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Towards Forging Stronger Synergies

Alan Carpenter
Premier, W. Australia

Jon Stanhope
Chief Minister, ACT

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Dear Reader,

Greetings. While 2006 had been momentous for Indo-Australian bilateral trade, prospects for the New Year are expected to be equally exciting and bright. The month of February will witness the arrivals of Australian Capital Territory's Chief Minister Jon Stanhope and Western Australia Premier Alan Carpenter, both of whom are keen on forging strong synergies with India. The Cover Story as well as the Focus of the current issue of Indo-Australian Business is on the forthcoming visits of these two important Australian leaders. Both Chief Minister Stanhope and Premier Carpenter will be promoting their respective states as destinations for Indian investment and joint ventures with India. In the fields of mining and energy, Western Australia can offer India the much-needed technology. What Premier Carpenter will be looking at are opportunities in areas that remained untouched such as agriculture and food processing. On his part, Chief Minister Stanhope will be stressing the importance of Indian participation in joint ventures in ACT's well-developed knowledge sector. These points have been highlighted in separate and well-articulated interviews that both Chief Minister Stanhope and Premier Carpenter have graciously granted to Indo-Australian Business. The Australian leaders' interest in India is not a new phenomenon. In 2005, Western Australia's then Premier Geoff Gallop and South Australia's Premier Mike Rann visited India along with business delegations. In fact, Premier Rann has visited this country twice since then. Of course, the high point in economic relations between India and Australia was the visit to this country by the latter's Prime Minister John Howard in March, 2006. And now the visits of Chief Minister Stanhope and Premier Carpenter will no doubt further strengthen economic bonds between the two nations. The current issue also highlights the tourism potential of Western Australia and the educational facilities available in that state. Today, Australia is only second to the United States in attracting Indian students. The issue covers both these aspects of Western Australia adequately. India's picturesque northern state of Rajasthan is not only a well-known tourist destination, but also the source of finest marble that the country produces. It is also home to a flourishing gem and jewellery industry. At a business seminar held in Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan, Australia's Senior Trade Commissioner Mike Moignard said that his country could offer appropriate technology both in marble mining and in developing the gem and jewellery industries. We carry a report. The art and culture section of the issue carries separate write-ups on Western Australia's Peter Templeman's Oscar nomination and an Australian Science film winning the Golden Dragon Award at a Beijing film festival. In addition to all these, the current issue carries our regular features as usual.

Wish you happy reading,



Satya Swaroop
Managing Editor
satya@newmediacomm.biz

What's Great About Australia?

January 26 is Australia

Day. It is the biggest day of celebrations in across Australia and is observed as a public holiday in all the states and territories of the country.

On Australia Day the people come together as a nation to celebrate all that is great about Australia and being Australian. It's the day to reflect on what each individual has achieved and what he or she can be proud of in this great nation. It's the day for the people to re-commit to making Australia an even better place for the future.

What's great about Australia? There are many great things about this country.

The people - The life savers on the beach and the farmers in the bush; the larrikins; our sporting heroes, artists and visionaries; the volunteers who dedicate their lives to others; the spirit of pulling together in hard times and achieving beyond expectation; the eminent Australians from all walks of life, the battlers and the ordinary Australians who are anything but ordinary.

The land - Fragile yet enduring. Harsh and extreme, lush and bountiful - a continent like no other. The ancient land offers boundless opportunity, sustains the people and makes them what they are.

The diversity - A nation of difference and unity. People from the city, the country, different nations and backgrounds; The Australians are one people, living together. Through their diverse beliefs and experiences they learn from each other and grow together.

The indigenous cultures - The rich and resilient spirituality; the knowledge, art and history. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are part of Australia's identity and culture.

Freedom and democracy - A society built on fundamental rights and responsibilities. Freedom of thought and expression. Participation in government and respect for and equality under the law.

A fair go for all - An enduring spirit of mateship and fairness. A compassionate society committed to access to employment, housing, health and education. Australia is a land of opportunity where the people can do anything.



We are Keen to Broaden Export Base in Farm & Food Sectors



- Alan Carpenter, W. Australian Premier

Western Australia accounts for as much as 50 percent of Australia's total exports to India, comprising a host of commodities, including diamonds. W. Australia is blessed with rich energy resources, including LNG, which India needs on a priority basis. India realizes the importance of the Australian state. Indian investment in W. Australia currently amounts to \$1 billion, which is not much, considering the potential existing there. Apart from natural resources, Western Australia has a lot of know-how and services to offer to India. These cover the areas of agriculture and food processing sectors, which are of utmost importance to India. India in its own right, has emerged as a global leader in the knowledge industry, offering both services and skilled professionals to the world. Western Australia's Premier **Alan Carpenter**, who understands the crucial synergy existing between his state and India, is coming to this country to forge this understanding into an abiding bond. Carpenter, whose wife Annmarie is of Indian origin, talks about his forthcoming visit to India in an exclusive interview with **Satya Swaroop**, Managing Editor, Indo-Australian Business

Your Excellency, congratulations on behalf of Indo-Australian Business on being elected as the new Premier of Western Australia. And welcome to India on your maiden visit as Premier. Right at the outset, could you please tell us about the specific purpose of your mission? During my visit to India I hope to strengthen trade and investment links with India, promote Western Australia and broaden the State's economic relationship with India, and encourage strategic investment into Western Australia.

India is a major market for Western Australia. We currently export more than A\$3 billion worth of goods to India and when the export of diamonds are included in the trade statistics, Western Australia accounts for over 50 per cent of all Australian exports to this important market.

There is growing Indian interest in Western Australia's natural resources in particular iron ore, liquefied natural gas (LNG), gold, copper and nickel. We are keen to talk to Indian companies interested in investing in our resource sector. Western Australia has been successful in attracting close to A\$1 billion of investment from India.

In my capacity as Minister for Science and Innovation, I am very interested to learn more about India's growing research and development capabilities in knowledge-based industries. I will be visiting several research institutes and universities to establish areas of possible future cooperation.

Attracting professional and skilled workers to Western Australia is also an area I am keen to explore while in India. The Western Australian economy is growing at such a rapid rate (about ten per cent last year) that we have far more jobs than people available to fill them. This trip will therefore provide me an opportunity to promote Western Australia as an ideal place for skilled and professional people to migrate to.

On a personal note, the trip will be of special significance for my Indian born wife, Annmarie. Her father was an Indian mechanical fitter and her mother was a school teacher who both migrated to Western Australia during the State's economic boom of the early 1970's. Annmarie is looking forward to returning to her place of birth in Podanur for the first time since she left as a little girl.



The bilateral trade between India and Western Australia is at an all-time high and growing at a fast pace. What should be done to sustain this pace and which sectors could contribute to such an endeavour?

Bilateral trade between India and Western Australia is at an all-time high and growing rapidly, largely due to export of minerals and commodities. I would like to see us broaden this base and develop mutual opportunities in trade and investment. In order to sustain the pace of growth we need to learn more about each other, develop strong trade and investment links, explore ideas, and form alliances and joint ventures.

The Australian and Indian Governments have agreed to develop a Trade and Economic Framework which lays the foundation to grow trade and investment. At a State level we have had a trade office in Mumbai since 1996 to build relations with India. Western Australia was the first Australian state to open a trade office in India which is a testament to our commitment

Western Australia's large resources sector is serviced by a strong mining and petroleum industries support sector. Many Western Australian companies have developed state-of-the-art technology which I hope will find markets in India as the Indian Government opens up its mining sector.

We are already exporting wheat, pulses and wool to India and are looking to broaden our export base in the agriculture and food sector. In addition, Western Australia has the capacity to supply LNG to support India's growing energy needs. There are also opportunities in emerging sectors including education and training, information technology, environment management, biotechnology, health and sports, recreation and tourism.

Western Australia is a leader in mining technology covering equipment manufacture and software and you are aware that India has opened its mining sector to private investment. Do you have any specific proposals to initiate and step up collaborations in this key sector?

Yes I am aware of the changes being proposed for the mining sector following the Huda Report. Several Western Australian companies have already established themselves in the Indian market. Companies such as Clough Ltd have been operating in India for some time. Two of Western Australia's most successful mining software companies, Surpac Minex and Micromine, have also established themselves in India.

In May 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Western Australian and Indian Governments focusing on cooperative staff development related to technological advancement, environmental governance and mine rehabilitation. The MOU involves government agencies and private sector peak bodies such as the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA.

I will be meeting with the Minister of Mines and President of FIMI in New Delhi and look forward to discussing ways in which we can further develop our cooperation.

Besides, there is an Indo-Australian Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals, which meets periodically to discuss collaboration between the two countries. What is Western Australia's involvement in the Group's efforts, being strong in both mining technology and exploration of oil and gas?

Our State is a significant producer of minerals and energy and we value involvement in such forums. The Western Australian Government works closely with Australia's Federal Government. We take a strategic view and



develop initiatives that are sustainable and supportive of the industry. The Western Australian Government creates an environment where the private sector can develop resources projects that result in the sale of minerals and energy.

Anything that can be done to encourage trade and investment between Western Australia and India would be welcomed by my government.

Parts of mineral-rich Northern and Eastern regions of India could immensely benefit from Western Australia's best mining practices, including environmental safety. Do you have any specific proposals to promote mining technology in these regions?

The Western Australian Department of Industry and Resources, through WA's Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Government, has conducted workshops on mine rehabilitation and I hope there will be further exchanges during 2007.

Several Western Australian companies are already active in the Indian market such as Surpac Minex and Micromine. Furthermore, 12 Western Australian companies exhibited at the recent International Mining Manufacturers Exhibition held in Kolkata. This was a record number and I believe it's a clear indication that private sector sees growing opportunities in the Indian market.

I hope my discussions with the Minister for Mines and President of FIMI will lead to initiatives for further collaboration.

Western Australia accounts for more than 50 per cent of Indian investment, which is continuously rising thanks to its conducive policies, highly developed infrastructure and availability of cheap power. What are the prospects for Indian companies

with a global vision to set up a base in Western Australia in both manufactured goods and services?

I believe there are many opportunities for Indian companies in Western Australia.

Commodity processing is one area of opportunity. Western Australia has 50 types of minerals in commercial production - far greater than any other State or Territory in Australia. For example opportunities are open for Indian investors in aluminium, Ferro alloys, nickel cobalt, silicon, tantalum, direct reduced iron, petrochemicals and eucalypt wood.

Oil and gas exploration is attracting increased interest by Indian corporations. A consortium of Indian companies led by the WA Company Oilex has won the right to explore for oil and gas off the Western Australian coast. Western Australia is Australia's leading petroleum producer accounting for 64 per cent of oil and condensate production and 65 per cent of natural gas production.

Many sectors in Western Australia have achieved international success including the manufacture of high speed ferries, production and export of chemicals, mining equipment and software, communication devices, processed food and beverages, and healthcare products.

Besides energy and minerals, Western Australia is highly developed in the fields of biotechnology, food processing, winemaking, education, etc. Could you highlight the potential these sectors hold for collaboration between India and Western Australia?

Western Australia is a leading participant in the biomedical, agriculture biotechnology, environmental biotechnology, bio-leaching and bioinformatics fields. There are opportunities for Indian and WA companies to collaborate and it is an area I am particularly interested in pursuing in my capacity as Minister for Science and Innovation.

Western Australia is famous for its premium wines. We have 350 wineries which produce 25 per cent of Australia's premium wines. It is pleasing to see some of our premium wines are now sold in India. Hopefully duties and taxes in India will be reduced so more Indians can appreciate our wine.

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Western Australia is also a growing market for Indian students who are looking to study overseas. Our capital



city of Perth offers students five first class universities with a wide range of graduate and post graduate degrees at affordable prices and an environment that is safe and enjoyable.

