As a fifth-generation Chinese Malaysian Yeow's paintings are an attempt at reconciling this heritage with her Western identity. Her traditionallyinfluenced scenic pieces and sometimes whimsical use of Chinese iconography acknowledges the fragmentation of her Chinese cultural experience."

Visit: www.pohlingyeow.com



Daniel Withey Bachelor of Visual Communication (Illustration Design)

"Clean lines, vivid colours and solid shapes are the mainstays that make up Withey's characters. Their simplicity combines human and animal forms into creatures that are neither one nor the other. It's also worth noticing that his characters are almost exclusively masculine suggesting their role as the artist's alter egos. Together with their tribal elements, his characters hold a totemic quality, each with its own subtle emotion used to capture Withey's feelings at the time it was created."

Visit: danwithey.com





Amanda Graham **Bachelor of Design Illustration**

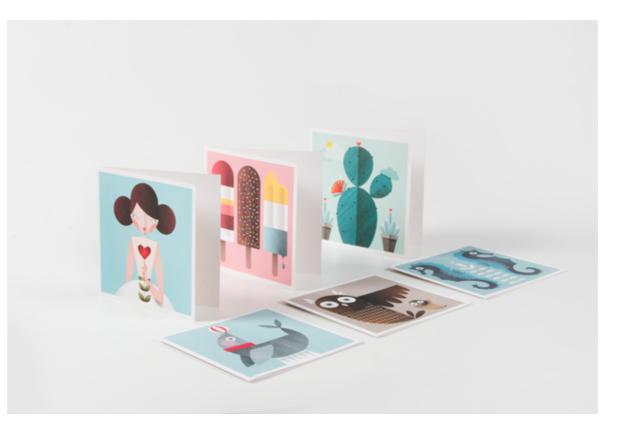
"Amanda Graham writes and illustrates picture books and short stories for young children. Her first book, Arthur (ill. Donna Gynell, Era Publications), appeared in 1984 and won the UK Children's Federation Award and was short-listed for the CBCA Awards.

"Amanda's most recent book is *Fancy Pants* (Little Big Book Club), written by Kelly Hibbert.

"Other titles include Smart Dad (Omnibus), Wilbur (author Phil Cummings, Little Big Book Club), Picasso the green tree frog (ill. John Siow, Era Publications) and Educating Arthur (ill. Donna Gynell, Era Publications)

"Amanda writes, illustrates and teaches in the Adelaide Hills."

Visit: www.amandagraham.com



Nerissa Douglas Bachelor of Design (Illustration Design)

"It all started in 2011 with a range of Christmas cards born from a passion for good design combined with a commitment to environmental and social responsibility. Like many new creative start-ups, we headed off to our local weekend market armed with our self-funded new card range to see if anybody else shared our vision of greatness!

"Six years later, after a design award or two and many more weekend markets and trade shows around Australia, One Hectare has its own dedicated online store and a retail studio in Adelaide's gorgeous Regent Arcade on Rundle Mall."

Visit: www.onehectare.com.au

Matthew Remphrey

Bachelor of Illustration Design

"Matthew's work has been published and highly awarded both



The exhibition is running from 3 November – 1 December at the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre's Kerry Packer Civic Gallery.

> Date: 3 November – 1 December Time: Mon to Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-7pm **Venue:** Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre's Kerry Packer Civic Gallery Hawke Building Level 3, UniSA City West campus

> > See 2017 Exhibitions

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