



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARDS FOR 2008**

The Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Awards are provided to assist postgraduate research students at The University of Western Australia by providing an opportunity to travel interstate or overseas to augment their research. The Postgraduate Research Travel Awards were established by Convocation to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University. One award is provided from income from The University of Western Australia Visa Card Scheme with BankWest. The remaining awards are provided from donations by graduates of the University, the Postgraduate Students Association and from funds provided by the University Research Committee.

## **MATILDA AWARD FOR CULTURAL EXCELLENCE FOR 2007**

Convocation, in conjunction with the UWA Student Guild, makes an annual presentation of a cultural award (known as the Matilda Award) recognising excellence and outstanding achievement in cultural pursuits such as music, literature, public speaking, dance, visual arts and drama. The significance of the nominee's contribution is considered at international, national, state, community and university levels. The winner of the Matilda Award will be announced at this evening's ceremony.



# CONVOCATION AWARDS CEREMONY 2007 PROGRAMME

## CHAIRPERSON

Ms Natalie Mast, Convocation Awards Committee Convener

REFRESHMENTS (5.00 P.M.)

WELCOME (5.30 P.M.)

Dr Sue Baker, Warden of Convocation

## ADDRESS

Professor Alan Robson AM, Vice-Chancellor

## PRESENTATION OF POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARDS

*Geoffrey Kennedy Postgraduate Research Travel Award*

The Hon. Geoffrey Kennedy AO

*Alexander Cohen Postgraduate Research Travel Award*

The Hon. Geoffrey Kennedy AO

*Ken and Julie Michael Postgraduate Research Travel Award*

His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC & Mrs Michael

*BankWest Postgraduate Research Travel Award*

Mr Russel Stokes, BankWest

*Postgraduate Students Association Research Travel Awards*

Ms Bronwyn Crowe, President, Postgraduate Students Association

*Postgraduate Research Travel Awards*

Professor Robyn Owens and Dr Sue Baker

## ADDRESS

Ms Susan Hayes, School of Anatomy & Human Biology,  
recipient of a Postgraduate Research Travel Award for 2007

## PRESENTATION OF THE MATILDA AWARD

Dr Sue Baker, Warden of Convocation

PHOTOGRAPHS AND REFRESHMENTS (6.00 P.M.)

# POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARDS 2008

## WINNERS



HUGO ACOSTA-MARTINEZ

*School of Civil & Resource Engineering*

Response of skirted shallow foundations under combined transient and sustained uplift loading for offshore applications.



JANE DUNDAS

*Centre for Neuromuscular & Neurological Disorders*

Investigating the effects of the clinical use of a method of brain stimulation (tDCS) that has therapeutic potential for enhancing rehabilitation of patients following brain injury, with movement disorders and/or neurological deficits.



MATTHEW HODDER

*Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems*

To accurately model riser-seabed interaction and subsequently safely predict the fatigue lives of steel catenary risers.



PARWINDER KAUR

*School of Plant Biology*

White rust disease of *Brassica juncea* caused by *Albugo candida* in Australia



MATTHEW LANDERS

*School of Earth & Geographical Sciences*

Investigate the location and distribution of nickel and other metals in the structures of iron oxides, and investigate the effects of heating on the location and distribution of nickel.



KATIE LEWIS

*School of Biomedical, Biomolecular & Chemical Sciences*

The synthesis of novel analogues of 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) for evaluation as drug candidates for the treatment of Parkinson's disease and Burkitt's lymphoma.



WAI MUN LOKE

*School of Medicine & Pharmacology*

The protective roles of dietary polyphenols and their metabolites against atherosclerosis are investigated in both human and animal models.



HAN ENG LOW

*School of Civil & Resource Engineering*

Application of penetrometers in characterization of deep water soft soils.



JOHN MCCABE-DANSTED

*School of Computer Science & Software Engineering*

To collaborate on examining properties of our new logic ROTCL\*, such as its computational complexity.



MERRILEE NEEDHAM

*School of Medicine & Pharmacology*

An in-depth study of Sporadic Inclusion Body Myositis (SIBM), attempting to deepen our understanding into susceptibility genes, genotype-phenotype correlations and ultimately, the pathogenesis of disease.