Perth Education City, the industry's peak body will be conducting its first roadshow in India during February this year and will visit Baroda, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Mumbai, Pune and Kolkata. Perth Education City has also appointed a Marketing Manager in India who will operate as part of the Western Australian Trade Office in Mumbai.

Western Australia accounts for 30 per cent of Australia's total exports in a highly competitive global market. What has been your strategy to accomplish this feat, which India could emulate?

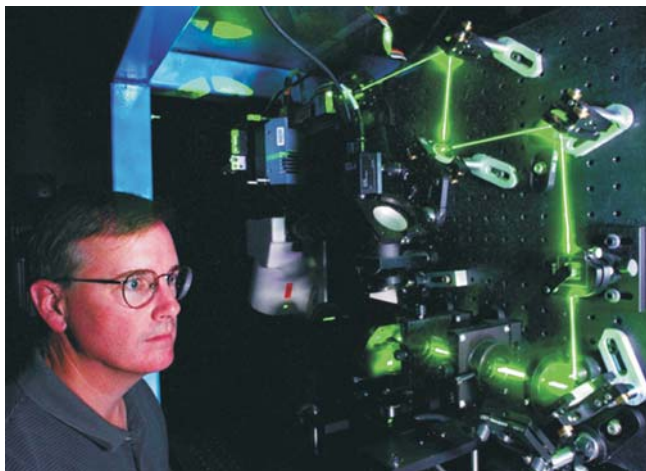
WA actually accounts for 33 per cent of Australia's total merchandise exports and 43 per cent of Australia's merchandise exports to India. Besides being blessed with an abundance of natural resources Western Australia has over the years developed a strong export culture. We have a small domestic market and the government and business community understand that if their businesses are to prosper they have to look overseas to look for markets. In this regard they WA business has been very successful. In addition, the Western Australian Government encourages foreign investment. As a result of open and transparent processes in terms of attracting investment and developing projects has ensured that we maintain a competitive, vibrant and outward looking economy.

During his visit to India early this year, Australian Prime Minister John Howard talked about the purchasing potential of this country's 300-million strong middle class. How do you look at this vast market for your goods and services especially in the retail sector?

There is no doubt that opportunities will continue to grow for Western Australian products and services especially as the retail sector is predicted to expand rapidly in the near future. Western Australia has had a strong commitment to developing trade and investment with India. It was the first Australian State to establish a presence in India with trade offices opened in Mumbai and Chennai in 1996, and Western Australia will continue this commitment to India.

What is your message to the Indian business community ahead of your visit to this country?

Western Australia is an open economy that actively encourages trade and foreign investment. It is keen to develop closer linkages with Indian business people both in terms of trade and investment. We have a strong



commitment to the Indian market and to assist business people we have established trade offices in Mumbai and Chennai.

Western Australia has a strong economy which is growing at 4.9 per cent which is well above the national average. The State has attracted 22 per cent of Australia's total business investment in 2005-06 which totals A\$16.4 billion.

There is more to Western Australia than our world renown reputation as a reliable supplier of minerals and energy. We have a strong education sector which is attracting students from all over the world, including India. We have a sophisticated manufacturing and services sector as well as a growing reputation as a centre of excellence in biotechnology and other knowledge based industries.

Also could you give a special message to the readers of Indo-Australian Business, who comprise policy-makers, economists, and captains of industry and trade from both India and Australia? Western Australia has much to offer companies considering investing in its industry and resources sectors. Its world-class infrastructure, highly skilled workforce, the State's low sovereign risk and pro-development policies are strong reasons why local and international investors should consider WA as a long-term investment destination.

Western Australian products are of a high quality and you can be assured of this when buying our goods and services.

On top of that, the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit recently ranked WA's capital city Perth in the world's top five "most liveable cities". Come and visit us whether it is do business, work, study or have a holiday - you will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome and I am sure it will be a memorable stay. ■

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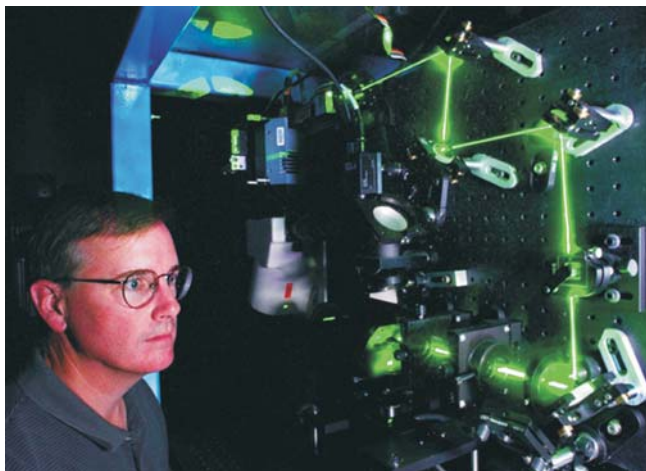
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ACT is Australia's Best Bet for Tie-ups in ICT, High Tech R&D



Jon Stanhope

Power is concentrated in the Capital cities that govern the countries. And so are the opportunities. The Australian Capital Territory (ACT), with Canberra at its centre, offers opportunities that few other developed nations can match. For instance, the Australian Government dispenses business deals worth a mind-boggling sum of \$156 billion on a regular basis. Apart from this, the ACT is eminently known for a major centre for excellence in research, the results of which are being commercialized on a large scale. In order to promote this concept of investment-oriented research applications, ACT's Chief Minister **Jon Stanhope** is embarking on a Mission India. In an exclusive interview to **Veerendra Bhargava** from Indo-Australian Business, Stanhope speaks about his forthcoming visit to this country.

At the outset we welcome you on your maiden visit to India as Chief Minister. Could you please tell us about the specific purpose of your mission?

Thank you. It's a pleasure to be making my first visit to India.

Our mission is first and foremost about getting a first-hand perspective of the economic opportunities unfolding in India, and making contact with key local businesses. It is also about presenting Canberra's credentials as Australia's centre of research and innovation.

Although the trade and investment relationship between Australia and India is growing, I believe there are fairly narrow perceptions on both sides about what our two countries have to offer.

Australia is often perceived as simply a source of agricultural products, raw materials and energy, and to

be a net importer of technology-based products. On one level that's true, but Australia is also a major centre of excellence for research across a great number of fields, all of which embody technology and many of which are now moving down the path of commercialisation.

In Australia, the best example of our high-tech research and development capability is Canberra. This mission to India, which includes some of our most innovative businesses and institutions, is designed to get that message out. We are looking to demonstrate our capabilities and the commercialisation opportunities in Canberra.

We will be working hard to introduce our companies to like-minded Indian companies and institutions to explore trade and investment opportunities of mutual benefit.

The timing around NASSCOM is also important. It is our opportunity to get a real appreciation of India's ICT sector.



Finally, I see this mission as the beginning of a new and I hope very productive relationship between the ACT and India. I anticipate we will be back in India within 18 months.

The bilateral trade between India and the ACT is at an all-time high and growing at a fast pace. What should be done to sustain this pace and which sectors could contribute to such an endeavour?

Because of the way trade statistics are collated and reported in Australia, it is difficult to get an accurate picture of the level of direct trade between India and the ACT. However, it's probably safe to assume that the trade between our two economies is growing quickly, based on the level of growth between India and Australia.

There are three sectors of our economy that offer immediate trade and investment opportunities for India: ICT, given the nature of our economy and strategic strength in technology; education exports, given the international quality of our tertiary institutions and the appeal of studying and living in Canberra; and tourism, given Canberra's status as a national capital and custodian of truly world-class institutions such as the National Gallery of Australia and the Australian War Memorial.

Beyond these three sectors, we have world-class companies and institutions in space sciences, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, security and defence technology, environment management and consulting, sport sciences

and public administration. As home to the Australian Government, \$AU200 billion worth of government procurement decisions are made in Canberra every year. If you want to be a serious player in the Australian Government procurement market, you have to have a presence in Canberra.

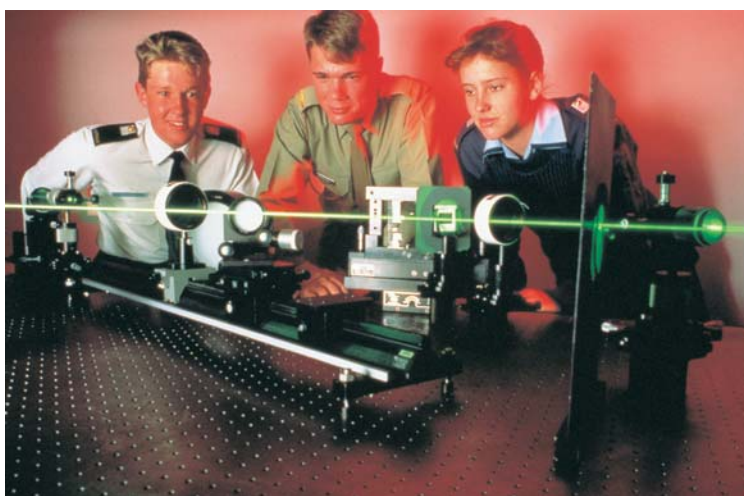
To keep up the pace of bilateral trade between our two economies, we need to gain a better understanding of each other's capabilities. I believe Indian firms and institutions will benefit from a clearer understanding of the extraordinary opportunities available in Canberra for smart and forward-thinking companies, and from seeing our city as the centre of research and innovation that it truly is.

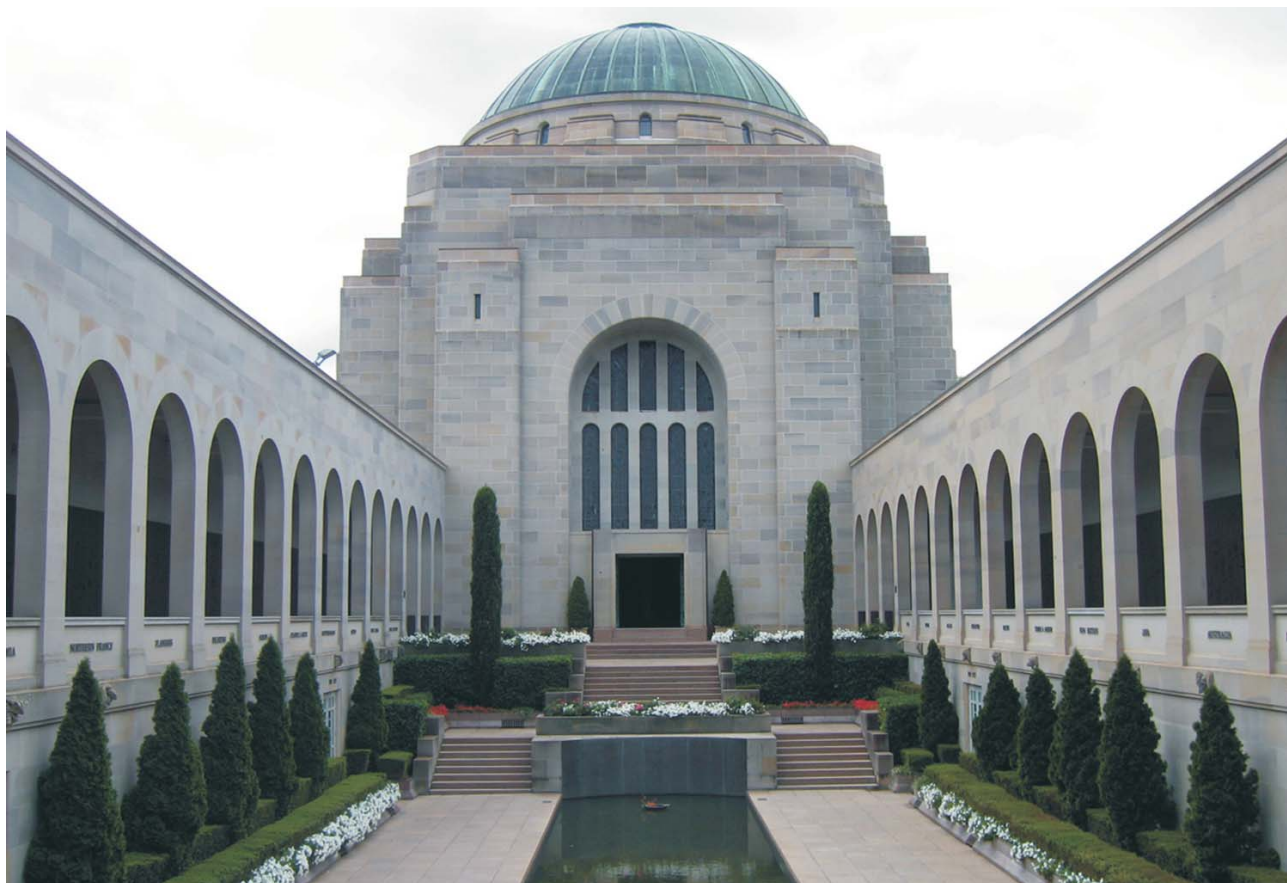
At our end, Canberra's businesses and institutions need to understand exactly what is taking shape in India. India will undoubtedly be a major driver of world trade and technology in coming years, and we must integrate our companies into the emerging global supply chains that India is creating, shaping and driving.

