

RCH Alumni

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Newsletter – May 2020

Photo by Lloyd Shield – *Even dogs need PPE*

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The 2019-20 RCH Alumni Executive

President	Ruth Wraith OAM
Vice-President and Treasurer	Jim Wilkinson AM
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Co-opted members	Caroline Clarke Kevin Collins Hugo Gold Bronwyn Hewitt Peter McDougall Christine Unsworth AM Gigi Williams

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Greetings from the president

Ruth Wraith

The tone, direction and lifestyle of 2020 have changed beyond anything that any one of us could have envisaged when the previous edition of the Newsletter was published in February. The Minutes of the Executive Meeting of 17th April were given context through the following paragraph written by Garry Warne (our Honorary Secretary):

"This meeting was the first to be held during the period of societal lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic which had its origins in Wuhan in November/December. Since late March, everyone in Australia has been encouraged to stay at home and to physically distance themselves from all other people. By 17 April, Australia had recorded 6515 COVID-19 cases and 63 deaths (much better than most other countries). Unemployment is rising and is predicted to reach 10%. All public events have been cancelled for the rest of the year. Churches and most businesses have been closed. Worldwide, more than 2 million cases had been reported."

The Meeting was held via Zoom engaging us with this new (to some) feature of the digital era. We enjoyed the experience, managed to successfully attend to a full agenda and accept that this most likely will be how we will hold our meetings for the time being.

The advent of COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting requirement for stringent distancing practices has caused us to cancel the 2020 programme for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately this may include the Annual Gala Dinner. However, as a major function of the Alumni Association is to facilitate collegiate engagement and interaction we are working to find new ways to achieve this. I would like to rephrase the current terminology from Social Distancing to Physical Distancing and as an Association continue to maintain our social connectedness.

In the early days of the pandemic, Garry emailed Members inviting us to keep in contact with each other. Currently the Executive is investigating the possibility of temporarily replacing the Lunch Meetings with webinars, increasing the frequency of the Newsletter, developing a project to invite Members to reflect on their personal and professional experiences of epidemics, infectious diseases, management, treatment and research to be published in the Newsletter and later collated as a permanent collection. There are other ideas being considered that hopefully will come to fruition before too long. We will keep Members up to date with these developments via the Newsletter and emails.



Two Projects currently under way, 'Way Back When' and 'Turning Points', have progressed but due to the current circumstances are on hold for the time being.

The Alumni web page rch.org.au/alumni provides current news and information as well as a range of other items. Also, we now have an email address: rch.alumni@rch.org.au. Mail sent to this address will be directed to our Secretary Garry Warne.

Last month Tony Cull tendered his resignation from the Executive Committee as he has been caught in New Zealand by the travel restrictions and is not sure when he will be able to return. On behalf of the Alumni the Executive accepted his resignation with regret noting that we will miss his wise and thoughtful contribution. We look forward to his safe return and also his company at future Alumni gatherings.

Gigi Williams known to most of us through her role as Director of ERC is, with her husband, a generous contributor to the Newsletter. She has accepted our invitation to join the Executive as a co-opted member. We warmly welcome her.

We note with sadness the death on 3 April 2020 of our former President, Professor Andrew Kemp and send our sincere condolences to his widow, Sally, and their three children, Celia, Charles and Alice. A profile of Andrew, written by Professor Jim Wilkinson, is on page 25.

My warmest wishes to each of you and to your families as you navigate these unprecedented times.

Ruth Wraith OAM practised as a Child Psychotherapist. [View her full profile](#)

Directing plays: my experience

George Werther

"Great theatre is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to."

– Willem Dafoe

I have always been fascinated by the world of theatre, from my first stage performance at age 8 in Tasmania, playing a butler. Since then I have revelled in a variety of roles through school, university and community theatre. While acting was my first love, especially the joy of discovering and ultimately inhabiting a character, the far broader process of envisioning and realizing the staging of the play had been my unrealised dream.

Around six years ago, having earlier only staged some small pieces, I had my first opportunity to direct a play in community theatre, a challenge I relished. This is the story of that process, which has matured in subsequent years, up to my fifth directing outing, sadly cut short by Covid-19.

1. Selecting the Play

This first step is critical. As an actor, I learned something about what makes a great play. The benchmarks are easy: Shakespeare, Ibsen, Chekhov, Williams, Stoppard, Miller, etc. More difficult is to judge modern plays by less recognized writers. Since I have made it my goal to stage new work as far as possible, play selection is challenging, but the principles, as manifested in all the great playwright's works are fundamental.

These include a story that says something about the human condition, be it dramatic or humorous, characters who are believable, but flawed. They must have aspirations, desires, emotional intelligence, frustrations, and hindrances to their life objectives.

Relationships must reflect these strengths and weaknesses of character; characters must not be clearly black or white, or good or bad, but nuanced.

The story must have meaning for an audience, be it at a personal, social, political or other level. There must be elements of surprise, disappointment, covering a range of human emotions. By "interval" the audience should be desperate to return to the theatre to continue a journey of discovery as the story unfolds, no matter if it is happy, sad, tragic or some form of discovery.

In community theatre in Melbourne, directors are appointed 2 years ahead of the production year, and asked to submit three plays for consideration by a



committee. The committee's choice will take into consideration all of the above, but in addition the nature of their audiences, which tend to be older. While in years past this meant that light and frothy with no "bad" language was the popular choice, in the last 15 years, these considerations have fortunately been largely put aside. My first directing outing was a delightful play by the American playwright AR Gurney ("Sylvia", "Love Letters") called "Buffalo Gal". It contained humour, personal disappointment, unrequited love, via a fading Hollywood diva being invited back to her home town of Buffalo to play the lead in a production of Chekhov's "Cherry Orchard".

My second show was "In the Garden – a Darwinian Love Story", a wonderful play I had seen in Chicago, and never performed elsewhere. It was both informative about Darwin's relationship with his wife, and the tensions involved in ultimately publishing "Origin of the Species". It contained all of the elements described above. My third play was "Other Desert Cities", a Pulitzer prize winner, about an apparently dysfunctional family with a secret, again rich in the elements described.



Once the company selects the play (and all of these three plays were my first choices), they must seek the rights from the publishers or agents. We were fortunate that such rights were obtained. If a competing professional production is planned, the rights may be refused. My last two productions were firstly "Stage Kiss", an hilarious but poignant play about a woman coming back to the theatre after many years, only to discover that her romantic lead in a corny 1930s melodrama is her former lover, raising all sorts of complications. Finally, the play cut short in mid-rehearsal is "4000 Miles", about a disturbed young man who cycles across the US to spend time with his elderly grandmother in New York. These last two plays were not my first choices, as rights were unavailable for my first picks. Nevertheless, these are both excellent plays whose content fulfils the criteria listed.

So, as Hamlet says "the 'play's the thing", in other words, as a director, the choice of play is everything. The wrong choice may well doom the show.

2. Overview and Vision

Following on naturally from the choice and approval of the play, my next task is to lay out a vision of the production. This will include broad concepts such as the main themes of the play, the nature of each character, and the relationships between them. What are their objectives, desires, and hindrances to their goals, and what messages or emotional stimuli will we give to the audience? How will we best portray the story and various sub-plots on the stage?

This will involve some initial thoughts about likely actors, set design, and general staging. These initial thoughts will usually be discussed with the company concerned, who will begin to make up the technical support team, including set, lighting, sound and costume designers, stage manager, set builders, rehearsal prompter, and props person etc. I will have clear ideas about most of the design areas, especially set and sound, where in recent productions my wife Mary has played an increasing role in set design and dressing, and I have designed sound.

3. Gathering the Actors

This is a process that starts very early, in that once the play is chosen and approved (up to 18 months ahead), I will begin to contact potential actors, especially for the leading roles.

Having worked in community theatre for almost 30 years, I have knowledge of many fine actors of various ages and character types. My initial approach involves providing a copy of the play and then seeking interest and availability. While some directors "pre-cast" actors at that stage, I do not, but rather indicate that at audition they will be strongly considered.

The Auditions, held some 3 months prior to opening the show, are by appointment, involving readings of selected pieces from the script, and pairing of actors playing roles opposite one another. At audition, actors may be asked to try some movement and to vary their reading according to some directions. Call-backs may be necessary, particularly if there are several strong contenders for role(s), and to ensure best matching of characters.

Apart from play selection, optimal casting is said to be responsible for over 70% of a successful production, and that has been my experience.



4. The Rehearsal Process

This is the most intensive and rewarding, but also the most variable component of the process leading to staging the show. Following an initial read-through of the play, where the cast meet one another, rehearsals are generally held on two evenings a week and Sunday afternoons.

The mechanics of moving around the stage are important (Noel Coward and others famously said: "Remember your lines, and don't bump into the furniture."), and early in the rehearsal period, we undertake "blocking" to loosely set the moves. More important however is the development of characters and their relationships. Many traditional directors spend little time on this process, leaving it to the actors to discover for themselves, rather focusing on the mechanics of movement and speech.

The modern directing style, which I have adopted, is based on an organic process of partnership between the actors and director. This not only gives the actor far more ownership of the role, but allows far greater capacity for insight into and development of characters and their interactions.

