

PLAYFORD MEMORIAL TRUST

June 2008

Newsletter

Chairman's Foreword

On 4th April, the 25th anniversary of the Playford Memorial Trust was celebrated at a well-attended reception at the Hawke Centre, University of South Australia. The evening provided us with the opportunity to thank our friends and major donors and to launch a booklet commemorating the life of Sir Thomas Playford. This publication provides a biography on Sir Thomas, written by Professor Peter Howell, the history of the Trust and its achievements, and information pertaining to past and present scholars. If you would like a copy of the booklet, please contact Taryn Timmins on 8226 2815.

We were delighted that so many of the 32 Trustees who have served the Trust over the 25 years were present along with many of our past and present scholars. We were particularly pleased to welcome the Hon. Julie Bishop, Deputy Leader of the Federal Opposition, the Hon Trish White representing the Premier Mike Rann and the Hon Stephen Wade representing the Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Martin Hamilton Smith.

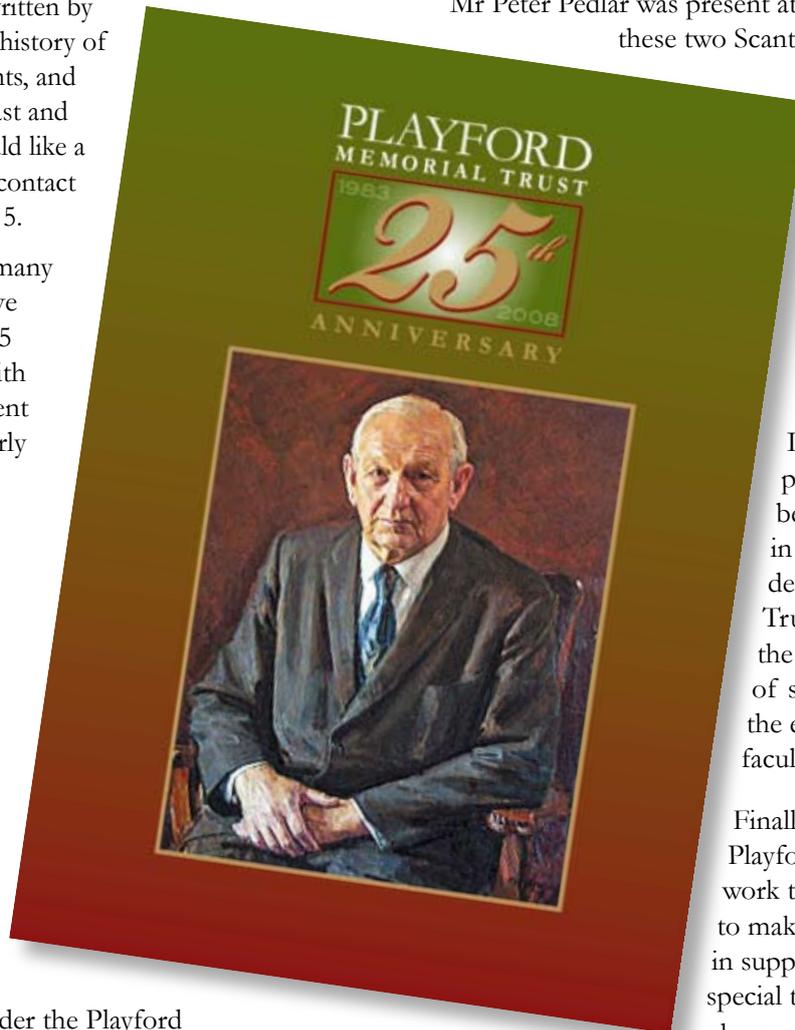
This 25th anniversary celebration also provided us with the opportunity to award scholarships to 13 new scholars. In presenting scholarships, under the Playford Memorial Trust Science Scholarship Regional Support Program, the Hon. Trish White spoke of her support, and that of the State Government, for the work of the Trust. The Hon. Julie Bishop presented scholarships to the Playford Memorial Trust Honours scholars and spoke of her family's close association with Sir Thomas Playford and related a number of anecdotes that referred to Sir Thomas and members of his family.

The Trust has established two joint Playford / industry scholarships, offered by Scantech International Pty Ltd. These scholarships, valued at \$5,000 each, are awarded to Honours students studying physics at any university in South Australia. The Trust is very keen to build on this model of cooperative funding which will see considerable benefits gained by both the Trust and our corporate donors. We were delighted that the chairman of Scantech Mr Peter Pedlar was present at the reception to present these two Scantech Playford Memorial Trust Physics Scholarships.

In referring to other matters, the Trust is very pleased to welcome Mrs Rosina Hislop as a new Trustee. Rosina has accepted to become our new Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Sub-committee.

I am very pleased with progress in discussions between academics and leaders in the mining industry to determine how the Playford Trust can best co-operate in the funding and administering of scholarships for students in the earth sciences and mining faculties.

Finally, if you are able to assist the Playford Memorial Trust in the work that we are doing I invite you to make a tax-deductible donation in support of our students. A very special thanks, once again, to those who are already supporting the Trust.