The ACT is one of the leaders in the ICT sector and you are aware that India has also made its mark in this sector. Do you have any specific proposals to initiate and step up collaborations in this key sector?

The remarkable story of the Indian ICT industry is well known in Australia. I believe there are many opportunities for the ACT and India to collaborate, and exploring those opportunities is one of the main objectives of this mission.

Canberra has very strong capabilities in ICT supporting





public administration, in many aspects of e-government, in ICT-based environment management systems and solutions and in emerging areas such as human performance management.

Our other strategic industry sectors, such as space, defence, and biotechnology, are also largely based around ICT-related technologies.

In Canberra, much of this advanced capability can be traced to our research base, which is easily the strongest in Australia. This great strength in research and commercialisation presents a real opportunity for collaboration.

Besides the ICT sector, the ACT has a highly developed film and entertainment industry, education sector, etc. Could you highlight the potential these sectors hold for collaboration between India and the ACT?

Canberra has a concentration of creative talent and expertise spanning different creative mediums, media, technology and applications. Canberra also has a creative industries infrastructure that is second to none in Australia.

In particular, Canberra has a significant digital media sector. A number of innovative local businesses have substantial overseas connections and international sales and investment. Canberra is also home to the Academy of Interactive Entertainment, a digital media industry training organisation. In fact, there are estimated to be around 500 cultural and creative businesses and organisations in Canberra, and there are great opportunities for collaboration in this field between India and the ACT. This is already happening to some degree with at least one Indian film partially filmed in Canberra in the last few years.

It should be noted the ACT Government supports screen-based creative industries through ScreenACT. This initiative is designed to develop the business outcomes of screenbased creative industry sectors, including film and television production, digital media and computer games development and animation.

Finally, Canberra is also the home of some of Australia's major cultural institutions, including the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery of Australia and the National Museum of Australia. The country's largest literary collection is also present in Canberra at the National Library, together with audio and film resources

through its universities, public libraries, the National Archives, the National Museum, the Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the National Film and Sound Archive. These provide significant opportunities for tourism, educational and other collaboration between India and the ACT.

During his visit to India early last year, Australian Prime Minister John Howard, talked about the purchasing potential of this country's 300 million strong middle class. How do you look at this vast market for your goods and services?

The ACT is a little different from the rest of Australia, as our economy is not oriented towards producing direct consumer goods and services or mass markets.

However, there are some exceptions.

Canberra has an exceptional cool climate wine industry, which produces wines of extraordinary quality. But they are produced in relatively niche market volumes and command premium prices on world markets. We also produce a range of speciality products across the region for niche and gourmet markets.

Our tourism experience is unique. We understand that Indian tourists will always be drawn to the beach, sun and sand culture of Australia's major states, but we'd like to think a trip to Canberra offers something quite different, which can add to the quintessential Australian experience.

Internationally, Canberra is seen as an attractive destination for international students. This is due to its multicultural society, and its reputation as a safe environment and as a provider of quality education with flexible learning pathways.

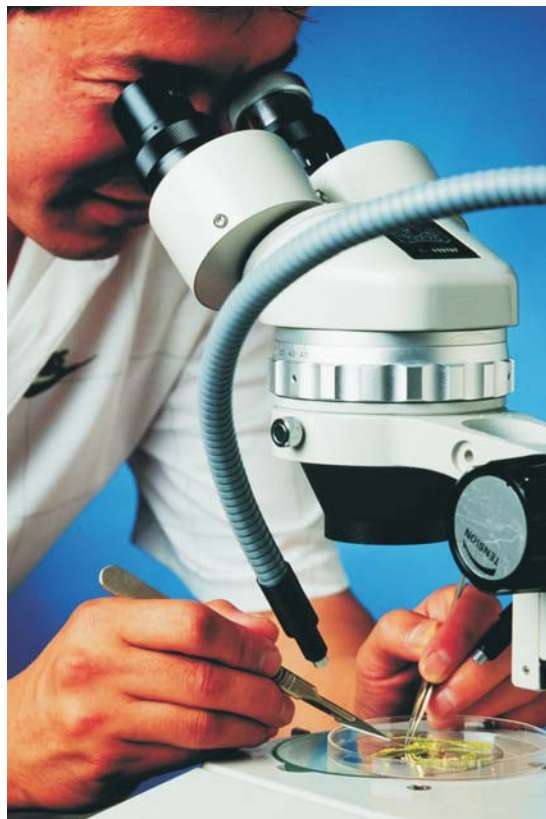
There are six major tertiary institutions in the ACT: the Australian National University; the University of Canberra; the Canberra Institute of Technology; the Australian Defence Force Academy; the Australian Catholic University; and the ACT Department of Education and Training. There are more than 6,000 overseas students enrolled at educational institutions in Canberra.

In these markets we are happy and proud to be a niche player. We service a small but high-value customer base, and we want to share more of these products and experiences with the people of India.

Finally, I should add that when the Indian cricket team tours Australia later this year, it will play a Prime Minister's XI in Canberra a traditional match for international touring teams.

What is your message to the Indian business community ahead of your visit to this country?

Canberra and the Australian Capital Territory is a regional economy with a difference in Australia. It offers extraordinary



opportunities to partner with truly world-class research institutions, and is home to a vibrant small- to medium-size business sector that is reaching out to the world with unique products and services. The ACT is a great place to make strategic investments that position companies for the future. And on top of that, Canberra is a great place to live, work, study and visit.

Also could you give a special message to the readers of Indo-Australian Business, who comprise policy-makers, economists, and captains of industry and trade from both India and Australia?

Thank you for your invitation to contribute to this edition of Indo-Australian Business.

I look forward to my first visit to India, and to showing what the ACT has to offer to Indian business and the Indian community.

I thank Indo-Australian Business for its support for this mission, and I look forward to meeting your readers and other members of the Indian business community at the events we are holding while we are in India. ■



ACT CM Jon Stanhope's Invitation to India Come to Canberra, be part of \$155 bn Global Procurement Deals

Canberra is Australia's national capital city and the seat of Australia's Federal Government. It is also the home of the administrative arm of the Australian Government - The Australian Public Service. The Australian Public Service is widely recognised as one of the most innovative and efficient government administrations in the world.

Around 40 per cent of Canberra's work force comprises Australian Government public servants, who advise on policy and administer the A\$200 billion (US\$155.7 bn) business of government from Canberra.

In particular, procurement decision making around Information and Communications Technology (ICT), defence technology, national research priorities and national security are based in Canberra and many of the global private sector suppliers to these government markets have significant operations in Canberra.

In ICT alone, the Australian Government spends approximately A\$2.3 billion per annum on hardware and services, with a significant proportion of this directly Canberra based. The Department of Defence spends around A\$2.9 billion annually in the Canberra economy in addition to a new A\$570 million procurement project to establish the new Headquarters Joint Operations Command on the outskirts of the city. All of Australia's public security agencies are based in Canberra and are growing with technology and capability upgrading programs.

Not surprisingly, Canberra's private sector is partly the product of its strength in public administration, although this relationship continues to change and evolve as the private sector diversifies from its government business origins.

If you want to do business with the Australian Government, there is no more strategic and effective place to do so than in Canberra. And as a strongly networked city, having a presence and visibility on the ground is often critical to long-term business development.

Information and technology communications technology



The Canberra ICT cluster is a competitive strength of the economy, providing ICT services and expertise, as well as enabling technology for the rest of Canberra's knowledge-based economy.

Canberra is home to more than 1,000 ICT businesses which together employ around 8,000 people. The businesses range in size from multinationals, to medium size international and Australian firms, right down to small and micro businesses.

In recent years Canberra has experienced the fastest ICT employment growth in Australia at around 8.2 per cent per annum. As a consequence it now has around 25 ICT employees per 1,000 head of population. This is the highest ICT employment intensity of any Australian jurisdiction.

At the core of the ICT industry strength is the Australian Government, which purchases an estimated A\$2.3 billion of ICT relating products and services per annum. The size of this market, the need to understand it intimately, and the tendency for governments to outsource ICT solutions has provided a strong impetus for business development in the Canberra private sector.

Canberra is also home to one of the three major nodes of the National ICT Centre of Excellence Australia (NICTA). NICTA is a national body focusing on use-inspired ICT Research and Development (R&D). Around one third of NICTA's research capacity is in Canberra. NICTA also plays a major role in the commercialisation of the developed technology it advances.

Canberra tertiary institutions also have large ICT graduate and undergraduate ICT programs supporting a steady stream of talent to the local ICT sector.

Biotechnology

The Canberra biotechnology sector comprises major institutions such as the CSIRO, the John Curtin School of Medical Research and Research School of Biological Sciences at the Australian National University (ANU) - plus a number of private businesses.

The sector has world-class capability in a number of areas including entomology, sustainable ecosystems, forestry, neuroscience, hypertension, immunology, phenomics, genetics and medical devices.



Canberra is also home to CAMBIA - an internationally acclaimed 'public good' biotechnology research organisation.

Not surprisingly, most of Canberra's private sector bio-companies can trace their roots to institution-based R&D conducted in Canberra. Indeed, about one third of Canberra's total public sector R&D spend - or about A\$120 million - is on biotechnology.

To date, around 30 Canberra based biotechnology spin-off firms have emerged from this research base. There are around 700 people actively working in the Canberra biotechnology sector.

The global growth in biotechnology applications and the increasing flow of development capital to this sector augurs well for significant commercial opportunities in the future.

Canberra's biotech environment comprises a strong network of participants from a range of industry players including technology innovators, spin-off companies, service providers (such as patent attorneys), a skilled and knowledge rich workforce, and industry associations and advocates. Importantly, all the key Australian Government agencies with biotechnology policy roles



and the industry regulators are based in Canberra.

The ACT Government is also actively involved in national collaborative activities to support the development of the biotechnology industry. At a national level it participates in national policy making bodies such as the Biotechnology Ministerial Roundtable, the Australia New Zealand Biotechnology Alliance and the Committee for Marketing Australian Biotechnology. The ACT Government has also supported industry trade missions to the BIO trade exhibition in the USA.