We begin this process by asking the actors to be well-prepared via thorough knowledge of the script, self-analysis of their character and his/her relationship with other characters. This also involves them developing a "back story" for their character, namely imagined earlier events, relationships with characters outside the play, desires, adversities etc. They bring this information to the first full rehearsal, where we set up improvisation

sessions, exploring all these possibilities. These exercises thus provide a strong basis for character and relationship development,

We can then start the “blocking” process on a far firmer grounding, where the character’s intent (now becoming “owned” by the actor) drives the moves in a rational fashion. Every move on stage must be associated with some intent, as in real life. Nothing is more obvious than an actor moving just because the director told him or her to do so.



The Essential Nature of the Text

The text is everything in a play. All the clues are there for the actors and directors to discover. The text is a set of clues to the playwright’s intention for the play. Rehearsals thus continue with joint analysis of the text, scene by scene, involving the cast and the director, such that a deep understanding develops for each scene.

This process of joint discovery of the text then also allows the actors to contribute to the play’s development, by way of trying moves, or vocal intonations etc.

The director’s role is not then simply to instruct his actors as to “what to do”, but rather to facilitate mutual development of the actors’ inhabiting the characters and their relationships - as guided by the text.

Actors are encouraged to try things, to take risks in the safety of the rehearsal room; not physical risks, but varying changes in emphasis, expression, movement, or silence.

It is the director’s role to adjudicate on whether such ventures are successful, or worth pursuing. This joint discovery is one of the joys of rehearsal.

There is however a no-no, and that is deliberate change to the text. The text belongs to the playwright, and is not the actor’s or director’s to change.

I am reminded of a famous playwright partnership of the British playwright Sir Arnold Wesker (“The Wesker Trilogy, The Kitchen” etc) and his US director John Dexter. They had an intense but fraught relationship, ultimately ending in their parting company.

The problem was that Wesker was intensely, but appropriately, possessive of his text, while Dexter was prone to make edits to the play, often deleting paragraphs or more.

This of course infuriated Wesker, who also insisted on sitting in on rehearsals and providing Dexter with profuse “notes” on specific aspects of each actor’s performance, effectively directing the director.

Famously, Dexter was once said to have told Wesker: “Shut up Arnold, or I’ll direct this play the way you wrote it!”

While the text is sacrosanct, the director must at the same time be free to direct.

Over the next weeks, layers of nuance and colour are added, especially once the actors have fully learned their roles, usually by 4 weeks before opening.

I will give “notes” to the actors after each rehearsal over this time, right up to opening night. Such notes might include comments about simple things like voice projection or clumsy moves, or more nuanced issues requiring further discussion – or paraphrasing. Paraphrasing is a sin closely related to deliberately altering the text.

While some actors are convinced that they can express a thought better than conceived by the playwright (their life in the cast is usually short-lived), many actors simply get the words wrong and improvise.

For this reason, an obsessive prompter is valuable in the latter weeks of rehearsal when actors are “off-book”.

One of the best prompters I ever had, as an actor, gave detailed notes of every incorrect word or phrase when she was no longer prompting. While we all had 2-3 pages at first, we competed to get down to only one or two errors!

During this time work continues on set, sound and costume design, as well as program notes and publicity, all overseen by the Production coordinator.

About 1-2 weeks prior to opening, by which time the performances should be well honed, the set built and decorated, and costumes completed, the production comes together at the technical rehearsal, when the show is run “top and tail”, such that the beginnings and ends of each scene are run, as well as all light and sound changes and effects.

This is followed by a full dress rehearsal. There may be several more dress rehearsals before opening night.

5. Opening Night and beyond

On opening night the show is handed over to the stage manager, who has been attending rehearsals and is familiar with details of the staging.

He or she then manages everything that happens on stage, and the director's job is done. It only remains to see how the audience reacts.

The audience reaction is an interesting phenomenon. Actors (and directors) often wish to "blame" the audience for their response to the performance: "That was a very good audience this evening" ...or "What a terrible audience!". Oscar Wilde once said, about a performance of one of his works: "The Play Was a Great Success, But the Audience Was a Total Failure". It often doesn't occur to actors that their performance varies from night to night.

In general, the quality of any show improves over time, with actors finding new confidence, nuances, and generally further inhabiting their characters and their relationships. And of course audiences respond to these changes. While a show may be very well rehearsed by opening night, it will nevertheless improve with each performance.

Some nights however stand out as better than others, and on those nights the cast may praise the audience.

And the converse is true following lesser performances. As Groucho Marx said: "I didn't like the play, but then I saw it under adverse conditions – the curtain was up".

In any case, actors do crave feedback from audiences, both in the theatre and in the foyer after the show.

Of course they hope to receive positive feedback, but sometimes a "well-meaning" audience member may make a suggestion to an actor about how they might improve their performance.

While I mentioned earlier that my job as director is done when I hand over to the stage manager on opening night, there are two exceptions. One is that I may still give notes to actors during the season, where I can see potential improvements, or where the actor has tried something new and I felt it worked or otherwise. The other is to remind the actors that there is only one director, so that no matter what suggestions are made by audience members, they must ignore them, or at least discuss them with me as their director.

6. Theatre versus Medicine

A few years ago I performed in an independent theatre production "Café Scheherazade", based on Arnold Zable's wonderful book, at Fortyfive Downstairs.

After seeing the show, Derek Guille, who was hosting the Evening Show on ABC Radio, invited me for an interview on air.

He asked me to discuss commonalities between medicine and theatre. I told him there were many similarities, including one of the cardinal rules in both fields, namely to "listen".

While we all learned this early in our medical training as a key part of taking a history, and examination, I learned much later from great actors that, on stage, listening is fundamental.

We have all seen actors who wait expressionless for their cue, so they can utter their next line, following which they again retreat into blankness.

On the other hand, we intuitively recognise great acting when the actor concerned is not speaking, but is reacting – because they are listening and responding appropriately.

I always tell my actors to watch performers with this in mind, and of course they need to learn the same lesson of the critical component of listening. This is something we explore in the rehearsal room.

Another related commonality between medicine and theatre is empathy and insight. These are of course critical attributes in establishing a relationship with a patient or a parent. Similarly, an actor must find empathy for and/or insight into both his or her own character and for the other characters he relates to.

Finally, on a more prosaic level, the art of communication, whether inter-personal or via public speaking is a critical skill in medicine, and is clearly so in theatre.

In conclusion

Both medicine and theatre have been wonderful and rewarding adventures. My theatre pursuits continue, and I hope to see you in a theatre lobby at some time.

Professor George Werther is a paediatric endocrinologist and a past Director of Endocrinology and Diabetes at RCH.

High Victorian Gothic

Gigi and Robin Williams

Gigi and I recently photographed Highgate Cemetery in London – a strange location you might think!

In fact it is at once mysterious and macabre, but also a true slice of Victorian history. Many visit to find the graves of celebrities such as George Michael and Karl Marx but we visited because of its intrinsic dark beauty. We photographed in colour, monochrome and infra-red.

The cemetery has a fascinating history. In the early 1800s London had a population of just one million people.

In the following decades the population increased rapidly and the number of deaths along with it. Very little new burial space had been put aside to cater for the growing numbers and the inner city graveyards were full to capacity despite the practice of digging up previous occupants and stacking their bones on the edges of graveyards, or in crypts underneath the churches.

The best example of this can be found at St Bride's Fleet street where thousands of sets of bones are neatly stacked in the Crypt, dating back, in some cases, to Roman occupants.

