

# More teaching success for Derek

Postgraduate students reward their supervisors and staff for a job well done.



Professor Derek Abbott.

PROFESSOR Derek Abbott's prowess as a lecturer is not altogether new. In 1998 he was a recipient of the Stephen Cole the Elder Prize, awarded annually to academic staff whose teaching is regarded of excellent quality by students and academic colleagues.

Four years later, he has again been recognised for this quality. The Director of Biomedical Engineering can add the 2002 Postgraduate Students Association's Supervisor of the Year award to his list of achievements.

For the past 10 years, the Postgraduate Students Association has presented a series of awards recognising outstanding service to postgraduate (research and coursework) and honours students.

Students nominate individuals and departments that have assisted them with their research, overall studies or in navigating them through university. The awards were presented by Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha and Neville Marsh, Dean of the Adelaide Graduate Centre.

In explaining why he believed he was chosen out for the award, Dr Abbott

said: "As a supervisor I believe I have consistently created a fertile environment for enabling students to excel and reach their full potential."

Dr Abbott is equally proud when he talks of his successes: two Fulbright Scholars, one Premier's Award Scholar, one prestigious Santa Fe Institute Summer School Scholar and one TU Delft Scholar, to name but a few.

Other 2002 Postgraduate Students Association winners and runners-up:

- Runner-up, Postgraduate Supervisor of the Year: Professor Robert Warner, Civil and Environmental Engineering;
- Honourable mention: Dr Ian Riley, Applied and Molecular Ecology;
- President's Award: Professor Maciej Henneberg, Anatomical Sciences;
- Lecturer of the Year: Professor Janet Hiller, Public Health;
- Runner-up: Dr Eva Sallis, English;
- General Staff of the Year: Mr Wesley Fiskl, Anatomical Sciences;
- Runner-up: Ms Carmel Palumbo, Physics and Mathematical Physics;
- Department of the Year: shared by Environmental Biology and Physiology.

—Howard Salkow

# New grants for student zoologists

THE Royal Zoological Society of SA has established three scholarships for postgraduate students for work on zoology and the conservation of Australian animals.

The scholarships, to be offered annually, are aimed at celebrating three milestones in 2003, the 125th anniversary of the Society, the 120th birthday of Adelaide Zoo and the 10th anniversary of Monarto Zoological Park's opening to the public.

The University of Adelaide and the Society have had close connections for one and a quarter centuries. The Society's two research scientists, Drs Greg Johnston and David Taggart, both hold academic status within the University of Adelaide, and both are involved in a number of zoological research projects with University staff and students.

In addition to the Society's grants, Rotary is offering an additional grant through the

ROBIN Nestbox Project Committee, to be administered by the Society.

The grants are for \$1000 each. While postgraduate students from any university and at any level may apply for them, they are offered with the needs of Honours students particularly in mind.

"It can be hard for Honours students to find funding quickly at the start of the academic year," said Dr Rob Morrison, President of the Society. "While \$1000 is not a huge sum, it can be very helpful in covering expenses such as field work during the Honours year."

The \$1000 Rotary grant is for research involving the natural or artificial hollows that Australian animals use.

Applications are now open. Further details on all of the grants can be obtained from the Research Grants Committee, Adelaide Zoo, Frome Rd, SA 5000, ph (08) 8267 3255, or email: aoliver@adelaidezoo.com.au

## OBITUARY

### John Herbert Roder, AM (1928-2002)

JOHN Roder was wise, patient, long suffering, determined, kind, courteous, knowledgeable, and had a keen mind and an elephantine memory. A man who loved and lived the role of the law.

He was the extremely sensitive only child of John Ernest Roder, who came to Australia in 1926 as a cable operator with the Eastern Extension Cable Company's services in Darwin, and Kathleen Ellen Thornber, a great niece of the founders of the Misses Thornber School for Girls, in Unley, where she was also a pupil.

He attended North Sydney Boys High School, with holiday visits to Adelaide and to the Aboriginal settlement at Point McLeay, now Raukkan, where he was given an Aboriginal name—a great honour. In about 1940, the family moved to South Australia and John was enrolled at Adelaide High School. Here he met Denise Charlotte Hine, whom he later married.

During his years at the University of Adelaide (1946-1950), he was successively secretary and president of the Student Representative Council, and a Council Member of the National Union of Australian University Students.

John was articled to Robert Mellis Napier, son of the then Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of South Australia and Chancellor of the University of Adelaide. John was, in effect, Robert's errand boy. So, as a young man, he was closely associated with procedure, order of precedence and formal occasions.

Having graduated MA, LLB, John was admitted as a legal practitioner in 1950, was secretary of the Law Society in 1951 and, from 1952 to 1970, was the senior partner in the firm Roder Dunstan Lee and Taylor. In 1962, he undertook the newly established Master of Town Planning degree at the University of Adelaide.

As chairman of the Planning Appeal Board, and then tribunal, from 1967-94, John was responsible for the establishment of the principles and precedents to be followed by



the board. He took great pains to ensure that all who appeared before the board and tribunal felt as comfortable as possible during the hearing of their case.

John's love of native plants, his interest in English literature, his legal career and his emotional and intelligent understanding of people all coalesced when he was appointed a judge of the District Court in 1970. His judgments were well reasoned, though not concise, and rarely overturned on appeal to the Supreme Court.

He served in different capacities on various educational bodies, both secondary and tertiary, spanning 25 years, which included the Faculty of Architecture and Planning at the University of Adelaide and lecturing in "Law in Relation to Planning" from 1967 to 1980.

The death of their daughter Anne earlier this year affected the whole family very deeply. John loved and was proud of his two barrister sons, Stephen and Michael, and of the families of his three children. It was a delight to see him among his family and five young grandchildren. John's meticulous and hard work, his consideration of others and love of knowledge and truth exemplify the man.

## COMING EVENTS

December 2002

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

**1pm Chemical Pathology Seminar:** "μ Glucosidase and the Immune Response to ERT in Pompe Disease" by Revecca Kakavanos (PhD student) and Departmental update by Dr Doug Brooks (Cell Biology). Seminar Room 1, 4th floor, Reiger Building.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

**1pm Environmental Biology Seminar:** "Can creeks act as self-purifying systems (with a little help)?" by Kane Aldridge (PhD student). Lecture Theatre G03, Ground Floor, Napier Building.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

**5.30pm Centre for Biomedical Engineering Seminar:** "A New Phase in Biomedical Imaging" by Professor Keith Nugent (University of Melbourne). Hone Lecture Theatre SG 15, Ground Floor, Medical

Building South.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

**1pm Chemical Pathology Seminar:** End of year quiz: "Free drinks will be provided at this week's Seminar – true or false?" Seminar Room 1, 4th floor, Reiger Building.

**1.10pm Physics Seminar:** "Coherent X-Ray Optics" by Professor Keith Nugent (University of Melbourne). Kerr Grant Lecture Theatre, Physics Building.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

**10.10am Electrical and Electronic Engineering Seminar:** "Campanologia mathematica – the mathematics of bellringing" by Dr Matthew Sorell (Electrical and Electronic Engineering). Room S112, Engineering South Building.