Defence and security

The defence and security sector is arguably Canberra's largest discrete industry sector. It comprises the Department of Defence and various national security agencies, plus private businesses that provide products and services to these agencies, and a number of other defence related institutions. It also includes garrison support, professional services and major capital equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

The Department of Defence has one of the largest budgets of any Australian Government agency at around A\$19.4 billion for the financial year 2006-07. Roughly 15 per cent, or A\$2.9 billion of this, is directly spent within the Canberra economy. For example, there are over 13,000 military and defence-civilian personnel working in Canberra and the region, or about 13 per cent of the nation's Defence employment. This figure does not include the large numbers of contractors and consultants working full-time in Defence.

The establishment of the new Headquarters Joint Operations Command on the outskirts of the city, is estimated to be a A\$572 million whole-of-life investment of which there will be a long-term flow-on effect into the Canberra and regional economy. Canberra is also home to Australia's leading military college, the Royal Military College (RMC) at Duntroon and the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA). ADFA, which is a campus of the University of New South Wales, has around 1,000 students in training. A large number of military students are also enrolled at the Australian National University and the University of Canberra. The Australian National University is also home to the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. Other Canberra-based defence and intelligence agencies include the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Secret Intelligence Service, the Defence Signals Directorate and the Office of National Assessments. A cluster of approximately 140

companies conduct defence-related work. This includes small and medium enterprises and transnational companies like Raytheon, which has its south-east Asian headquarters in Canberra. Canberra's defence and security sector is growing and there are significant opportunities for private sector companies to participate in this growth and development.

Education exports

Canberra has long recognised that the knowledge and skills that derive from a strong education infrastructure are major contributors to economic performance. Education is not only vital for the development of knowledge-based industries, but increasingly is an important and highly successful export industry in its own right. Internationally, Australia is seen as an attractive destination for international students. This is due to its



multicultural society, its reputation as a safe environment and as a provider of quality education with flexible learning pathways. Within Australia, Canberra is viewed as a premier destination for students-both nationally and internationally-offering a range of high quality and well-regarded institutions and education providers.

There are six major players in the education sector in the ACT: the Australian National University; the university of Canberra; the Canberra Institute of Technology; the Australian Defence Force Academy (a campus of the University of New South Wales); the Australian Catholic University; and the ACT Department of Education and Training. Public and independent primary and high schools in Canberra and the region also have enrolments of students from all over the world. This is a result of targeted marketing campaigns and a reflection of the significant diplomatic population based in Canberra. There are over 6,000 overseas students enrolled at educational institutions in Canberra. Enrolments in tertiary level courses in the university sector-graduate



certificate and diploma, bachelor and post-graduate studies-make up the bulk of student enrolments. Canberra's educational institutions come together through a body known as 'Team Canberra', which works to market the region's unique education experience and capabilities.

Space sciences

Canberra has a growing space science and space industry capability covering areas as diverse as earth observation technologies, satellite communications, defence systems, debris tracking and interdiction technologies, and deep space observation.

The industry comprises a cluster of companies and agencies supplying advanced solutions to Australian and international customers with world class skills and expertise in space science.

According to an Australian Space Industry Chamber of Commerce study, 59 space science organisations were headquartered in Canberra, which represents about one third of Australian space organisations. Around 800 people are directly engaged in the industry in Canberra-around 300 in manufacturing and related technologies and around 500 in R&D.

Key institutions include the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics (Mt Stromlo Observatory) at the Australian National University, the significant space science expertise embedded in CSIRO, the Defence Science Technology Organisation and Geosciences Australia.

NASA's Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex is also located at Tidbinbilla near Canberra, and is managed by the CSIRO and Raytheon Australia. While the industry is relatively small, there is significant opportunity to develop Canberra as a centre for space sciences excellence.

Creative industries

Canberra has a concentration of creative talent and expertise spanning different creative mediums, media, technology and applications. Canberra also has a creative industries infrastructure that is second to none in Australia.

It is the custodian of some of the nation's great institutions, including the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery of Australia and the National Museum of Australia. The country's largest literary collection is also present in Canberra at the National Library, together with audio and film resources through its universities, public libraries, the National Archives, the National Museum, the Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the National Film and Sound Archive.

Canberrans spend more than fellow Australians in any other state or territory on books, newspapers, magazines and other printed materials, and we have the highest attendance at selected cultural venues and activities. In addition, attendance at art galleries and museums is 20 per cent greater than that in other states and territories.



Youth are an integral part of the city's cultural activities. Canberra has the highest proportion of children who participate in playing a musical instrument and compare favourably in the other areas such as drama, singing and dance.

Underlying Canberra's visible face of art and culture is a burgeoning creative industry with great variety, expert skills and boundless creativity and energy. There are estimated to be around 500 cultural and creative businesses and organisations in Canberra.

The ACT Government also supports screen-based creative industries through ScreenACT. This initiative is designed to develop the business outcomes of screenbased creative industry sectors, including film and



television production, digital media and computer games development and animation. Canberra has a substantial presence in the digital media sector. A number of innovative local businesses have substantial overseas connections and international sales and investment. Canberra is also home to the Academy of Interactive Entertainment, a digital media industry training organisation.

Sports science and administration

The establishment of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra over 20 years ago has been the catalyst for the development of significant sports science and sports administration expertise.

This capability, based largely around the Bruce/Lyneham precinct, is now beginning to leverage relating sports industry investment and expertise to Canberra.

The AIS, which is also located in the Bruce/Lyneham precinct, is an internationally acclaimed national centre of sports excellence for the training and development of elite athletes and teams. It currently offers

scholarships to 700 athletes each year in 35 separate programs, covering 26 sports. The AIS employs around 75 coaches to help the elite athletes achieve their goals and maximise their performance.

In addition to high performance coaching, the AIS gives athletes access to world-leading sports science and sports medicine services and state-of-the-art sporting facilities. The Institute also specialises in the sport science areas of nutrition, biomechanics, physiology and performance psychology. In recent years, a number of 'spin-off' sports companies have emerged from Canberra, supplying expertise and systems to Australian and international customers.

Interestingly, Canberra has the highest sports participation rate of any jurisdiction in Australia and a concentration and variety of sports facilities that is second to none in Australia. As well as providing first class facilities for many of the traditional Olympic sports, it caters for sports such as rowing, mountain biking, ballooning, all four Australian and international football codes, and more golf facilities per capita than any other Australian city. Canberra is also the only Australian city within two hours drive to the snowfields and associated alpine sports. ■

Invest Australia facilitates \$52.7 bn FDI in less than five years

Over the four and a half years to December 2006, Invest Australia has played a key role in attracting or facilitating 330 investment projects valued at \$52.7 billion, with the potential to create more than 25,000 jobs and generate \$11.1 billion in export earnings.

Invest Australia's domestic and international network is currently pursuing 627 active investment leads. Facilitation services are being provided to 32 active Major Facilitation Projects with a value of \$43.8 billion

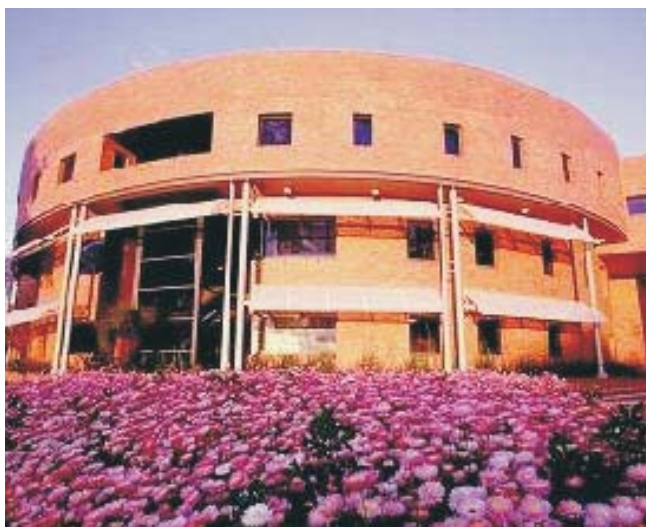
and the potential to create over 11,000 long term jobs.

Latest figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate a continuing surge in foreign direct investment in Australia. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to Australia increased from A\$6.1 billion in the June quarter 2006 to A\$21.6 billion in the September quarter, providing good prospects for continued growth in the year ahead. ■

Universities of Western Australia: A Tribute to Higher Learning

Curtin: Committed to Global Culture

Curtin is Western Australia's largest university with a strong commitment to international engagement and a vibrant multicultural atmosphere. The international student population at Curtin is Australia's third largest with students coming from over 100 countries; The university maintains a campus in Sarawak Malaysia, while also conducting face-to-face teaching in a number of countries. This cultural diversity adds a rich and valuable dimension to university life, offering students and staff the benefits of being part of an international network. Importantly it prepares our graduates to live and work in an increasingly global environment. Located in the same time zone as Asia, and with strong connections across Asia, Europe and the USA, Curtin is one of Australia's most genuinely international universities. Curtin is also fundamentally committed to providing regional education within Western Australia through campuses and education centres spread across the State. This regional presence not only serves the community as a whole but also enhances our industry linkages, particularly, but not exclusively, within the resources



sector.

Curtin has a long-standing commitment to indigenous education and culture, and has the second highest enrolment of indigenous Australians of any university in the country. The university's Centre for Aboriginal Studies is recognised as a national leader in its field, and the university was the first in Australia to sign a Statement of Reconciliation. Curtin's recently launched Indigenous Governance Policy builds on this history and will have application across the University.

Curtin is widely recognised for the practical and applied nature of its courses and research. Consistent with being a university of service, our research focuses on solving real world problems and our courses equip graduates with essential skills and exposure to industry and business. This combination enables them to be effective in the workplace immediately after graduation.

As part of this approach, Curtin has always fostered successful partnerships with industry, business and government to enhance the quality of our scholarship, teaching and research. The university will continue to develop existing partnerships and to establish new ones in areas relevant to its research and teaching. ■



Edith Cowan: Stress on Practical Approach, Industry Placements

Today Edith Cowan University (ECU) is Western Australia's second largest university with approximately 23,000 students, including more than 3,000 students originating from about 80 countries. ECU located in Perth, Western Australia, a gateway to Asia. ECU is the only Australian University named after a woman - Edith Dircksey Cowan - Australia's first female Parliamentarian and a fighter for social justice. Edith Cowan also graces the Australian \$50 note. ECU is a contemporary university providing quality tertiary education for the students of today. ECU prides itself on being supportive, flexible and relevant to the real world. Everyone knows that the theory is important but ECU knows that putting what you learn into practice is just as valuable. That's why its courses have a strong focus on providing real life solutions to real life problems. Practical projects, industry placements and guest speakers are key features of our programs.

ECU strives to provide a different learning approach, developed to maximise the student outcome and



experience, as well as providing state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure.

With over 300 courses, ECU offers the flexibility and freedom to match the students' own talents and aspirations with a wide range of course options to give you the skills and knowledge to reach your goals.

ECU awards are recognised nationally and internationally, because of rigorous accreditation procedures used by the University, and consultation with professional and vocational groups. ECU is a member of the National Unified System of Australian Universities, the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee. Universities throughout the world recognise ECU programs for exchange purposes. ■

Murdoch Mantra: Plan, Act, Evaluate & Review

Constantly looking for ways to improve the quality of what we do is an integral part of the university's activities. The university has many ways to regularly look at its activities and their outcomes and ways that it might improve these outcomes. For example, each academic School is reviewed on a five-yearly cycle approved by Academic Council. External panels examine a portfolio of evidence, evaluate outcomes and recommend actions, which are then monitored through Academic Council. In line with this practice, Murdoch conducted its second whole-of-institution audit at the end of 2005. The University underwent its first AUQA review in 2006, with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) charged with responsibility for preparation of the University's Performance Portfolio, supported by the Academic Quality Audit Committee



(AQAC).