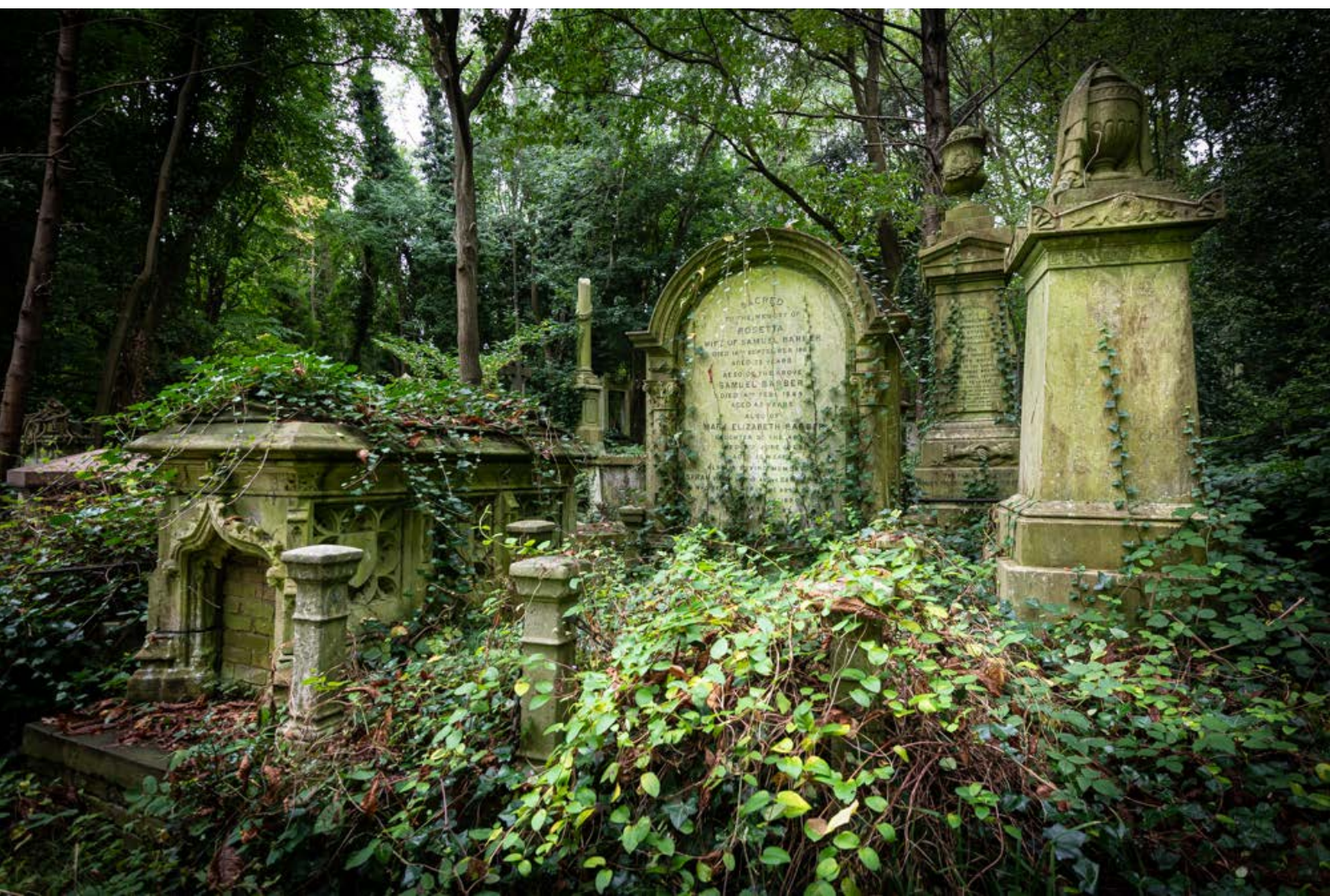


After an aborted trip to Europe, like retirees all around the world, Gigi & Robin are currently in self-isolation as a protection from the corona virus.

So by the early decades of the nineteenth century London was facing a major public health crisis. Graveyards and burial grounds were crammed in between shops, houses and taverns — wherever there was space.

Quicklime was often thrown over the body to help speed decomposition, so that within a few months the grave could be used again.

The smell from these disease-ridden burial places was terrible. They were overcrowded, uncared for and neglected.





Parliament passed legislation to create seven new cemeteries in the countryside around the capital for the burial of London's dead.

Amongst these was Highgate. Interestingly the building and management of these burial grounds was to be a private commercial endeavour and The London Cemetery Company won the tender.

David Ramsey, renowned garden designer and landscape architect was commissioned to create state of the art gardens which would be characterized by stunning scenery, contemporary architecture and beautiful statuary.

The sum of £3,500 was paid for seventeen acres of land that had been the grounds of the Ashurst Estate, descending the steep hillside from Highgate Village.

Over the next three years the cemetery was landscaped to brilliant effect by Ramsey with exotic formal planting, complemented by the stunning and unique architecture of both Geary and Bunning.

It was this combination that was to secure Highgate as the capital's principal cemetery. Everyone who was anybody wanted to be buried here (cremation was not at all popular in Britain until after the First World War).

The Victorians were obsessed by everything Gothic. Many people in the Victorian age were left feeling





insecure by the dramatic changes they experienced in their lives, with cities rapidly growing, the workforce changing beyond recognition, and in particular political reaction in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars.

The result was people (especially the well-to-do) felt a deep need for a return to an earlier, simpler, time, to an established and recognizable order. Highgate's Neo-Gothic architecture was an expression of this.

In May 1839 – the same time as the birth of practical photography – Highgate Cemetery was opened by the Right Reverend Charles James Blomfield, Lord Bishop of London. Fifteen acres were consecrated for the use of members of the Church of England and two acres set aside for dissenters (people who were not Church of England).

The marvellous elevation overlooking London, rising to 375 feet above sea level at its highest point, along with its unique architecture, meant that the wealthy would be encouraged to invest.

The millionaire newspaper owner Julius Beer was one such investor who built the cemetery's most impressive monument, to his eight year old daughter Ada.

Two chapels, one for the Church of England and the other for Dissenters, were housed within one building, built in the Tudor Gothic style, topped with wooden turrets and



a central bell tower. The archway beneath the bell-tower gives an imposing entry to the Cemetery.

In the heart of the grounds was created the Egyptian Avenue, an imposing structure consisting of sixteen vaults on either side of a broad passageway, entered via a great arch.

These vaults were fitted with shelves for twelve coffins and were purchased by individual families for their sole use.

This avenue then lead to the Circle of Lebanon which was built in the same style and consisted of twenty vaults on the inner circle with a further sixteen added in the 1870s, built in the Classical style.

The Circle was created by earth being excavated around an ancient Cedar of Lebanon, a legacy of the Ashurst Estate, and was used to great visual effect by the cemetery's designers.

Above this, a separate Gothic style catacomb, named the Terrace Catacombs due to its position on the site of the earlier terrace of Ashurst House, was completed in 1842.

This was built with an impressive eighty yard frontage and room for a total of eight hundred and twenty-five people in fifty-five vaults of fifteen loculi each, with each locus being sold individually to house one coffin. These were typical of the fashion for above ground burial.



Over the next twenty years Highgate became the capital's most fashionable cemetery. Occupants include Rossetti, George Elliot, Karl Marx, Michael Faraday and thousands of other famous Londoners. In 1854 the London Cemetery Company was so profitable that the cemetery was extended by a further twenty acres on the other side of its Swain's Lane site. This new ground, now known as the East Cemetery, was opened in 1856.

By the turn of the century, the desire for elaborate funerals was waning and families began to choose less ostentatious memorials than in previous decades. At the outbreak of the First World War, most of the cemetery's forty or so gardeners and grounds-men were called up to fight. Although some wealthy families continued to purchase select Rights of Burial into the 1930s, Highgate Cemetery was passing into a long terminal decline. Increasingly, graves were abandoned as families died out or moved away and maintenance became minimal. In 1956 in an attempt to raise much needed income, the Cemetery sold off its stone mason's yard along with the Superintendent's house. The two chapels were also closed in the same year. The London Cemetery Company was finally declared bankrupt in 1960 and was absorbed into the larger United Cemetery Company, which for the next fifteen years struggled to keep the cemetery afloat. Funds eventually ran out and the gates were closed. The Cemetery faced a bleak and uncertain future. Throughout the 1960's the cemetery was officially closed but vandals, 'spiritualists' (and fashion photographers) entered the burial grounds which were by now totally overgrown. Skeletons were hanging out of decayed coffins and trees and shrubs enveloped the architecture.

In 1975 The Friends of Highgate Cemetery was formed with the aim of conserving the cemetery, its monuments and buildings.

Work began on clearing the overgrown landscape and repairing some of the monuments to make the burial ground once again safely accessible to the public. Over seventy monuments, have now been listed by English Heritage as Grade 1.

Both sides of the cemetery have been re-opened for occasional burials - including that of George Michael, Douglas Adams and ex-KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko (stabbed with a poisoned umbrella).

We can highly recommend a visit. There is no parking on-site so take the Northern Line underground to Archway station, leave via the Highgate Hill exit and take the 143 bus to Waterlow Park.

A short walk through the park brings you to Swain's Lane and the cemetery. The East side is open to all (this is where Karl Marx is buried) but the really interesting dilapidated Gothic side is open by pre-booked guided tour.

[View more of our images from Highgate](#)

Gigi Williams was at the time of her retirement, Head of the Educational Resource Centre (now Creative Studio) at RCH. [View her full profile](#)

Dr Robin Williams is Professor of Photography and Dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and Communication at RMIT University.

Are we sleepwalking towards the next financial crisis?

Jim Keipert

In case any cynical critics might think I was being wise after the event I submit the following facts to nullify any such thoughts about my prediction of the financial crisis and stock market crash.

I composed the title of this paper in November 2019 when the thought of an impending financial crisis was not fashionable. It was one of five short papers which were submitted to the curriculum committee of Stonnington University of the Third age for presentation in one session in the first semester of 2020. It was accepted and the full title was printed in the program distributed to members in December 2019. It was to be presented in May 2020, giving the reasons that convinced me at the time I composed the title, plus a few facts arising since.

Firstly, what was happening in the world economies.

China

In recent years China's share of the global economy has doubled, and it has become very important in Australia's economy with nearly a third of our exports going to China. More recently, however, China's economy, weighed down by the trade conflict with the United States, especially its commitment to purchasing an extra 200 billion dollars' worth of goods and services over the next 2 years, together with China's own attempt to rein in some of the excessive leverage in its economy, has slowed its growth rate to the lowest it has been in three decades. Last year it grew at only 6.1%, whereas in 2012 it was 10%. So, we can see that China's economy had been significantly diminished by the arrival of the coronavirus epidemic. With the SARS epidemic in 2003 China's GDP reduced by 1% and Hong Kong's by 2.6%. The coronavirus outbreak predictably had a dramatic effect: with 56 million people effectively in quarantine for an extended period in Hubei Province, a key manufacturing, transport and logistic hub; occurring at Chinese New Year, a time of maximal travel inbound and outbound; and especially as services now represent a majority of China's economic growth, and they will be badly impacted by the coronavirus epidemic.