Hon. David Wotton - Chairman

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Taryn Timmins on 8226 2815 or timmins.taryn@dpc.sa.gov.au



Supported by
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The Science Scholarship Regional Support Program

The Trust recognises that the decline in the number of tertiary level science students in the past decade will be detrimental to the development and success of South Australia and its community. Unless this decline is addressed and reversed there will continue to be severe shortages in a range of professions where science plays a key role.

The Trust is aware that young people from regional areas of South Australia are at a disadvantage compared to those with close access to Adelaide's educational institutions. Many families have difficulty in providing for the additional costs involved in supporting the academic studies of their talented sons and daughters.

In combining its role in supporting excellence in young South Australians with that of supporting regional students, the Trust has established the Science Scholarship Regional Support Program. In 2008, this has funded four scholarships with a one-off payment of \$4 000 per student to assist with the costs of commencing an undergraduate science program at any South Australian university. The Trust is delighted with the very high standard of the applications received for this program. The successful scholarship recipients are extremely talented and industrious young people as outlined below.

Jarrad Thiele

Jarrad is currently studying a double degree in Education and Science majoring in mathematics and applied physics, at the University of South Australia at Mawson Lakes campus.



Jarrad was born and raised in Loxton in the Riverland and attended Loxton High School. He is an accomplished pianist who also tutors in maths and enjoys ten-pin bowling. He gained a Tertiary Entrance Rating (TER) of 97.55 in his matriculation year.

Jarrad has already been placed in the top 5% of students undertaking his course and has won an encouragement award for students with the most outstanding results in physics in their first year of study. Jarrad has expressed an interest in teaching science on graduation.



Donna Kupke



Donna is currently studying a Bachelor of Quantitative Finance at the University of South Australia. This degree combines mathematics focus with an application to financial issues. Donna also was born and raised in Loxton and graduated from Loxton High School with a TER of 99.5, which demonstrates exceptional ability.

Donna enjoys playing netball and has umpired netball at state league level. Donna has been helping other students through a tutoring program, and she is active in her church. Donna has undertaken a research project at DSTO during her last summer vacation. She has expressed an interest in applying herself to the complex problems associated with water management in the Murray Darling Basin.

Ryan Hardman

Ryan is studying a Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Adelaide, and was born and raised in Whyalla. He undertook his secondary schooling at St John's College, where he achieved a TER of 97.9 and was Dux of College and Head Boy.

Ryan is keen on outdoor sports including soccer, athletics, surfing and scuba diving.

Ryan's career aspirations include entering the Australian Defence Force as an aerospace aeronautical engineer. It is an area of work and service that he feels will equip him well for other career options outside the defence field at a later date.

Steven Dutschke

Steven was born in Port Augusta and has lived in Quorn and Nuriootpa commencing a double degree Bachelor of Chemical Engineering / Bachelor of Science at the University of Adelaide.

Steven achieved a TER of 96.85 and excels in music. He is an active member of his church, joining the church choir and teaching in Sunday school and represented his school in hockey, athletics, swimming and touch football.

Steven has worked in wine and fruit industry operations and was employed by Halliburton Australia as part of their gas stimulation crew in the Cooper Basin.

Steven is currently vice president of the chemical engineering undergraduate student's society and is the student representative on the Joint Chemical Engineering Committee.



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Dr Kate Louise Delaporte PhD - “Ornamental Eucalypt Development”

My association with the Playford Memorial Trust began when I started my PhD, research in February 1996 supervised by Professor Margaret Sedgley and Drs Graeme Collins and Andres Klieber.

The PhD project covered many aspects of the development of ornamental eucalypts for horticulture: post harvest studies, controlled pollination between species to generate novel hybrids, growth trials and propagation trials. During this time the Laidlaw Plantation was established at the Waite Campus.

In 1999 I presented a paper at the Australian Wildflower Conference in Melbourne, which resulted in funding from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation to take the research to the next level - commercialisation of new varieties for cut flowers (RIRDC Project UA-52A).

In 2000 I was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study the production of Australian plants in countries with a Mediterranean climate, involving travel to Italy, France and California. It was an amazing and worthwhile experience, and thanks to Hon Jennifer Cashmore, the then Chair of the Trust, for her support of my application.

From 2000 to mid 2004, I worked on production trials, selection of new varieties, post harvest trials and more breeding of new varieties. In 2002 the project received a significant boost, thanks to the Playford Memorial Trust, which enabled employment of Ms Di Smit as Eucalypt Technician to expand the propagation program. Di had a wealth of propagation experience. During her time, information about grafting (scion and rootstock compatibility, timing of graft, after graft care) and cutting propagation (timing, type of material) was gathered. At the end of the project, ten superior varieties had been earmarked for further development, with many hundreds soon to be available for selection.



In 2004 the RIRDC Project was completed (refer RIRDC Project Report No: 04/163) and some further RIRDC funding made available (RIRDC Project UA-67J). This was combined with the Playford Trust Propagation project funding and enabled me to keep working on the

eucalypt development program in a part-time capacity. The aim was to commercialise the ten varieties selected during RIRDC Project UA-52A, requiring development of commercially viable propagation systems and undertake PBR (Plant Breeding Rights) trials.