The way Murdoch thinks about this quality cycle is represented by the terminology "Plan / Act / Evaluate / Review", as illustrated.

The various components of the University's quality management system are elaborated throughout this site. However the quality cycle at Murdoch is more than the formal system, as important as that might be! In all your various roles (e.g. as a university teacher) and functions ■

Notre Dame: Pledged to Provide Personalized, Quality Education

The University was founded on 21 December, 1989 through an Act of the Western Australian Parliament and a Canonical statute from the Archdiocese of Perth, enacted on 2 July, 1991. Since classes commenced in 1992, Notre Dame has rapidly gained a reputation for innovation and excellence in higher education. Student numbers have grown from a handful in 1992 to over 5000 in 2006.

The University ethos draws on the centuries old tradition of Catholic higher education combined with challenging and relevant courses. This ensures graduates are highly sought after by employers for their academic qualifications, skills and contribution to the community.

At Notre Dame, students are able to combine a first class education with involvement in local community service and international activities, a philosophy which ensures students are well equipped to take their place in society. Notre Dame aims to remain a small, private university committed to ensure that students receive a personalised, high quality education. It offers a caring and friendly learning environment dedicated to providing courses that are challenging, relevant and responsive to student, employer and community needs.

Inspired by one of the greatest Catholic universities in the world, the University of Notre Dame in the United States,



Notre Dame Australia brings to Australian education the vibrant traditions of a Catholic university together with the rich history of one of the world's premier universities.

The university's foundation campus is located in the beautiful and historic port city of Fremantle, making learning a profoundly satisfying cultural and educational experience.

Strolling through arcades and streets bustling with markets, coffee shops and restaurants and within reach of some of the best beaches and sporting facilities in Australia, it is easy to see why the university's founders chose such a magnificent location for the beautiful campus.

The Campus in Broome provides a unique opportunity for higher education in the ruggedly beautiful Kimberley Region in the north of Western Australia. The Sydney Campus commenced in 2006 on the historic St Benedict's site on Broadway. This learning centre in the heart of the great city of Sydney provides an opportunity to be a part of the Notre Dame experience on the East coast of Australia.

UWA: Mission to Advance, Transmit & Sustain Knowledge

University of Western Australia's mission is to advance, transmit and sustain knowledge and understanding, through the conduct of teaching, research and scholarship at the highest international standards, for the benefit of the international and national communities and the State of Western Australia. Its enduring commitment is to improve society through learning and discovery.

UWA aims to be recognised internationally as an excellent research-intensive university and a leading intellectual and creative resource to the communities it serves.

It continues to build research and postgraduate strengths linked to, and sustained by, a high quality undergraduate program in which teaching and learning takes place in an atmosphere of research and scholarship.

The university fosters an international focus for all its activities and standards as an integral part of its overriding commitment to excellence and high quality.

Western Australia's first university, UWA remains one of Australia's best research-led universities.

A Land of Year-Round Sun, Beaches, Blue Skies & Fun

Sun, adventure, an awesome natural environment and friendly people – it's what you'll find on a holiday to Western Australia whatever time of year you visit. Nowhere else in the world can you experience and interact with such unique natural attractions.

Dive with the world's largest fish – the whale shark, snorkel with manta rays, swim with wild dolphins, walk amongst the tree tops of ancient trees, sleep under a canopy of stars in the desert, or explore the beehive-like formations of the Bungle Bungles with the help of an Aboriginal guide. Western Australia truly is the authentic Australian experience.

A climate to suit all occasions

The big variety of landscapes and climates in Western Australia means there is always plenty of sunshine, making it a perfect year-round destination. It is a land blessed with spectacular diversity where the deep reds of ancient interior rock formations contrast with the sparkling blue of the Indian and Southern Oceans and the lush greenery of the stunning southern regions. Western Australia is famous for its long days of sunshine, spotless blue skies and brilliant beaches.

Start with Perth

The capital of Perth is Australia's western gateway and a great place to start your holiday and make it the centre of experience. Perth offers an easy-going lifestyle – the beautiful Swan River and inner-city parks like Kings Park add to the relaxed, natural feel.

There is much to see and do in this part of the State, from swimming in crystal clear ocean waters to enjoying a sunny afternoon sipping a cold beer at an open-air pub.

From the city, head to the South West for world class wineries, luxury accommodation and forests of tall trees. These taper off to a ribbon of coastal hinterlands of sheltered bays and rivers, often lined with massive granite boulders and stunning outlooks.

Here, life is simple and genuine, offering a taste of rural Australian living along with relaxing country retreats and secluded chalets. The Golden Outback's spectacular outback and goldfields are the place for historic townships, brilliant, starry night skies, and wide open spaces with spinifex and red earth as far as the eye can see. Here too, are the beaches of the Southern Ocean. These seas can be wild one day and brilliant blue calm the next – they're also home to humpback whales and their calves.



Perth is the capital of Western Australia, which is situated along the banks of the Swan River. The river twists through the city and ends at the port of Fremantle where you can enjoy a coffee on the 'Cappuccino' strip, go down to the harbour to watch the boats come in, or enjoy the nightlife.

Many day trips can be taken from Perth. As the Indian Ocean borders the Western Australian coastline, one may take a ferry to Rottnest Island to see Quokka's. These little mammals were mistaken by Dutch explorers as giant rats.

An absolute must is to visit King's Park, where you can overlook the hustle and bustle of the city amidst the calm of the Australian bush.

Perth is a wonderful place for animal lovers. In addition to the small but charming Perth Zoo, a hands on experience is Caver sham Wildlife Park, where one can have a one-on-one experience with a variety of birds, kangaroos, koalas, or a number of other animals who roam free in large enclosures which permit visitors to enter, pick up a handful of free food, and feed the animals.

Great food and drink can be found in and around Perth. A 20-minute drive from Perth city is the Swan Valley. The Swan Valley is one of two major wine regions in Western Australia. Nearby the Swan Valley is a restaurant where one can find pizza created by the 2005 winner of the America's Plate, an international competition to determine the world's best gourmet pizza maker.

Perth is clean and beautiful, but by far, its

best attraction is the great weather and it's beautiful beaches. It has one of the bluest skies you will ever see.

Events and Festivals

In Western Australia there are plenty of unique, nature-based, sporting and cultural events to be experienced. Many regional centres have their own distinct character and local traditions sparking a number of unique country style festivities.

Saltbush Youth Festival

November 26th - 28th. The Saltbush youth festival was formed to offer a positive alternative to the end of year schoolies week.

Saltbush is now recognised as a premier event for young local bands to perform as well as drawing in artists from other states. A venue for youth of both metropolitan and rural communities is provided to join together in a positive, friendly environment that enables one to wind down and celebrate the end of the year. Both drugs and alcohol are banned from the event. The organizers' vision for the next three years is to grow and develop this festival even more by giving opportunity for new events to take place whilst continuing to expand the scope of existing components

UWA Perth International Arts Festival

Founded in 1953 by the University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts Festival is the oldest international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. It has developed a worldwide reputation for innovative development,





presentation of new works and provision of quality arts. For over 50 years the festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with over 300,000 people each year.

The Perth International Arts Festival is an exciting and interesting spectacle of the arts, a truly compelling experience for visitors from all walks of life.

Rottnest Island

Rottnest Island is located approximately 18 kilometres west of Perth. It is one of Western Australia's most popular holiday destinations, with over 400,000 visitors per year. Rottnest's popular appeal lies in its spectacular coral fringed beaches and sparkling sands, ideal for swimming, surfing or sunbathing.

You can enjoy snorkelling, diving, guided tours or bus and train tours. Public vehicles are not permitted on Rottnest, so hire a bike and use pedal power to see the sights. During the peak period (November to April) there are various marine activities to enjoy, and the gift shop has many special souvenirs to remind you of your visit to the island. The



cute and mischievous marsupials that live on Rottnest, the quokkas, are another of the island's attractions. They are almost unique to the island and resemble small kangaroos, pouches and all!

Winter is a popular period on the island, with warmer temperatures and often less rain than Perth. There are also special discounts on accommodation and special rates for senior citizens. The island boasts all the facilities required for overnight and day tripping visitors as well as a unique history and a spectacular environment.

Rottnest runs many events throughout the year, the largest of which is the annual Cottesloe to Rottnest swim held every February. The swim is approximately 20 km long and attracts around 1,200 competitors.

If you plan to stay over, there are accommodation options to suit any budget, from beachfront villas, hotel and lodge accommodation to cabins and tent sites. It is recommended to book your accommodation well in advance. A range of food is available from a la carte restaurants, a cafe, the Island's hotel, bakery, and take away outlets. ■

Kalgoorlie Boulder: Fortune Hunters' Paradise

Kalgoorlie Boulder is the hub of the goldfields and one of Western Australia's largest cities. Still active as a mining town, Kalgoorlie-Boulder's wide streets and grand old buildings are full of people living the prospecting dream.

Travel to the region by bus, train, plane or car. Kalgoorlie Boulder is a place like no other. From wild and heady origins as a frontier town where fortunes were sought, to the prosperous, bustling 'Kal' of today, Kalgoorlie's rich heritage permeates the town and gives it a distinctive character.

Turn of the century architecture, including the magnificent Boulder Town Hall, the red outback just beyond the settlement's streets and nearby ghost towns make this area



fascinating to visitors.

Kalgoorlie Boulder is one of the most important mining areas in the world. After Paddy

Hannan found gold in the area in 1893, the town's population soared to 30,000. Today the population is again up to 30,000, after the discovery of nickel deposits in the north of the goldfields.

The towns Kalgoorlie and Boulder amalgamated in 1989. Until then they were separate towns side by side. Boulder's main street, Burt Street, is five km from Kalgoorlie's centre, Hannan Street. Boulder was named after The Great Boulder Mine, the first mine on the Golden Mile.

In September, renowned horse race the Boulder and Kalgoorlie Cup takes place at the 100 year old Racing Round. Crowds from all over the State come to enjoy the town's festive atmosphere.

The largest indoor pool in Western Australia, great for a cooling dip to escape the outback heat, is on Johnston Street.

The town has a number of pubs and nightclubs, and live music is popular around town. Visiting artists perform regularly at the Arts Centre. Kalgoorlie Boulder offers the visitor a wide range of restaurants and cafes and a variety of cuisines. Chinese, vegetarian, and Italian foods are available as well as pub counter meals, fast foods and pizzas. Kalgoorlie Boulder offers many styles of accommodation, including caravan parks, camping grounds, hostels, hotels and motels.





Cottesloe is one of Perth's most popular beaches and attracts thousands of people looking to cool off from the hot summer heat. Its crystal clear waters, regular swell and fun atmosphere make it popular with swimmers, body boarders and surfers alike. Nearby rocks and reefs provide good areas for snorkelling.

Cottesloe's famous pine trees which can be seen all the way from Rottnest Island provide welcome shade from the sun and grassy areas to relax in. Public toilets, changing facilities and showers are available.

The Cottesloe area is vibrant and full of fun and excitement. There are many cafes and restaurants along the beachfront. Fish and chips at Cottesloe beach is a local favourite. Local hotels (pubs) overlooking the beach, provide some of the best 'Sunday Sessions' in Western Australia attracting capacity crowds who come to finish off a day at the beach with a few tasty beverages, music and mates. An afternoon not to be missed!

Cottesloe is famous for its sunsets. Being on the west coast of Australia, the sun sets over the Indian Ocean. There are many a la carte restaurants in Cottesloe that provide the perfect venue to take in the breathtaking, panoramic views.