The United Kingdom

After the split from the EU in February, strong doubts exist about whether the UK and the EU can negotiate mammoth new trade, security and immigration deals in



the 11-month window to 2012. The Bank of England has slashed growth forecasts for the next 3 years, with paltry growth of 0.8% in 2020 down from a prediction of 1.2% in late 2019.

Europe is said to be on the brink of recession, with Greece and Italy in a state of financial insecurity, but surprisingly Germany - the largest in Europe - also teetering on the brink of recession, weighed down by a weak manufacturing sector, and growth of only 0.6% for the year.

Japan is growing at the slowest rate for 6 years.

The Asia Pacific

The coronavirus pandemic could cost the region \$320 billion and slow economic growth to its lowest rate since the Global Financial Crisis. Hong Kong is in severe recession from the impact of prolonged mass political protests.

The U.S.A.

The economy has been in a reasonable state, although not the magnificent state as described by President Trump, but it is being adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic, which if it doesn't peak this quarter will severely affect the U.S. economy.

Seventeen countries which I won't detail have had insurrection varying from significant civilian unrest to revolt to actual warfare related to civilian poverty, inequality, repression, and government incompetence,

corruption and unacceptable policies. Many are in a state of financial distress. And there are a number of potential flash points in the world.

And what about the Australian situation?

Household debt, at just under 200% of disposable household income is at record high levels. Australia has the second highest number of indebted households in the developed world. We have the disadvantage of huge household debt with the advantage of high rates of home ownership which is falling as older people with high rates of home ownership are dying. Household savings are at record low levels. Wages growth for the past 7 years has been at the lowest level on record. Consumer confidence is at record low levels. Household spending has been severely impaired. The cost of living is continuously rising despite long term static wages.

Because of these factors the majority of households did not spend the government tax rebate as the government fervently hoped, but used it sensibly to pay off debt. The government would have achieved a much better response by giving the rebate to Newstart recipients (the unemployed) or pensioners. And the majority of households did not respond to the Reserve Bank of Australia's interest rate cuts aimed at encouraging people to spend and stimulate the economy, to get unemployment below 4.5% and force wages growth to at least 3%. Paradoxically the RBA's record interest rate cuts have caused higher priced assets in the form of shares and houses while households have increasing debt. Reduced household spending contributed to retailers enduring their worst Christmas and New Year sales period since 1990. Before this the retail sector was suffering anyway.

The Australian economy has been performing at a below optimal level. Before the Global Financial Crisis in 2008 it grew by an average of 3% per annum. In February 2020 it was growing at half that level, 1.5%, but a number of authorities are expecting growth to drop to 1.2 or 1.3% in 2020 while others are forecasting negative growth for the March and June quarters – a recession. The further drop was partially due to the negative effect of the bushfires and coronavirus epidemic. Contrast these estimates with the much more optimistic forecasts of the government.

The level of inflation is persistently lower than that desired by the RBA. The unemployment rate of 5.1 to 5.3% is equivalent to a real rate of 8.5 to 9%, and has not responded to the RBA's or government's efforts to get it lower. Unemployment is expected to rise by at least

1 percentage point in 2020. This could leave 2 million Australians out of work or unable to get as much work as they wish. Construction is shrinking at its fastest rate since 1999. Business investment is declining. There has been a decline in productivity for the first time. Forty percent of Australians expect 2020 to be financially worse than 2019 – one of the bleakest results of 47 nations researched. The Federal government proposed that it would have a budget surplus in its first year of government, but it did not achieve that hallowed state until it confidently predicted in 2019 that it would have a definite surplus in 2020, only to have it snatched away by current circumstances.

The majority of economists would definitely prefer for Australia's sake that the government had let the budget remain in deficit by borrowing money to invest in infrastructure development, especially with interest rates at an all-time low. The Federal government intermittently boasts about how they are paying off the crippling debt that Labor left them nearly 7 years ago, when in fact the Coalition government has nearly doubled that debt, and the interest on that debt we tax payers are coughing up without complaint is \$17 billion per annum.

And the stock market...

It has had a phenomenal rise in the past 5 or 6 years of 3000 points to a high of just over 7000. There have been 23 bull markets since 1897. This is the longest bull market ever. The average bull market lasts about 5 ½ years. Some of the longest bull markets included one which began four years after the end of World war 2 and ran for 6 ½ years. Another began in 1990 and ran for about 7 years. The previous longest started in the early 1920s. It ran for 8 years and led to the 1929 stock market crash and the Great Depression. This boom emerged after the destruction of World War 1 and fed on the reconstruction that followed.

Now I don't want to scare the pants off you, but the present bull market has been running for 10 ½ years and emerged after the Global Financial Crisis of 2008-9, and similarly has fed on the reconstruction and recovery from that, so prepare for the worst, or to put it in more positive light, wait for the stock market crash and then buy shares at what will prove in the future to be bargain prices at the bottom of the market.

Jim Keipert practised as a General Paediatrician with a special interest in Dermatology. [View his full profile.](#)

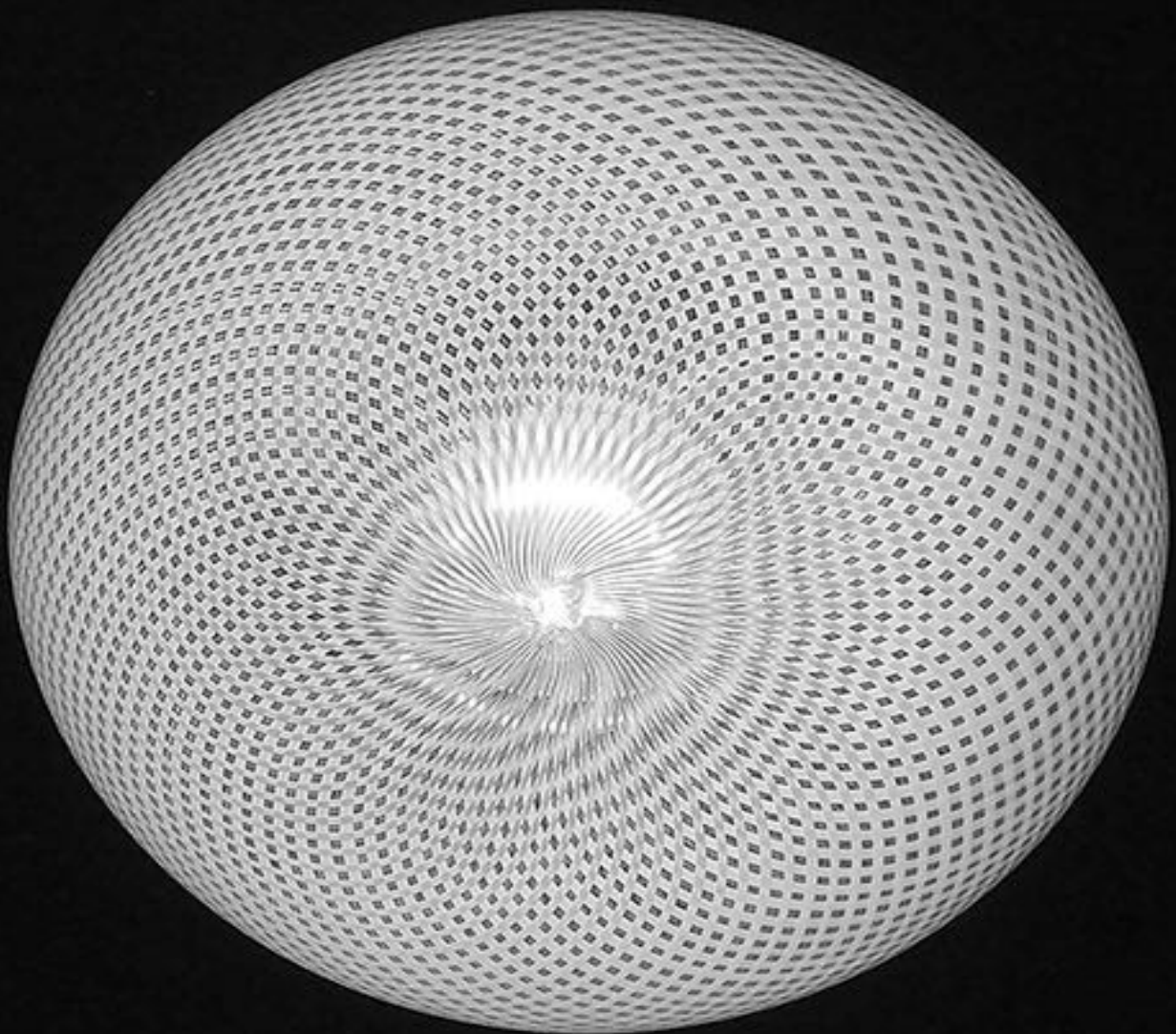
Seeing light differently

Lloyd Shield

Light is one of the fundamental elements of photography. So why are we always prioritising suitable subjects when it has been said that a subject is only there to make the light look beautiful? This may seem an extreme point of view, but the more you seek out light, for its own beauty, the more seductive it becomes.