SERENA O'NEIL

*Centre for Child Health Research*

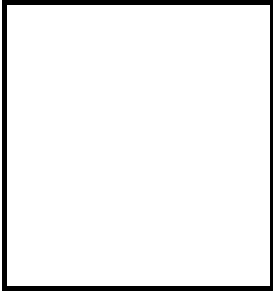
To discover unrecognized cat allergens to accurately define the full spectrum of cat allergens and determine their clinical significance in order to improve the diagnosis of cat allergy and subsequent immunotherapy.



MICHAEL SMITH

*School of Paediatrics & Child Health*

Investigating the effect of glucose on neurocognitive functioning in adolescents.



TOBIAS STRUNK

*School of Paediatrics & Child Health*

Innate immune responses of preterm infants to coagulate-negative staphylococci and related Toll-like receptor agonists.



DIANA TAN

*School of Plant Biology*

Isolation and chemical elucidation of mycotoxins produced by toxigenic Western Australian *Fusarium* species associated with cereal and pasture species.



RENEE TUCKETT

*School of Plant Biology*

Seed ecology and biogeography of vernal pool ecosystems in Western Australia.



INGE TVEDE

*School of Plant Biology*

Identifying the causal agent and conditions conducive towards strawberry root/crown disease in Western Australia.



SASHA VOSS

*Centre for Forensic Science*

Parasitic wasps associated with decomposing remains in Western Australia and their potential as indicators of post-mortem interval in forensic investigations.

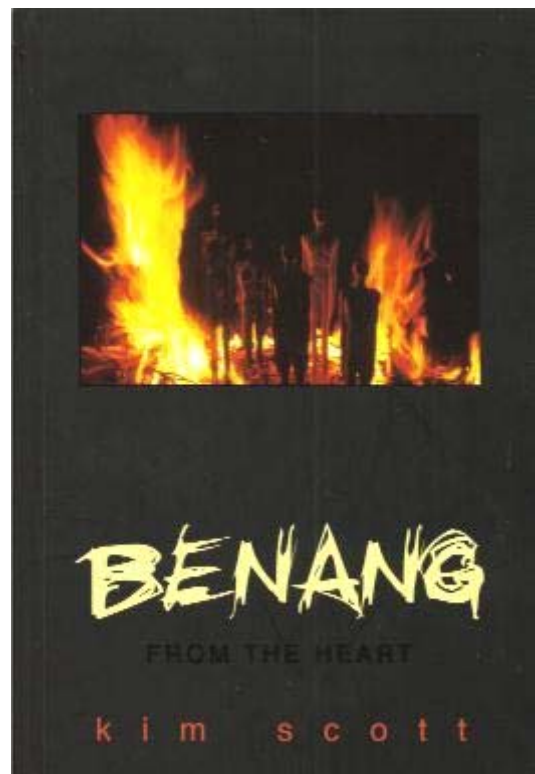
**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!**

# MATILDA AWARD FOR CULTURAL EXCELLENCE 2007 WINNER



Kim Scott is a descendant of Indigenous people who lived along the South-West coast of Western Australia, and is proud to call himself Nyoongar. He is one of Australia's most prominent Indigenous authors of creative fiction, with accolades including the Western Australian Premier's Literary Award and the Kate Challis RAKA Award. In 2000, He was the first indigenous author to win the Miles Franklin Literary Award. In 2003, he was awarded a Centenary Medal for his service as an author and role model for the local Aboriginal community.

Originally studying Arts at Murdoch University, Kim went on to teach English at high schools in Lynwood, Narrogin, Melville and Kalumburu. He later became a lecturer in Contemporary Aboriginal Art and co-ordinator and mentor for the Aboriginal Bridging Course in the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University. Now pursuing a doctorate in Creative Writing from UWA, Kim remains heavily involved in Aboriginal community work. Currently, he is running a Nyoongar language and stories project, with help from the Children's Book Council and Nyoongar elders.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO KIM SCOTT, WINNER OF THE  
2007 MATILDA AWARD FOR CULTURAL EXCELLENCE!**