Ningaloo Reef Marine Park

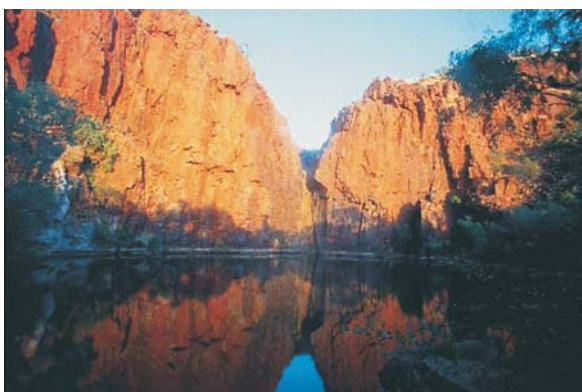
The Ningaloo Reef is a smaller, more accessible version of the Great Barrier Reef. In places it is less than 100 meters

offshore! Within the marine park there are eight protected zones where fishing is banned. In the park well over 200 species of coral alone have been recorded, and the rest of the flora and fauna is spectacular as well. Highlights include the mass spawning of coral eight or nine nights after the full moon in March, the passing of humpback whales in June/July and October/November, the whale sharks that stop to feed along the reef every year and the egg-laying of turtles between November and January.

Millstream Chichester National Park

This park in a semi-arid environment features a number of fresh water pools. These include Python Pool, once an oasis for Afghani camel drivers, and Chinderwarinner Pool, with palms (including the unique Millstream palm) and lilies. In Millstream Homestead, the information centre, you can get information on the ecosystem and the lifestyle of the Yinjibarndi people. There are several walking and driving trails in the park, as well as some good, basic camp sites

Rudall River National park



An incredibly beautiful desert region 300 km east of Newman. The best time to visit is July/August, when daytime temperatures are still tolerable. Keep in mind that the nights can be very cold though. There are no facilities in this park, so visitors must be self-sufficient. At least two vehicles with HF radios are needed for off-road trips. ■



The Australian High Commission New Delhi will be presenting "Australian Books and Writers", a 10-day display of books and presentations by authors at the National Library of India, Alipore, Kolkata, from 2 to 11 February 2007.

"The authors in Kolkata, including the writer of Schindler's Ark, Tom Keneally (later filmed as Schindler's List), who were originally scheduled to participate in the Kolkata Book Fair, offers a good opportunity for the book-loving people of this city to get a flavour of Australian writing and literature", said Australian High Commissioner to India John McCarthy.

"We hope that the presence of major Australian authors will resonate well with the people of Kolkata. It will also be a great opportunity for the authors to experience the literary traditions of India, and Bengal in particular, and will strengthen the shared English language and literature connections that exist between Australia and India," said McCarthy. "We hope that our presentation in the next few days at the National Library will be welcomed and that the audience will enjoy the range and depth of Australian literature on offer," added the High Commissioner.

The program will feature components of the rich Australian literary traditions, which would have been featured in the Kolkata Book Fair. The literature program is being brought under the auspices of AusArts India: film, arts, literature, a two-year cultural promotion program presented by the Australian government in India.

AusArts India: film, arts, literature is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia International Cultural Council, an initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in partnership

with Australian Film Commission and the Australia-India Council.

The authors represented in Kolkata include:

Tom Keneally is perhaps best known for his Booker prize-winning novel, Schindler's Ark, the basis for the film Schindler's List. A two time winner of Australia's prestigious Miles Franklin Award, and thrice shortlisted for the Man Booker, Keneally has also written screenplays, memoirs and non-fiction. In 1983 he received an order of Australia for his services to literature. While many of his recent books deal with Australian history and society, Keneally has also tackled topics such as the American Civil War and famine in Eritrea and Ethiopia.

John Zubrzycki is an award-winning journalist who has travelled and worked in India over the past 30 years. He is currently a senior writer for The Australian and lives in Sydney. The Last Nizam is the story of an extraordinary dynasty, the Nizams of Hyderabad, which tells how the last Nizam gave up a kingdom for the rugged expanse of outback Australia. With vivid detail and anecdote, the book charts the rise of the dynasty to fabulous wealth and prominence under the Mughul emperors of India, providing a rich and vibrant portrayal of a realm soaked in blood and intrigue.

Margo Lanagan is an editor and highly acclaimed writer of novels, short stories and poetry. Based in Sydney, she has won many Australian and international prizes, including an Aurealis Award, a World Fantasy Award, an International Horror Guild Award and the prestigious

Michael L Printz Award. *Black Juice* is a collection of ten outstanding stories that intrigue, shock, delight and move the reader to tears with their complexity, unpredictability, subtlety and humanity.

Bruce Bennett is Professor of English at the University of New South Wales. A Fellow and Council member of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, a Board member of the Australia-India Council and chief investigator of AustLit, his books include *Spirit in Exile*, *Australian Short Fiction: A History* and *Homing In*.

Bem Le Hunte was born in India to an Indian mother and English father, grew up in England and, after emigrating to Australia, is now an Australian by choice. An anthropologist turned advertising copywriter, Bem has also worked in the music industry and for Indian television before turning her hand to fiction, producing two breathtaking novels set in India, *The Seduction of Silence* and *There Where The Pepper Grows*.

Luke Beesley writes poetry, short fiction and arts critique and has been published widely in Australia's major

newspapers and literary journals. His first book of poetry and short prose *Lemon Shark* was published in early 2006. Presently, he is a critic for *The Courier Mail* and the *Australian Book Review*, completing a Master of Philosophy in Creative Writing at the University of Queensland, and is the fiction editor of *LiNQ*.

Graham Reilly emigrated from Glasgow to Melbourne with his family when he was 13. He has worked as a cook, carpet shampooer and meatworker, but for the last 20 years has been a journalist mostly for *The Age*. His first novel, *Saigon Tea*, is based in Vietnam where he lived for several years. His other books are *Sweet Time*, an affectionate look at Melbourne's western suburbs and a return to Saigon with *Five Oranges*.

Kirsty Murray writes for young people with an emphasis on historical fiction. Whether the book is a contemporary novel, time travel, or historical fiction, each one of her stories is set in the real world and connects to real people, events and places. While Kirsty lives in Melbourne, she spends a great deal of her time travelling and talking with children all over the world. ■

Indo-Australian Co-operation In Legal Services Soon

Australia and India are exploring closer ties on the provision of legal services following a visit to India recently by the former's Attorney-General Philip Ruddock.

Ruddock said the Joint Australia-India Consultative Committee on Legal Services (JAICCOLS) had the personal backing of Minister of Commerce and Industry Kamal Nath and the support of the Bar Council of India.

"The advantages of more open legal markets are obvious. They stimulate international commercial activity and strengthen the international competitiveness of a country's legal profession. Commercial lawyers and law firms of India and Australia, as well as the business communities of both countries, all stand to benefit," Ruddock said.

In his five-day visit, Ruddock spoke at the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Partnership Summit in Bangalore and the University of Delhi. During the latter speech, he told law students that Australia, like India, was a federation of States and had made reducing red

tape and the harmonisation of laws a priority.

The Attorney-General specifically cited efforts to introduce a national register for personal property securities, a field now governed by more than 70 pieces of legislation across the states and territories. "A national economy needs national action," Ruddock said.

Ruddock said he was pleased the Bar Council of India last year decided to recognise law degrees from five Australian universities. Indian nationals who are graduates of Australian National University, Bond University, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology and the University of NSW can now practise law in India after passing an examination by the Bar Council.

Ruddock said he had conveyed an invitation from the President of the Law Council of Australia to the President and Secretary of Bar Council of India to attend the Australian Legal Convention in Sydney in March. This will provide a further opportunity to advance the JAICCOLS initiative. ■



L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival '07

4 to 10 March, 2007 (Fairground, Melbourne)

The Fashion Festival has grown to become Australia's largest and most successful consumer-focused fashion event. L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival launches Australia's Autumn/Winter collections showcasing the most talented and innovative designers to the consumer, retail buyers and to the media. L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival is dedicated to stimulating ideas and highlighting trends in design and innovation. In the ten years since its inception, LMFF has become a much sought-after platform from which to launch, promote or

stimulate sales for brands, products or services.

As a consumer-oriented event, LMFF has a proven record of generating millions of dollars in associated business activity. In 2007, L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival celebrates a decade of fashion: 1997-2007. LMFF has continued to grow and evolve and is now the largest consumer and retail fashion event in Australia. The festival is expected to attract more than 190,000 visitors, over 150 labels and designers. Special Events is the current sponsor. ■

Australian Jewellery Fair '07

18 & 19 March, 2007 (Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre)

The Australian Jewellery Fair will be held at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre on 18-19 March 2007. It is the biggest event of its kind in the Asia Pacific Region. It's the place to buy stunning new designs and classic favourites from all over the world. You will be well prepared for the busy trading season ahead.

The multi award-winning Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre is in the midst of South Brisbane's world-class business facilities. The venue is adjacent to South Bank Parklands, an urban leisure and recreational area of 17 hectares of beaches, tropical lagoons, restaurants, cafes, retail shopping, theatres and galleries.

The Fair is open only to members of the jewellery trade. People connected with jewellery trade such as manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, agents, and distributors, designers, gemologists, department store buyers, watch or clock makers, retailers and repairers, duty free retailers, students (in a jewellery related courses) will be attending the fair.

Prominent Current Exhibitors: A Wiener & Co, Alija International, ARTipelago, B & V O Trickey, Bee Jewellery, Bolton Gems, Coincept Trading, Diasqua (Pacific). Gianna Argento, Hagemeyer Lifestyle Brands, Instyle Watches, Kit Heath Jewellery, Lost River Diamonds, Moda Group, Octahedron, Pastiche, Peter W Beck, Renee Blackwell Design, Something Special Jewellery, The Amber Centre, Tower Systems, Wisecorp Group (HK), World Shiner, etc. ■



New labelling

Pact to Save Australian Wine Makers \$25 m p.a

The Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation has welcomed the signing of the World Wine Trade Group's Agreement on Requirements for Wine Labelling, which has the potential to save Australian producers tens of millions of dollars a year.

Corporation Chief Executive Sam Tolley said the agreement involving the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG) representing producers from Australia, the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Chile and Argentina is an "historic step forward" for the global wine industry and would deliver significant benefits for Australian wine producers. Bringing the agreement into force will include tabling in the Parliament and adjusting domestic labelling requirements for wine. An amendment to the States' and Territories' wine labelling regulations also will be required to implement the agreement.

"Until now, Australian wine producers had differing label requirements when exporting wine to other signatory countries in the World Wine Trade Group. This often resulted in unnecessarily expensive printing costs to meet the labelling requirements of so many different markets," Tolley said.

"The new labelling agreement, announced overnight in Canberra, has the potential to save Australian wine producers tens of millions of dollars a year in label printing costs as one common label is now permitted for wine sold in Australia, the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Chile and Argentina. The agreement stipulates the presentation of certain information on wine labels such as product designation, content volume, percentage of alcohol and country of origin," Tolley said.

The Australian wine sector estimates the change is expected to produce savings of around \$25 million per year.

The Corporation's General Manager, Trade and Compliance, Steve Guy, said the new agreement was very significant as the United States, Canada and New Zealand, in particular, were major export markets for Australian wine. Exports to WWTG member nations account for 47 per cent (\$1.2 billion) of Australia's annual wine exports. According to the Corporation's most recent export figures, for the 12 months to December 2006, the United States was Australia's second largest wine export market (behind the UK) worth \$923.6m, Canada was third at \$244.4m and New Zealand was fourth at \$92.1m.

"Member countries in the World Wine Trade Group first began discussions five years ago on how best to develop a common approach to displaying mandatory information required on wine labels," Guy said. "The agreement is a major step forward but it's important to note that it doesn't mean that all legitimate domestic labels are automatically acceptable in the signatory markets. The agreement provides a mechanism to design a common label."