I confess to being obsessed with light. Everyday I am seeing beautiful light. This was the background to an approach to travel photography during trips to Italy and France in 2017 and 2018.

Being less capable than previously of carrying a large SLR and several lenses, I decided to change to a small camera and a single lens. If I could not photographically capture what I was seeing, then so be it. Being a chromophobe, I decided to ignore the dominant paradigm of always



shooting in colour and later converting to monochrome if desired. I would shoot only in monochrome.

Seeing and appreciating light, recording it monochromatically and paying particular attention to image design elements became the photographic mission of these two trips.

Travelling with even a small group does not readily lend itself to serious photography. Almost all the images I made for two Audio-Visual projects were captured during group outings with a guide, in museums, cathedrals or other places of worship, art galleries and historic sites. Most were in low light conditions. As I elected to not take a tripod, most were images made using high ISO values (high sensitivity of the camera sensor), hand

held or with whatever support might be available. Some were seen and captured in a very short time so as not to lose the group disappearing down a dark corridor. Many group members were perplexed as the camera was usually pointed in a direction clearly away from some famous object. On one occasion I was asked why I was photographing a cobweb!

This is not everybody's concept of travel photography. The images can speak for themselves, but for me it was a satisfying way of appreciating and recording light, in a way that also required attention to elements of design.

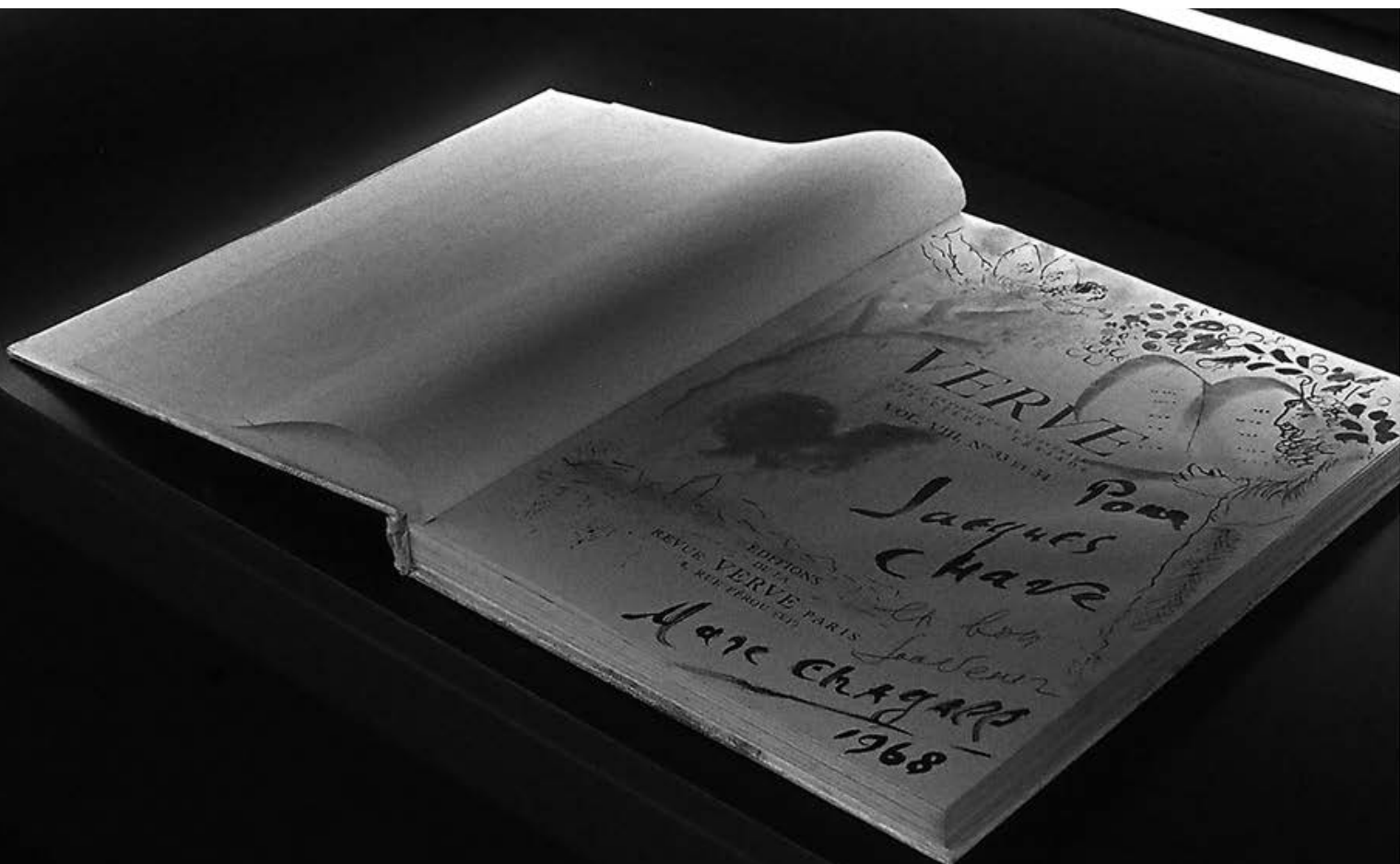
Lloyd Shield, now a fully certified photographer, was in a previous life the Director of Neurology at RCH.

View Lloyd's movie presentations



Note - clicking the movies will open them in the Dropbox website to play.

You do not need to login to Dropbox to view them. Simply close the login/signup box that initially appears.



Adelie penguins and the krill fishery

Knowles Kerry

When Nations ratified the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) they signed up for a brand new method of regulating Antarctic fisheries.

They agreed that these fisheries should be managed in a way that takes into account the species that depend on the target species for food. In the case of the krill fishery it is species such as Adelie penguins, crabeater seals and baleen whales. Initially this concept was interpreted as managing the Antarctic ecosystem but soon changed in practice to managing a fishery in an ecosystem context.

However you interpret the words of the Convention the spirit remains the same, to balance the fish catch with the needs of the dependant and related species. As a member of the Australian delegation negotiating the Convention pushing this idea, or was it an ideal, I was pleased when this concept was incorporated.

I am not sure if anyone had any idea how it could be done. I certainly didn't, and spent many years in a research program to find out. This program concerned the Adelie penguin and the krill fishery.

Krill *Euphausia superba* (above, fig. 1) is found in large dense often vast swarms close to and in association with Antarctic pack ice but its distribution is patchy and variable. The standing stock of krill is estimated to be about 150 -350 million tonnes, roughly the same as the global human biomass!

Between 1974 and 1989 the catch of krill in the fishing zone adjacent to the coastline at Mawson averaged 6214 tonnes per year. The standing stock and the annual variation of krill biomass over the same period and within the foraging range of breeding penguins is not known.

In 1990 it was decided to study the Adelie penguins along the coast at Mawson on the assumption that they forage in the area of the krill harvest. We expected that by studying their breeding biology and feeding ecology we could identify parameters that would indicate any adverse impact of a fishery.

A field station (above, fig. 2) was established close to Mawson on Bechervaise Island and a colony of some 2000 Adelie penguins chosen for study.

Birds on foraging trips were tracked by satellite (above, fig 3) and then food samples were taken from them, by gastric lavage, on their return (next page, fig 4)



Fig 1, above. Krill. In life it is about 60 mm long. Swarms of krill often stretch for a kilometre or more.



Fig 2, above. Field station on Bechervaise Island. "Googie huts", Tasmanian designed and built. Their 360° aerofoil structure keeps them free of snow.

Fig 3, below. The tracks of two penguins are shown on the contemporary satellite image of the sea ice. Their path from Mawson crosses the fast ice (white) to open water (black) in then out among the pack ice.

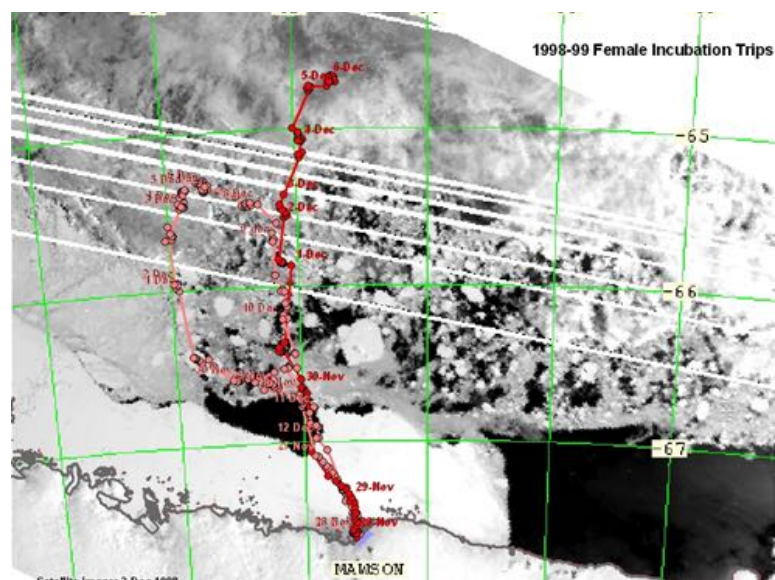




Fig 4, above. Kudelka cartoon. Fish is second in importance to krill in their diet.