At the time of writing, the ten varieties are under a material transfer agreement with Humphris Nursery, Mooroolbark, Vic, to enable collaborative research into commercially viable propagation systems. It is anticipated that PBR trials will be undertaken and some varieties released over

the next 12 months. The maintenance of the Laidlaw Plantation is being supported by the Trust until 2009.

After spending six months teaching about Australian Horticulture in Japan, I took up a position at Scholefield Robinson Horticultural Services, Parkside, as a Technical Consultant. SRHS are supportive of my involvement with the University of Adelaide and the Playford Trust and encourage me to seek further funding to continue the eucalypt research and development program.

My aim is to see the program continue, with varieties released on a predetermined marketing strategy, generating enough intellectual property income to become self-funding.

Many thanks to the Playford Trust, Don and Margaret Laidlaw, the Frank and Hilda Perry Trust and the State Government of South Australia for their invaluable support over the last 10 years.

Derek Sandow - 2006 TAFE Environmental Management Award Recipient

I am writing to express my appreciation as a recipient of the TAFE ‘Environmental Management’ Trust award. The endless support and confident direction I received from my TAFE lecturers and as a result of receiving the prize from the Playford Trust has resulted in cementing my commitment and dedication to further study, and ACTION of where I wish to be for personal benefit and benefit for that of my children and ALL of those to come.

The direct result of my receiving an award from the Playford Trust allowed me to experience some ‘hands on’ practice and serious involvement in an Environmental Field. I have worked on Kangaroo Island for ‘Parks’ as an ‘Interpretative Officer’ at Seal Bay. This involved various extensive tours educating visitors on the environment impacts on native ‘Fauna’, (the seals). This was a wonderful experience and not only opened my eyes to the assigned focus but also to the other ecological wonders on the island.

In addition to pursuing my degree in the selected field, (which I will complete in mid 2008), I will be returning to the Island this summer.

I once again wish to express my great appreciation of the ‘Playford Trust Award’ and hope that many others gain, as I have, as a result of encouragement that the Playford not only gives to the individual but also to the community.



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Robert Lawrence & Paul Cooke - 2006 Horticulture Award Recipients

*Robert Lawrence,
left and Paul
Cooke.*

Since obtaining the Playford Memorial Trust Award in Horticulture I have continued working in my business of minimal disturbance weed control in remnant vegetation. Soon after the awards were announced I was able to recommend that Paul Cooke join our team. Paul was a very worthy recipient of the Playford Memorial Trust 2006 Award in Conservation and Land Management. I finished a Certificate III in Horticulture in 2006 and the award enabled me to expand my education into Conservation and Land Management. Both Paul and I were able to complete a Diploma during 2007.

A highlight of my study in 2007 was winning an Envirofund grant for a project involving post-fire weed control at Thomas Gully in Mount Bold Reservoir Reserve. We were successful in obtaining a grant from the Federal Government to support protection of one of the most significant sites for biodiversity in the Adelaide Hills.



Glycine latrobeana (Clover Glycine) is a nationally endangered plant that has recovered following fire at Thomas Gully.

New Committee Member - Rosina Hislop

Rosina is an audit partner at Ernst & Young where she specialises in assisting clients manage risk with a focus on Internal Audit. Rosina is a chartered accountant and an experienced advisor to large Corporate and Government Boards and Audit Committees through her client-facing role. Through her experience in working with a wide range of clients, Rosina brings a breadth of experience in accounting, financial reporting, internal control and governance. A graduate in Economics and Politics, Rosina is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales and a Member of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Rosina moved to Adelaide from London last year. Her Board experience in the UK includes The International Hotel Investment Forum and Business in Sport and Leisure.

I am involved in the conservation of threatened plants and associations at Thomas Gully, an unburnt area on the northern side of Mount Bold Reservoir. It is not cleared and it has not been grazed. Almost all of the remaining bushlands in the Adelaide Hills have a shrubby understorey. This is one of the few surviving areas with an understorey of native grasses, lilies and daisies. Such areas were quickly used for cultivation or grazing soon after European settlement.

This valuable site contains the last remaining survivors in the Mount Lofty Ranges of three to five species of plants, one of which is

nationally vulnerable. It is currently under threat of inundation by the plans to expand Mount Bold Reservoir.



Wurmbea uniflora (One-flower Nancy)

I have commenced work on remediation of the site with the help of two subcontractors. We have been able to remove the immediate weed threat for rare plants in areas that may be submerged; we are on schedule to conserve rare plants in areas not facing inundation.

The photographs in this article are ones I have taken of endangered plants at this valuable Mount Bold Reservoir site.

The Hon. David Wotton - CHAIRMAN

The Hon. Don Hopgood AO - DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

The Hon. Dean Brown AO

Ms Mary Walters - PUBLIC OFFICER

Professor Don Bursill AM

Mr Graeme French

Ms Susie Herzberg

Mr Robert Kidman

Professor Caroline McMillen

Mr Keith Yates

Mrs Rosina Hislop

*We thank you
for your support*