Guy said while the new labelling agreement would not have a direct impact on wine exported to the European Union (a market worth over \$1 billion to Australian wine exporters), the new regulations were "consistent" with EU labelling requirements. "This has the potential to deliver further savings for Australian wine producers," said Guy.

The Corporation is the federal statutory authority responsible for regulating Australian wine exports, the global Wine Australia marketing program, collating and analysing Australian wine sector statistics, assisting Australian wine producers and exporters with trade access issues, and defining and protecting Australia's wine regions. ■

Common Ground a Competent Manager of Print & Internet Content

Founded as an educational and academic publisher in 1984, Common Ground has evolved into a producer and manager of content for print and the Internet. The company works in four related areas, Common Ground Conferences, Common Ground Publishing, Common Ground Research and Common Ground Software.

Common Ground Conferences

Common Ground has managed numerous major national and international conferences since 1989, including (since 1997) websites with e-commerce facilities, and online and print publication of conference materials. Some conferences are initiated by Common Ground (such as the Learning Conference and the Humanities Conference), and others are conducted on contract to other organisations (such as the Art of Dissent and the Fourth Pillar Conference for the Cultural Development Network).

Common Ground offers innovative technology support for conventional conferences, including: in-house web development; online ecommerce registration; online call for papers and publication of conference papers in electronic and print formats which can be purchased online. For further details, see Common Ground Conferences.

Common Ground Publishing

Common Ground's principal areas of activity in the field of publishing are:

Publication of trade and academic books: in conventional offset printed format; digitally printed format; and in electronic formats which can be downloaded through the Internet.

Publishing service provision, enabling organisations to publish more effectively using our suite of dynamic human and electronic resources encompassing editorial, design, layout, typesetting and electronic formatting, marketing and distribution functions.

Development of Internet-based publishing systems designed to create a low-cost, high-tech publishing solution for small organisations who require short print runs, an online bookshop and an electronic environment

within which content storage, management and production functions can be managed in a distributed environment.

Common Ground Research

Common Ground's Principal areas of research activity are:

The Centre for Workplace Communication and Culture. Founded in 1991, this centre has undertaken some one hundred major research and development projects in the areas of workplace culture, communication, language learning and cultural diversity. The Centre has also managed two major international workplace change conferences.

Creator to Consumer in a Digital Age. A joint venture with RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, this is a major research program examining the future of publishing. Our research efforts have been focussed on the effects of digital technologies on the printing and publishing industry in Australia, funded by the Federal Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. This work is now recognised internationally as the most extensive research in recent times into the nature of technological and business change in all tiers of the publishing supply chain.

Common Ground Software

Since 1999, Common Ground has also become extensively involved in software development, built upon the Common Ground Markup Language (CGML). This software development has been in the following areas:

- CGPublisher for publishers and knowledge producing communities who are would-be publishers.
- CGPublisher for schools, linked with the Learning By Design curriculum design templates.
- CGPublisher for universities, managing research, teaching and learner content.
- CGPublisher for organisations, a knowledge management tool.
- CGLexicon, or the XML schema which is the foundation for all Common Ground software, and the basis for the Common Ground Dictionary. ■

Kalam launches Shree-Lipi-Braille, releases Braille "Agnipankh"



President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam has recently inaugurated the Shree-Lipi-Braille Translation Software for 12 Indian Languages to Braille in Pune. The President also released the first Braille copy of his autobiography in Marathi - "Agnipankh."

Shree-Lipi-Braille is the multilingual super fast translation software for creation of Indian language Braille books, developed by Modular InfoTech Private Limited, the well known Pune-based multilingual software packages development company which is working in the field of Indian languages software for the last 24 years.

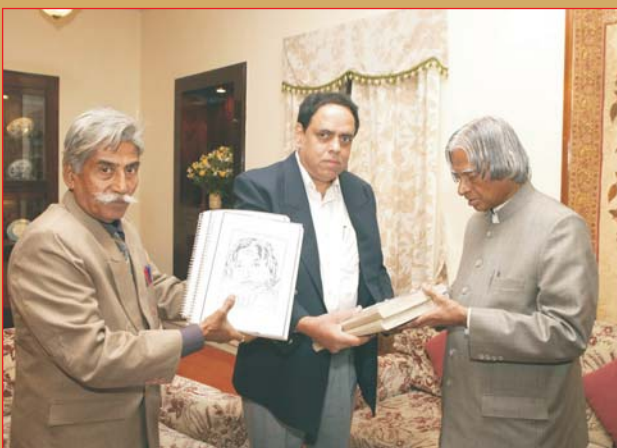
Modular Infotech has translated the Marathi book authored by Dr. Kalam into Braille in a very short time using Shree-Lipi-Braille. The first copy of Shree-Lipi-Braille Software and the Braille Agnipankh were presented to The President after the publication at his

hands.

Chairman and Joint Managing Director of Modular Infotech Dr Mehernosh Cooper said "There are over one crore blind persons in India. Very few of them know and study in English. There is a tremendous shortage of educational material for the blind, and of Braille books in the 12 Indian languages.

One of the main reasons for this is the time and cost of Braille books production. A Marathi book requires about five times the pages after translation to Braille. Data entry, proof reading and correction for Braille is a very time consuming and tedious process. These difficulties will now get resolved, with the use of Shree-Lipi-Braille Software.

Dr.Kalam's autobiography in Marathi Agnipankh, a book of about 175 pages took about 20 minutes to



Vasant Bhat (left) and Raghunandan Joshi, Joint Managing Director (center) handing over the first volumes of the Braille version of the President's autobiography "Agnipankh" to Dr. Kalam.



Joshi handing over the first copy of the Shree-Lipi Braille Software and explaining the features to Dr. Kalam.

translate to Braille using Shree-Lipi Braille Software. Without this software, the book would have required about 50 days for translation and production.

Educational textbooks in Braille for 10th and 12th standard, college books, and also the other technical and literary books can now be easily translated into Braille. This will benefit the blind persons in a big way." Dr. Cooper further said - "The Government's institutions like Balbharati and private publishers may take a note of this development."

Meena Joshi, Technical Director of the company, explained that the inspiration for developing the Shree-Lipi-Braille Software was received by the company during discussions with a blind director at the School for Blind Girls at Alandi, about two years ago. She said, "It took about two years to develop the Shree-Lipi-Braille Software for the 12 Indian Languages, with a lot of efforts by the company and with the help of a number blind persons and other social workers dedicated to this cause."

Shree-Lipi-Braille has many useful features. The Software can not only translate to Braille from a soft-copy of any book in Shree-Lipi format, but also can translate from a soft-copy of a book keyed in other formats of other DTP softwares as well. With this, almost any book in any Indian Language, available as a soft-copy can now be translated to Braille in a very short time. After translation, the book can be printed on different Braille Embossers, or screen-

printed, or printed by metal type.

Apart from translation, Shree-Lipi-Braille also allows six-key-typing which is the standard way of direct data entry in Braille. The Software also allows typing conventionally in Indian languages, and then translating the proof-corrected text into Braille, and take output in Braille.

All publishers of Indian languages books have now an opportunity to make their books available to the Blind, and help open the gates of knowledge to them and make a significant contribution. This will rapidly increase the literacy rate of blind persons and make different books useful for secondary, higher and professional education easily available to them." She added

Vasant Bhat, who is handling the marketing of Shree-Lipi-Braille said that a unit with a low-cost computer, Shree-Lipi-Braille Software and thermography screen-printing (or metal type printing) facility can give self-employment opportunity in rural areas for blind and dumb-deaf persons. Such a unit can provide conventional and Braille DTP service.

At the end of this press conference, a blind girl read out a chapter from the Braille Agnipankh autobiography of The President and earned praise from all.

For Further Details please contact
R.R. Joshi, Joint Managing Director, Modular Infotech
On 020- 24226612, 24227994, 9370131502.

Australia to host APEC 2007

The Australia Government is hosting the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2007, including meetings to be held across the country and culminating in September with the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting. APEC is a key forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the region. With 21 member countries from Asia and the Pacific Rim, APEC economies account for 69 per cent of Australia's international trade and include all of our five top export markets.

APEC encompasses a region of remarkable cultural diversity, yet in an increasingly interconnected world young people throughout the Asia-Pacific share similar interests and concerns. Education, employment, community development and political participation are just some of the issues affecting young people across the APEC region. Concern for youth has been one of the

pivotal issues in APEC almost from its inception. In particular, the importance of strengthening efforts to empower youth to interact in a global and knowledge-based society has been recognised annually by APEC Leaders and Ministers since the Los Cabos meeting in 2002.

APEC also pursues activities designed to build regional youth networks, allowing for the exchange of opinions and knowledge on global issues, and strengthening inter-cultural dialogue among young people in the Asia-Pacific. APEC youth forums have addressed themes including science and technology, entrepreneurship, and community service, exploring the fundamental contribution of young people to economic growth, and building mutual understanding and cooperation in the region.

W Australia's Templeman Nominated for Oscar

Western Australian director Peter Templeman's short film *The Saviour* has been nominated for an Oscar in the Live Action Short Film category. The 2007 Academy Awards nomination caps an exceptional festival run for the film, which was written and directed by Templeman and produced by Stuart Parkyn in 2005 while they were studying at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

Returning to WA in 2006, Templeman directed several episodes of the SBS series *Marx and Venus* and was one of the directors on the children's series *Lockie Leonard*, both funded through ScreenWest. *Lockie Leonard* and *Marx and Venus* are both set to screen this year.

The Saviour tells the story of Malcolm, a door-to-door Mormon evangelist who is in love with a married woman. With pressure mounting from his church to convert her, Malcolm decides his Bible is the very weapon he needs to destroy the marriage that's keeping him from his true love.



Templeman's four short films *The Saviour*, *Splintered*, *Milkmen* and *Gifted Thumbs* have won 37 festival awards between them, including 15 Best Films and six Best Directors. He is also the only filmmaker to win the Slamdance Grand Jury award for best short film two years in a row, first with the gritty drama *Splintered* in 2005, then in 2006 with *The Saviour*.

Templeman's films have screened in more than 60 film festivals around the world and he recently received the Atlatl Rising Talent Award at the 2006 Inside Film Awards. He is currently working on two feature film scripts. ■

Third Most Free Economy

According to the recently released US Heritage

Foundation and Wall

Street Journal's 2007 Index of

Economic Freedom, the Australian

economy has been rated the third freest economy out of the 157 countries measured.

Australia achieved a total score of 82.7 per cent, behind Hong Kong (89.3 per cent) and Singapore (85.7 per cent). The US was ranked fourth (82.0 per cent), New Zealand fifth (81.6 per cent) and the United Kingdom sixth (81.6 per cent).

The report's lead author, Tim Kane, who is director of the Washington based Centre for International Trade and Economics said Australia's economy was in many regards an international role model scoring above 90 per cent in four of the ten measures used in the report to assess economic freedom. Dr Kane said that Australia's ranking has jumped six places since last year's survey because of an improved methodology and the inclusion for the first time of a measure of labour freedom.

The 2007 Index of Economic Freedom measures 157 countries across 10 specific factors of economic freedom. The factors studied are: business, trade, fiscal policy, government intervention, monetary policy, investment, financial freedom, property rights, corruption and labour. ■

Australian Science Film Wins Golden Dragon Award

The Electric Pictures documentary *The Winner's Guide to the Nobel Prize* has won a prestigious Golden Dragon Award in the Science Popularisation category at the 2006 Beijing International Scientific Films Festival.

This one-hour documentary travels behind the scenes of the world's most prestigious prize for medicine and physiology with Western Australian Nobel Laureates Robin Warren and Barry Marshall.