An automated penguin monitoring system (APMS) was used to identify, weigh, record direction of travel and log all penguins and in particular those that previously had been sexed and given an implanted identification tag. This APMS was specifically designed for this program and manufactured by the Australian Antarctic Division. It was placed strategically on the path taken by the penguins (below, fig. 5). This enabled a very detailed quantitative picture to be accumulated of the breeding cycle from known age Adelie penguins.

Breeding chronology

Adelie penguins arrive at their breeding colony in October after spending the winter in the packice. Males arrive first, generally returning to their same nest site. Females arrive soon after. Both need to have put on good fat reserves to last them through courtship and egg laying.

Fig 5, below. APMS. Penguin crossing the weighbridge on its way to the colony. The big box houses the system controller, data logger and communications. Either side of the weighbridge are the tag identification antennae through which shine the direction beams. Small fences keep the birds in the straight and narrow path to the colony.



Once the female has laid two eggs she goes to sea for 15-20 days to replenish her fat reserves leaving the male to continue the incubation until relieved.

The duration of the foraging trips during this period is indicative of the availability of food within a radius of 300km. Once the chicks hatch in late December their parents alternate guard and feeding duties every 2-3 days. These birds foraged out to a range of about 100 km radius (Fig. 3).

When the chicks are 2-3 weeks old they are left alone and huddle together in crèches. Both parents then forage and return to feed their chicks every 3-5 days but still foraging within a 100km radius. The foraging trip durations and the mass of food delivered are indicative of prey availability. Chick counts provide an evaluation breeding success.

By 7-9 weeks of age the chicks have replaced their down and moulted into adult feathers.

The parents now make longer foraging trips up to 300 km off shore where they feed to fatten up to moult and prepare for the winter among the sea ice.

Assessing the possible impact of a krill fishery.

These studies showed the potential for a localized krill harvest to have some impact on the penguins but actually measuring this impact is very much harder. The results suggest that a combination of parameters will probably be needed to quantify this relationship. Those we believe might show the best promise from year to year, include: Incubation shift duration for males and females; meal size delivered to chick; growth rate of the chick; fledging date and weight. Foraging trip duration may be particularly useful because it correlates with distance travelled. Long term changes in the face of a continued krill harvest would be revealed by changes in breeding success, fecundity, and survival.

Conclusions

There is a certain irony in that from the first year of this research in 1990, the krill fishery ceased in the area to the north of the study colony. In many respects however this was a blessing as our baseline results recorded normal variation but were not confounded by the overlay of the krill harvest.

Coming back to the original question, do we have enough data to estimate the impact of a given level of krill fishing in the foraging zone of the penguin's. The answer is probably no because we have no information on the quantitative response of the penguins to different levels of krill availability.

However, we do have sufficient information to identify adverse trends in the penguin population should food become limiting during the breeding season. The penguin monitoring is continuing and the APMS is still in use.

Finally, in the absence of krill related data, can we use the predator data alone for management of the fishery? I would like to think we can.

If there is a fishery in the region and the predators are adversely affected by an apparent lack of food the fishing agency hopefully could be convinced to reduce the fishing pressure. The moral high ground is on a path rarely followed but there are signs it may be taken.

After a long gap, small catches of krill were harvested in the Prydz Bay region of 504 tonnes and 217 tonnes in years 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively.

It is too early to identify any impact. Will a larger krill harvest follow, I don't know. I am with the penguins however and happy with the status quo.

Footnote

Apart from the initial capture and tagging of the penguins the majority of the data are gathered remotely by the APMS.

This minimises interference and the stress to the penguins. The knowledge gained in this program will also help conserve the Adelie penguins on land.

The field programs were carried out with the approval the ethics committee of the Australian Antarctic Division.

I acknowledge Dr Judy Clarke, DR Louise Emmerson and our long term colleagues, also the electronics engineers and our field assistants.

Knowles Kerry AAM PhD. Formerly Principal Research Scientist with the Australian Antarctic Division. [View his full profile.](#)

Osteomyelitis – why I didn't play rugby league for Australia!

Jeff Prebble

Osteomyelitis was probably first recorded by Hippocrates (460-370 BC) when he described a case after a fracture. Prior to 1940 there was a 30% mortality.

Diagnosis was delayed as X-ray changes take at least two weeks. Complications included chronic bone infection, spread to other bones or organs and septicaemia.

Treatment was surgical with removal of diseased tissue and sometimes amputation. In the 1940s the availability of injectable antibiotics particularly penicillin given for 4-6 weeks and improved nutrition and hygiene resulted in fewer cases and more successful treatment.

Then in the 1960s penicillin resistant *Staphylococcus* created another problem.

In 1961, I was in grade 7 at Wynnum North State Primary School. I loved sport and played tennis and rugby league. I was the half back and kicker for the under 4 stone (25.5kg) team (in those days school teams were selected based on weight not age or ability).

I had visions of playing for Australia. Mind you my team had the distinction of not winning a match all season. One day I developed a painful swelling of my right wrist.

A few days later osteomyelitis was diagnosed, I was admitted to the Mater Children's Hospital in Brisbane and commenced four weeks of six hourly intramuscular injections of antibiotic.

After discharge, my arm was in a plaster cast for another six weeks and I couldn't return to school which I thought was great, so I went trapping finches in the nearby bush. One year later the osteomyelitis recurred. So, I was readmitted to hospital and had surgery.

This has been completely successful. However, my days of football were over. I suspect it provided an opportunity for Wally Lewis!!



In 1972 I graduated in Medicine and over the next 40 plus years I had the privilege of being involved in managing some patients with osteomyelitis.

With improved investigative procedures (e.g. CT scan, MRI scan & nuclear bone scans) diagnosis is made earlier.

Newer antibiotics fight the penicillin resistant bacteria, intravenous drips and now PIC lines avoid the need for repeated intramuscular injections and recent approaches are using more oral antibiotics.

What a change modern medicine has made to this terrible infection.

Jeff Prebble OAM is a general paediatrician who practised for over 25 years in Toowoomba, Queensland. [View his full profile.](#)

Confronting Prejudice & Discrimination

Tony Weldon

The pandemic we are living through now has shown us both the very best and the very worst aspects of humanity.

On the one hand the undaunted commitment to their jobs by health care and other essential services workers and the overall willingness of the community to comply with informed public health advice has been admirable.

On the other hand, we have seen many reports of an upsurge in racist behaviour directed against those of Asian appearance in particular. In recent years anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic incidents involving the use of graffiti, verbal assaults both direct and indirect via the web, as well as vicious and at times lethal, physical attacks.

The question must be asked is such behaviour inevitable, an ugly side to the human condition, or can one try to confront the prejudice that leads to such behaviour.

Within our fading memories there is no greater example of the ultimate potential consequences of bullying, prejudice and discrimination than the events of the Holocaust which led to the deaths not only of 6 million Jews (including 1.5 million children), but also about 7 million Soviet civilians, about 3 million Soviet POW's, about 1.8 million non-Jewish Polish civilians, about 300,000 Serb civilians, about 250,000 Roma (Gypsies), about 1,900 Jehovah's Witnesses, some hundreds or perhaps thousands of homosexuals and an unknown number of Resistance fighters.

Since before my retirement from full-time clinical practice I have been involved with an organisation called B'nai B'rith Courage to Care (Vic.) and since 2005 have been its Chairman. B'nai B'rith is an international Jewish Service organisation having its origins in New York in 1843 and in Australia in 1945.

In 1992 an exhibition was held at the Jewish Museum of Australia in Melbourne highlighting the actions of the Righteous Among the Nations, those brave individuals, diplomats and communities whose actions saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust.

Many of those stories have direct Victorian connections as the survivors and some of the Righteous themselves had made Victoria their home after the war.

Subsequently this exhibition was taken to various regional centres of Victoria, but the main focus changed in 2000 when an educational program was developed with the support of the Victorian Department of Education and,



Tony Weldon facilitating

together with the exhibition, was offered to schools for their students at 2 or 3 sites around the state each year.

This development was very much influenced by the involvement of the late Dr. Reuben Glass (an alumnus of RCH) and his late wife Pauline who had also worked at RCH in administration for some time.

The exhibition and its associated educational program, which is essentially volunteer based, has evolved considerably over the 20 years since then so that over that time more than 140,000 students have participated.

The key messages that the program aims to deliver are that "Each Person Can Make A Difference" and, above all, to "Never Be A Bystander".

Essentially the program aims to motivate students to become "Upstanders" in the face of prejudice, discrimination, racism and bullying of any kind.

The major program that has been offered is directed at secondary school students from all sectors including State, Catholic and Independent schools and many teachers are now including this in their schedule as it is seen to be directly relevant to many areas of the curriculum including English, Modern History, Civics & Citizenship, Psychology and, in religion-based schools, to Religious Education.

Further, the values implicit to the Courage to Care program are seen in the area covering Capabilities that the curriculum expects schools to deliver to their students.

