

THE AUSTRALIAN

Torrens University chief joins COPHE board

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In today's **Higher Ed Daily Brief**: Beilby joins COPHE, SE Asian archaeology

New role for Torrens VC

The **Council of Private Higher Education** (COPHE), the umbrella group for private higher education providers, has brought Torrens University vice-chancellor **Justin Beilby** onto its board. COPHE chief executive **Simon Finn** said that Professor Beilby, who has headed the Adelaide based university since 2015, would help the body in its role of advancing independent higher education. COPHE said that 10 per cent of Australian higher education students are enrolled with independent providers, the equivalent of 4.45 public universities or over 150,000 students.

Ancient population boom

Australian National University researchers have discovered that the population boom which followed the introduction of agriculture in the Middle East thousands of years ago also occurred in South East Asia. They used a new method of measurement, using human skeletal remains, to gather their data.

“We saw huge population growth associated with the agricultural transition,” said **Claire McFadden**, a PhD Scholar with the **ANU School of Archaeology and Anthropology**. “Up until about 4,000 years ago you have hunter gatherer type populations, then you have the introduction and intensification of agriculture.”

She said the ancient population upsurge had not previously been quantified in South East Asia before because procedures used to measure prehistoric populations were

designed for Europe and the Americas where archaeological conditions were different to Asia.

Ms McFadden said she had found huge numbers of infants and children compared to total population, indicating a growing population. This method is possible in South East Asia where children's bones are well preserved, unlike in Europe. But it had not been done previously.

She said her data "aligned perfectly with what researchers expect to see in response to agriculture."

TIM DODD, HIGHER EDUCATION EDITOR

Tim Dodd is The Australian's higher education editor. He has over 25 years experience as a journalist covering a wide variety of areas in public policy, economics, politics and foreign policy, including reporti... [Read more](#)





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Appointments, achievements

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Kerry Wilkinson from the University of Adelaide is the new deputy editor of the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology’s journal. Associate Professor Wilson, with colleagues, created UniAdelaide’s edX MOOC, World of Wine (CMM) (<https://campusmorningmail.com.au/oldies-embrace-lifelong-learnin>) November 11 2015)

The International Federation of French Teachers has announced winners of the first Asia-Pacific Francophone song competition, for university students. The winner is Veruschka Pestano, who studies at Macquarie U, for her performance of ballad, “Encore un Soir”. Runner-up is Emily McCormick from UoQ.

Justin Beilby, VC of Torrens University has joined the board of the Council of Private Higher Education.

The University of South Australia is awarding hon docs to:

Peter Gago (Penfolds chief winemaker) for his “enduring commitment and significant contribution to Australian winemaking.”

Fiona Stanley (Founding Director of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research), “a champion of children’s health

Greg Combet (former federal minister and ACTU secretary): “a complex problem solver, strategist and leader”

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