The Beijing International Scientific Films Festival is held every two years and is the only government sponsored science film festival in China, highly regarded as a key festival by TV science producers worldwide. Golden Dragon Awards are given to the best films in the following areas: Science Popularisation, Science Feature, Discovery, Environment, Life Science and Medicine, and Science for Youth.

According to the judges, "This story has all the right ingredients for a winner. Two interesting characters, Nobel Prize winners. They received their prize for their research that Stomach Ulcers have a bacterial cause and can be cured with the right antibiotics. They truly had to fight the medical establishment and their persistence is a great example of the fact that passion and good science go hand in hand. The story is very well told with a special eye for personal details. *The Winner's Guide to the Nobel Prize* is a true winner itself."



The Winner's Guide to the Nobel Prize is a Film Australia and Electric Pictures production in association with ScreenWest and Lotterywest. It was developed and produced in association with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Invest Australia facilitates \$52.7 bn FDI in less than five years

Over the four and a half years to December 2006, Invest Australia has played a key role in attracting or facilitating 330 investment projects valued at \$52.7 billion, with the potential to create more than 25,000 jobs and generate \$11.1 billion in export earnings.

Invest Australia's domestic and international network is currently pursuing 627 active investment leads. Facilitation services are being provided to 32 active Major Facilitation Projects with a value of \$43.8 billion

and the potential to create over 11,000 long term jobs.

Latest figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate a continuing surge in foreign direct investment in Australia. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to Australia increased from A\$6.1 billion in the June quarter 2006 to A\$21.6 billion in the September quarter, providing good prospects for continued growth in the year ahead.

Australian National Honour for Agronomist

Department of Agriculture and Food deputy director general Rob Delane has been awarded an Australia Day Public Service Medal for his outstanding service to Western Australian agriculture.

Delane has been employed with the Department for 27 years, starting as a rice agronomist based in Kununurra in 1979, moving to Geraldton in 1984 as research officer and later held roles in the region as district leader and Mid West regional manager.

In 1995 Delane moved to the statewide role of Pulses and Oilseeds Program manager. Through this position he led the state in managing a number of major industry incidents, including disease outbreaks and adverse seasons.

From 1998 to 2004 he held roles of Executive Director, Agriculture Protection and subsequently Executive Director, Plant Industries and Agriculture Protection, and made a world-class contribution to the development of improved biosecurity policy and practice, both within Western Australia and nationally.

Delane has led major reforms in agriculture protection policy, legislation, communication, and operational delivery of plant and animal health services to meet industry, community and consumer needs. Furthermore, he successfully implemented major structural change in program and project management.

In his current role as Deputy Director General Agriculture and Food and Executive Director Biosecurity and Research, he leads both the Department's

biosecurity division and its research and development operations, including relevant policy, legislation, technology transfer, performance standards, communication and relationship management.

Department director general Ian Longson said throughout his career with the Department, Rob had demonstrated an innovative approach to program and policy development.

"Rob was responsible for developing the 'Guard' government/industry biosecurity policy initiative that has resulted in a national government/industry partnership approach to biosecurity for all of Australia's major plant industries," he said.

"He has worked closely with other agencies and community stakeholders to develop holistic solutions to issues such as reduction in the impact of invasive species on the State's natural resources.

"As Chairman of the State's Weed Plan steering group he has led development of the Western Australian strategic approach for agricultural, environmental and aquatic weeds."

Longson said throughout his career, Rob had ensured Western Australian agriculture has been well represented at a national level.

"Rob played a lead role in the establishment of Plant Health Australia Limited, a national company involving all Australian governments and major plant industries.

"He was a key member of the Australia-wide team that developed the business case for the National Plant



Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre and is a member of the national Quarantine and Export Advisory Council appointed by the Australian Government's Minister for Agriculture.

"Rob also makes significant contributions to national policy development for the plant industries through Primary Industry Standing Committee (PISC) sub-committees and has a key role in the national

coordination of research infrastructure through his participation on the Primary Industries Standing Committee's Research and Development sub committee."

Longson said Rob had made a number of very important contributions to the Western Australian and Australian agricultural industries and was very deserving of the award. ■

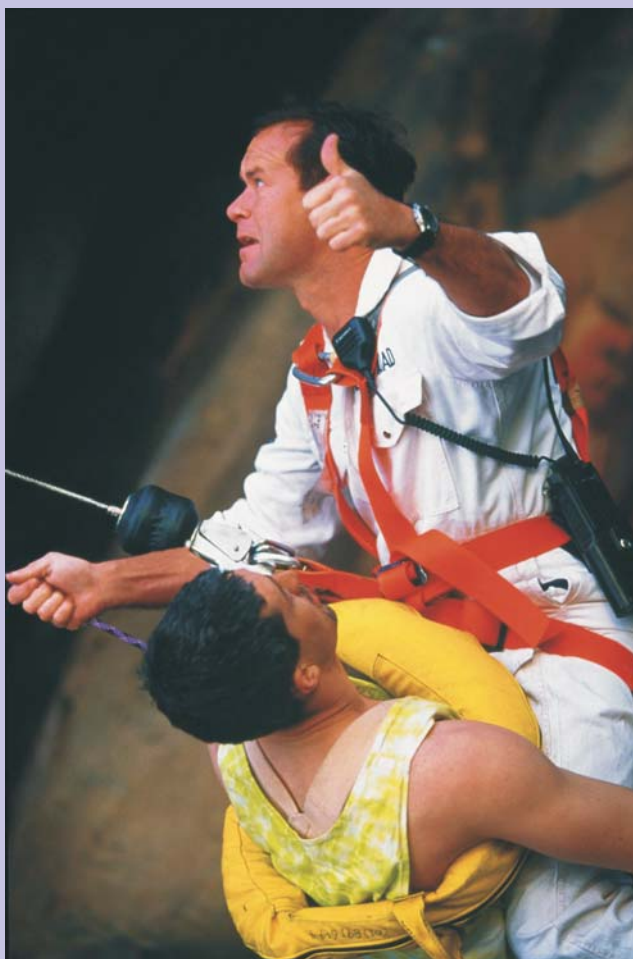
Film Star Gary Sweet to Read PAC Script

The first Perth Actors Collective (PAC) Script Lab reading for 2007 will be an especially exciting event with actor Gary Sweet volunteering his time to read for the script, *In the Eyes of the Trees*.

Ben Young's script *In the Eyes of the Trees* will receive star treatment with ScreenWest providing additional support to secure Gary Sweet for the reading. The star of Australian drama series *Blue Murder*, *The Light Horsemen*, *Police Rescue* and feature films *The Tracker* and *Alexandra's Project*, Gary Sweet will fly to Perth to support one of Australia's up-and-coming writers. It is a great credit to Ben Young and his exceptional script that Gary has made himself available. Gary will soon be seen in the SBS mini series *The Circuit*, which was filmed in Broome.

Rebecca Ritters is also making the journey from Melbourne to read at the event. Rebecca became a household name in both Australia and the UK during her seven years as Hannah, the youngest of the Martin family in *Neighbours*. More recently she has had great critical success with her UK tour as the female lead in *Romeo & Juliet*, and appeared in British soap *Coronation Street*.

Actors reading at PAC Script Lab this month include some of our highly talented local actors led by student Daniel Hamill in the role of Brett. This looks set to be a fantastic reading and we encourage all those with an interest in film to attend. Set against the sun-burnt back drop that is semi-rural Western Australia, *In The Eyes of the Trees* is a frightening psychological drama revolving around 20 year-old law student, Brett. After a night of heavy drinking with his dead father's best mate Marty,



Brett is tricked into spiking someone's drink after much convincing that it is "just a bit of fun." It's only the next day when the woman is found to be missing, presumed dead that Brett begins to understand the consequences of his actions.

PAC Script Lab aims to provide writers with a space in which to hone advanced draft scripts with an audience of industry based professionals and members of the public. Professional actors present a rehearsed reading and the audience is encouraged to share their feedback with the writers. ■

Australia World's First in Corporate Governance

According to the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) 2006, Australia's corporate boards were ranked first in the world for effectively supervising the management of companies.

Given the importance of high corporate governance standards in creating a secure and profitable environment for investors, it is not surprising that Australia's competitiveness as an investment destination is on the rise.



Australia is also ranked number one in the world in efficiently managing shareholder value and third best for the effective protection of shareholders' rights.

Australia's business friendly regulatory environment is undisputed. A recent OECD report cites Australia's approach to regulation as a best practice benchmark for other OECD countries. The report identified Australia as having the fewest restrictions on product markets of the 30 OECD countries. It is also considered to have the least public ownership of business and the least restrictive impact of business regulation on economic behaviour.

The World Bank (2006) has ranked Australia as the fastest place in the world to start a business with regulatory procedures taking just two days. The majority of overseas investment in Australia does not require approval. Where approval is required, almost all investment proposals are approved.

Transparency in Australia's financial sector is ranked second best in the Asia Pacific region and in terms of intellectual property, Australia's patent and copyright enforcement regime is also ranked second best in the region. Australia is also rated in the top seven countries in the world in terms of the absence of bribery and corruption. ■

National Screenwriters' Meet 2007

The Australian Writers' Guild (AWG) is presenting the National Screenwriters' Conference in October 2007. The Conference will be a forward-looking, challenging and inspiring weekend for Australian screenwriters and panel ideas are being requested from the industry.

'Holding Onto Your Vision' is the broad theme for the Conference and places the writer at the heart of the discussion from initiating ideas; taking risks and believing in your work; budgets and funding; and the future of the industry, through to how to keep writing in the bad times and the 'business' of writing. Ultimately the theme aims to encourage optimism in all discussions.

The conference will have three major strands:

- Film: Who Writes for Big Screen?
- Television: Is TV the New Film?
- New Media: Where is the Writer?

If you have an idea for a panel and would like to produce it as part of the 2007 National Screenwriters' Conference please forward an outline that includes all speakers' names and a clear direction and outcome for the discussion. The proposed panel must fit within the broad theme of 'Holding Onto Your Vision' and relate to one of the three major strands. The call for papers closes March 2, 2007. Please email your complete panel or session idea, with no attachments, to Pip Newling at pip@awg.com.au ■



Nannup to Host Bigger Music Fest in March '07

For the 18th consecutive year the little town of Nannup will host one of the biggest music events in the region. With the growing popularity of the Nannup Music Festival the town now boasts a purpose built venue that sits on the foreshore of the beautiful Blackwood River. This foreshore Park Venue has enabled the town committee to host bigger acts and cater for more patrons. It has announced a huge line-up for March 2007, including the Whitlams, Deborah Conway and Willy Zygyier, Eric Bogle, Colum Sands, Sara Storer and Kate Miller-Heidke.

This eclectic mix includes two of Australia's top acts, two up-and-coming talents and international and Irish folk fame with Eric

and Colum. In addition to the headline acts there are also over 35 artists that will entertain throughout the weekend at numerous venues during March 2, 3 and 4.

Like many festivals the Nannup committee is conscious of catering for everybody, particularly as patrons are encouraged to attend for the entire weekend. Based on this there is a multitude of activities such as the free children's festival and many workshops held in the Town Hall. This year there is also a venue specifically for youth where top bands and performers such as Cow Town and Andrew Winton will entertain.

Street theatre will also feature highly on the agenda and the entire length of shady Brockman street will be lined with stalls. In addition to the stalls many of Nannup's local shops, galleries, cafes and wineries will be open so that visitors can sample the local food, wares and hospitality.

Nannup has a strong Irish history and to mark this some special events are planned such as Irish bands in the local pub, set dancing and Irish yarns.

The Nannup Music Festival never fails to please and offers a unique experience presenting great music in the heart of the South West. Early bird tickets will be on sale from November 1 and are available from the Nannup Tourist Centre on 9756 1211 or online at www.nannupmusicfestival.org where one can follow the links. ■