In brief the format of the program is as follows:

- An Introductory film giving historical context to the Holocaust but referring to other genocides and the role of bystanders/upstanders in such events
- A Holocaust survivor, alive today because someone had shown the "courage to care", presenting their experiences in person. Increasingly we are using custodians of these stories – the son or daughter of such a survivor

- With a trained volunteer exploring the stories of 3 or 4 other heroes – for example:
 - from the time of the Holocaust, Miep Gies (involved in hiding and supporting Anne Frank), the village of Chambon, Denmark or the diplomat Chiune Sugihara.
 - William Cooper, the Aboriginal activist who tried unsuccessfully to present a petition to the German Consul protesting about the treatment of Jews in Germany & Austria after learning of the Night of Broken Glass (Kristallnacht), November 1938.
 - a Local Hero – a young person from the region being visited who, by their actions, has demonstrated “upstander” behaviour – for example, students who have acted as mentors to others, students who have initiated support groups for others with issues regarding their sexuality, students who have volunteered for many different roles in their community.
- With a trained volunteer facilitator in small groups discussing the relevance of what they have seen, heard and learnt to their lives today in their specific communities.

Evaluations are sought and the feedback we have received from both students and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. A couple of typical comments are:



The late Herbert Leder (Survivor) presenting to students

“She was reluctant to inform me of the issue, however on reflection of the presentation from the day before she said she decided to be an upstander – this was a concept she learned directly from Courage to Care.” Teacher

“I learnt the important lesson of being an upstander – when you see something going on that isn’t right to stand up and help.” Student

An independent evaluation conducted by the Victorian Department of Education last year concluded that “the Courage to Care program is effective, impartial and unique to other DET education programs. The program should be continued and DET support is pivotal to the program’s success with regard both to funding and reputation.”

The organisation, which for many years depended totally on volunteers, now has a full-time CEO and Program Manager, and part-time School Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator. At the same time, we have some 150 volunteers who assist with the planning and delivery of the program in a range of ways.

While the majority of the volunteers are Jewish, this is certainly not a pre-requisite as the message being delivered is universal. Amongst our volunteers are Prof. Henry Ekert AM who has for some years shared the amazing story of his survival as a child in Poland with many students and Dr. Philip Graves, well-regarded Developmental Paediatrician.

A specific Middle Years Program designed for students in Years 5 – 7 has been introduced this year and a targeted program for staff at the Victoria Police Academy was successfully delivered a couple of years ago. Preliminary work is also being undertaken to develop an on-line version of the program.



Dr Philip Graves with students

Enquiries about volunteering or supporting the organisation by a tax deductible donation are always welcome.

Phone – 03 9533 0955

Email – program.manager@couragetocare.org.au

Website – www.couragetocare.org.au

Dr Tony Weldon is a retired general paediatrician who practised in Frankston.

Some problems starting to arise in aspects of modern life.

Jim Keipert

During the preparation of this paper there has been a delicate metamorphosis in the contents by the addition of a number of matters that have just grabbed my interest.

As a side interest, in addition to the expected definitions of metamorphosis is the marked change that some living beings undergo in the course of growth such as caterpillar to butterfly. Also included is transformation of human being to a beast, stone, tree etc., but this is of course folklore.

In 1985 the average Australian house was between 2 and 3 times the national average salary. In February 2020 Australian home values were about 7 times the average salary. In Melbourne it's 8 times higher, and in Sydney more than 9 times.

The Federal government has reduced funding for Legal Aid. The amount allocated this financial year has been expended in February and no funds are available in Victoria till the next allocation in July 2020.

The market share for electric vehicles in Norway is 46%, Iceland 25%, the Netherlands 15% and Australia 4.7%.

To minimize poker machine losses a voluntary pre-commitment scheme stipulating the maximum amount that would be bet was introduced in 2015. A review in 2018 showed that it was a failure with negligible (0.01% of punters) uptake by punters. Some venues were actively discouraging punters from using the program.

The young are dropping out of private health insurance like flies. Of those aged 20-34 years, 127,000 ditched their insurance in the past 2 years alone. They have almost been replaced by 107,000 people aged 70-84 placing the system under further strain.

The Federal government has been warned that more than one third of the nation's teenagers looking for a career are at risk of being replaced by a machine. The OECD found similar results with a survey of 50 nations. The number of Australians looking for work remains around the 700,000 mark over the past year, and the proportion of long term unemployed is growing. The underemployment rate is stuck at 12%.

It is estimated that the purchase and maintenance of the 12-strong submarine fleet over its lifetime until 2080 will be the biggest military project in Australia's history. It will also be the most expensive program Australia has ever undertaken, costing taxpayers nearly a quarter of a trillion dollars - \$225 billion.

The most recent national data in 2017 showed that in Australia more than a third (35%) of babies were born by Caesarean section. Greater maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality rates were associated with Caesarean Section than with vaginal birth.

Between 2011 and 2016 35 percent more people identified with the option of no religion. These people could be secular or atheist. Australia is now one of the least religious nations in the world and this applies particularly to our youth. A survey of Australian teenagers showed 52% did not identify with a religion. On a different aspect of the subject, of Generation Z high school students - born between 1999 and 2017 - 26% did not have a positive view of Muslims or Hindus.

The Royal Commission into Mental Health called for an overhaul of the mental health sector stating it had catastrophically failed to live up to expectations. A new office dedicated to delivering the recommendations of the Royal Commission has started work.

Just a touch of levity - in February 2020 the number of false or misleading statements made by President Trump since assuming office was 16,241.

34% of Millennials - born between 1981 and 1999 - have given up hope of moving out of their parents' house by age 30. Between 1981 and 2016 home ownership rates among 25 to 34 year-olds fell from 60% to 45%.

Ocean temperatures increased by nearly 2 degrees over the past 80 years in a region extending from the east coast of WA across Victoria and Tasmania to the Queensland-NSW border. Stocks of some of the most popular eating fish in Australia's Southern Ocean have failed to recover from dramatic declines, despite more than a decade of protection against overfishing, because of rising temperatures and altered environmental conditions due to climate change, and a further fall of 20% in fish stocks is expected in the next two decades. Fishing operators are catching less than half their allowed quota for more than two thirds of species.

The time it takes for older Australians to enter a nursing home after being assessed as needing residential care has blown out by almost 50% to two years, while waiting times for the highest level of home care is 34 months. One hundred and twelve thousand people are waiting for home care packages. In an interim report the Royal Commission slammed the aged care system as sad and shocking and diminishing Australia as a nation.

Australian Millennials - born between 1981 and 1999 - are having half as much sex as their parents with 18-24 year-olds joining those over 75 as the least likely to be indulging. Similar findings have been found in the U.K. and U.S., and in Japan, a massive 43% of young people aged between 18 and 24 years confess to being virgins. Suggested causes are desensitizing effects of porn viewing, increased anxiety and depression rates, obesity, rising body image pressures, insecure financial futures and living with parents.

Australians now do an average of 4.6 hours of unpaid work every week adding up to more than 6 weeks every year, and they put in an estimated 2.4 billion hours of unpaid overtime in 2019, worth \$81.5 billion.

Victoria's Country Fire Authority – like the NSW Rural Fire Service – is staffed by volunteers, who fight fires for completely undefined periods – which are often lengthy without a break – without official pay except for the \$300 per day for a maximum of 20 days reluctantly provided by the Federal government during part of the 2019 fire season. In the past they may have been wholly or partly paid by their employer, which was quite unfair as they should – like their counterparts in the Metropolitan Fire Service – be paid by the government.

The number of recorded cases of child maltreatment in Australia has risen strongly in recent years, with a substantial increase in the number of children placed in out of home care. There have been child protection service reports for almost 1 in 5 children by the time they started school. The subsequent rate of diagnosis of mental health problems was three times higher for these children than for other children.

The number of children attending after school hours care has increased by 7 percent per year since 2011. More than 650,000 children attended this care in the year to June 2019, costing the taxpayer \$747 million in childcare subsidies. This number will presumably continue to grow as more mothers enter the workforce.

Newstart (the unemployment benefit or dole) has not seen any increase in the value of payment for over 20 years. Newstart recipients are expending 47% of their income on average on rent.

Of Holden workers who were retrenched a few years ago, only 5% have found a similar job.

In our affluent country, of those living in poverty are about 3 million Australians, one in six children, one in 4 pensioners and one in 3 retired women.

Papua New Guinea will have an anti-corruption commission and whistle blower protection laws sooner than Australia mainly due to our Federal politicians being highly averse to being investigated by an anti-corruption commission.

In response to freedom of information requests the State government has taken to releasing reports with large amounts – and sometimes all – of the contents blacked out. This is a betrayal of the F.O.I. mandate of the legacy of the late John Cain junior, its creator.

In January 2020 a survey of Australia's biggest worries showed that the environment had catapulted to the top leapfrogging cost of living and healthcare (equal) and the economy.

A report in January 2020 showed that the proportion of people aged 60 and over who had recently used illicit drugs increased from 3.9 to 6.9% in the 15 years to 2016.

The Australian Prime Minister received trenchant criticism from multiple countries abroad because of

- His downplaying of the importance of global warming
- Opposing measures to combat climate change
- His holiday abroad at the height of the bushfires
- His attitude to people in the bushfire region on his return
- His initial rejection of funding for voluntary fire-fighters
- And his role together with the USA and Brazil in hindering the U.N. climate protection process at the Madrid conference.

The most trenchant criticism was that Australia's reputation as a global citizen has been irrevocably tarnished.

The cost per annum of obesity in Australia is \$56 billion. The Defence budget per annum is \$36 billion.

More Victorians are dying from drug overdose deaths involving pharmaceutical medicines than from illicit drugs. This death toll is significantly higher than from the State's road toll.

Between 2011 and 2018 the threats of violence against principals of state schools rose from 38% to 45% and violence against them from 28% to 38%.

Over a decade the State government has repeatedly called on the staff of public hospitals to work smarter and fund savings, but staff have no more to give and there is an operational funding crisis in many public hospitals, especially in the wards and emergency departments.

For many years, the big digital companies have shopped around the world for low tax countries where they can park much of their revenue. In December last year the Australian Tax Office forced Google to pay almost half a billion dollars after having its accounts scrutinized going back a decade from 2018. And Facebook, Apple and Microsoft coughed up \$1.2 billion.

Of the 23 million people with a My Health Record, 91% have never accessed their record.

Almost half of Australian midwives have considered leaving the profession with many saying they are working beyond exhaustion as a result of workloads that are highly unreasonable and stupid.

Regional media companies are in serious trouble and twenty-one regional areas are now without a newspaper.

Our prison incarceration rate has increased from 2000 in the year 2000 to 8000 in 2019 and is expected to reach 11,000 in 2023. The increase is significantly due to competing governments' fear of being branded soft on crime.

Jim Keipert practised as a General Paediatrician with a special interest in Dermatology. [View his full profile.](#)

Vale Professor Andrew S Kemp AM

3/6/42 – 3/4/20

By Jim Wilkinson AM

Academic qualifications

MB BS (Melb), 1966

Ph.D. (Immunology) – ANU 1972

MRACP 1975

FRACP 1978

Background

Born at St Andrew's Hospital in East Melbourne, Andrew, together with his brother and sister, grew up in Balwyn and North Balwyn.

His primary and secondary education were completed at Scotch College.

Training

He studied medicine at the University of Melbourne, where he lived in Ormond College for three years. After graduating, Andrew spent a year at the Royal Melbourne Hospital as a resident medical officer, going on to the Royal Children's Hospital as a senior resident in paediatrics.

Andrew's next position was as a research scholar in the Department of Immunology, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra, where his research involved the study of lymphocytes and their movement around the body.

He continued in this field as a research associate in the Division of Immunology, Duke University Medical Centre, Durham, North Carolina, USA.

On his return to Australia, Andrew was appointed as a medical registrar at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, where he remained for two years.

Consultant career

His next move was to Flinders Medical Centre, South Australia, as a staff specialist in clinical immunology and senior lecturer in immunology at Flinders University.

In 1979, he took up a position as head of the Department of Immunology at The Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney, NSW, where he was also a physician in



the Department of Respiratory Medicine, and a clinical lecturer in paediatrics at the University of Sydney.

Andrew returned to the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, in 1990 as the director of Clinical Immunology and director of Paediatric Physician Training.

He was appointed professorial associate and subsequently professor, Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne. From 1995 to 2003, Andrew was the director of the Department of Immunology, Women's and Children's Health Care Network, Royal Children's Hospital.

In 2003, Andrew was appointed professor in the first Australian chair of Paediatric Allergy and Immunology, University of Sydney and Department of Allergy and Immunology, The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, NSW.

He held these positions until he returned to Melbourne in 2009, as a clinical paediatric research immunologist at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

Major Achievements

Throughout his years in the medical profession, Andrew's contribution to his chosen field has been formidable. He held a number of senior positions in professional societies and was a member of expert panels and advisory



Honours

Andrew was appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's birthday honours 2018, for significant service to medicine, and to medical education, in the field of paediatric allergy and immunology as a clinician, academic and researcher.

He was president of the RCH Medical Alumni Association in the years 2014, 2015.

Personal and family matters

Andrew grew up in the Anglican church. His first link with Scots' Church was during the period he was studying at the University of Melbourne, when he used to attend the evening services.

Andrew and his wife Sally, a general practitioner, met as undergraduates.

After graduation Sally worked in Libya and Penang for some years before she and Andrew met up again in Melbourne.

They were married just prior to moving to Durham, North Carolina, where Andrew took up his position at Duke University. Sally worked as a general practitioner at Durham and wherever the family subsequently moved, gaining a wealth of varied experience.

Andrew and Sally have a son, Charles, and two daughters, Celia and Alice.

Andrew was held in high esteem for his intellect, humour and kindness.

With his extraordinary clinical acumen and unique teaching style, he taught successive generations of paediatricians not what to think, but how to think.

His probing questions on ward rounds, and obvious delight when discovering a teaching point arising from something not asked or not examined, were as legendary as his kindness to those in need, and the mischievous glimmer that would appear in his eyes when talking about his beloved Carlton Football Club.

He knew politics but was not political. He was not afraid to express opinions that were unpopular or unfashionable, and revelled in being challenged - for his views had been formed after much thought, and because real intellects are not threatened by differences in opinion.

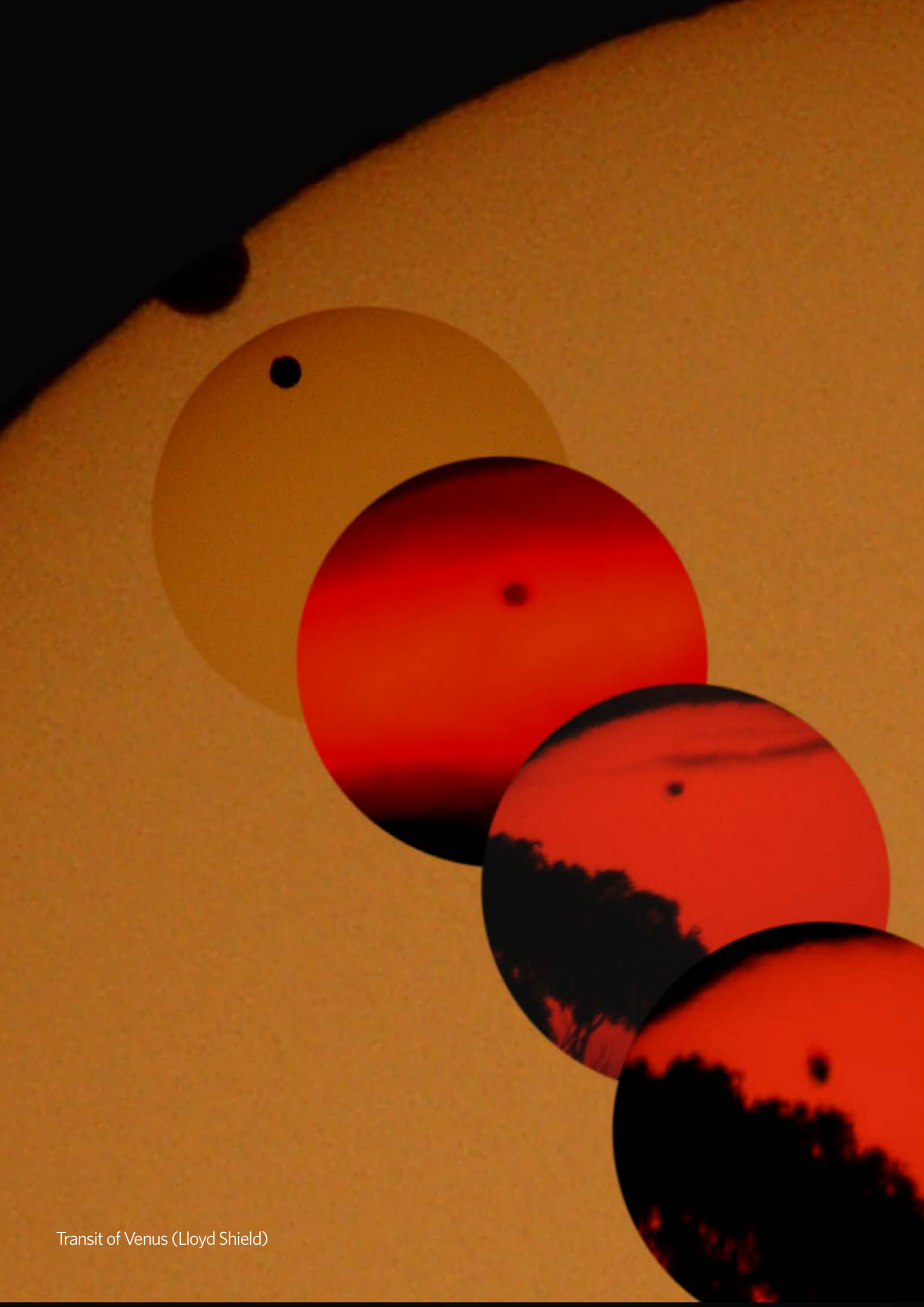
committees, including those with a focus on research and education.

He presented papers based on his original research at many Australian and international conferences and presented post graduate lectures and seminars in Australia and overseas, including the United Kingdom, USA, Hong Kong, Singapore and Sweden.

He was involved in the supervision of students for higher degrees and examined theses for higher degrees for a number of universities.

Andrew undertook postgraduate work, as a visiting fellow, at centres in the United Kingdom, Sweden, USA and Singapore, as well as in Australia.

He published well over 200 articles in refereed journals. His contribution to medical knowledge and to the welfare of children through a lifetime of dedication was enormous.



Transit of Venus (Lloyd Shield)