

# The Advertiser

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GREAT READING INSIDE THE PAPER THIS WEEK

SATURDAY  
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AFL/SANFL  
SEASON PREVIEW  
MAGAZINE

PLUS  
SA'S MOST  
INFLUENTIAL  
WOMEN



# Dyslexic need longer exams

**JORDANNA SCHRIEVER  
EDUCATION REPORTER**

DESPERATE parents are taking their bid for dyslexic students to be granted an extra 10 minutes of reading time for each hour of their Year 12 exams to the Equal Opportunities Commissioner.

Gawler GP and head of the area's Dyslexic Action Group Dr Sandra Marshall said the SACE Board was routinely refusing to grant special pro-

visions to dyslexic students for their Year 12 exams.

"All we are asking for is an extra 10 minutes per hour of exam for the students to be able to read and comprehend the questions," she said. "Exams are stressful enough, but for a dyslexic student they are also worrying about will they have enough time read the questions properly."

She said the extra reading time would help to allay the added anxiety students with

dyslexia suffer, because of their fears of failing to read and understand the questions.

Dyslexia is a disorder which involves difficulty in learning to read words, letters and other symbols and is characterised by a visual and experiential learning style. Dr Marshall said students interstate were given extra reading time, while in the UK all identified dyslexic students were given an extra 25 per cent of time, and the use of a word processor.

She said the group, who will meet with the Equal Opportunities Commissioner tomorrow, were hoping to have their pleas to the SACE Board recognised.

"We need to act now so that dyslexic kids in Year 12 this year get the appropriate accommodations for their end of year exams. It's not about giving them an advantage, but putting them on a level playing field so they can perform their best," Dr Marshall said.

Dr Marshall will attend the meeting with Adelaide barrister and dyslexic Alex Ward.

"This issue strikes me as one of equal opportunity, so we are seeking some information on what to do next," Mr Ward said. "These families are providing reports and diagnosis from qualified psychologists, yet they are still being denied extra reading time."

The South Australian Association Of State School Organisations has also released

an election wishlist, which calls for recognition and per student funding of dyslexia, independent assessments for early diagnosis and independent training for all teachers.

Director David Knuckey said dyslexia needed appropriate recognition so teachers could help students.

Dr Marshall and Mr Ward will also meet SACE Board chief executive Dr Neil McGorran next week.

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## 3D tissue to ease patients' surgeries

**LUCIE VAN DEN BERG**

MELBOURNE scientists are growing 3D spheres of tissue that could be used instead of fat grafts in burns and trauma victims, and cancer survivors.

The O'Brien Institute has begun an ambitious new project to grow 3D surgical flaps to repair patient's wounds.

Part of the material being trialled will be taken from fatty tissue from liposuction.

The technology could avoid the need for patients to have large pieces of their own tissue grafted from a healthy part of the body to repair the wound.

O'Brien Institute director Professor Wayne Morrison said the ultimate aim would be to spare patients extra surgeries and scarring.

"The most common procedure in microsurgery is flap transfer, which involves using one piece of tissue to repair another, in essence we 'rob Peter to save Paul,'" he said.

"We would instead be using artificial materials and this would avoid taking big pieces of the patient and transferring them somewhere else."

The artificially engineered flap would combine skin layers. The team, with the Australian Catholic University, has grown fat tissue in the lab and vascularised it in animals. The O'Brien Institute is part of the bid to establish the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery, which needs funding.

## Victim enjoyed the simple life

**BEN HYDE  
POLICE REPORTER**

NICK Kastropi's passion for remote-controlled boating and unfamiliarity with the dangers of the River Torrens have cost him his life.

His family yesterday paid tribute to Mr Kastropi, who drowned while righting his beloved remote-controlled boat in the River Torrens, west of the Morphett St bridge, about 2.20pm on Saturday.

Police water operations divers recovered the body of Mr Kastropi, 51, of Netley, near the weir about 4.30pm.

Mr Kastropi's younger brother, Chris Kastropi, said they had lost a loving family man who had a 30-year passion for remote-controlled boats and cars.

"(Nick) was easy-go-lucky with a good sense of humour," he said yesterday.

"He was often the life of the party. He was never married and didn't have children. He just enjoyed the simple life with friends and family."

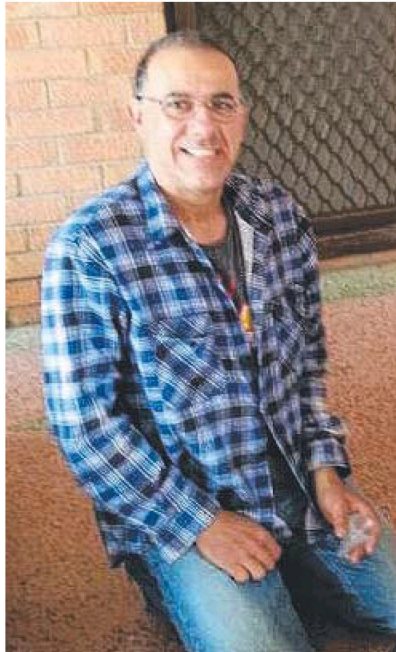
Despite some witness reports that Mr Kastropi could not swim, his brother said he was capable in the water.

He said he may have been undone by his unfamiliarity with the River Torrens.

"Nick was a remote-controlled car and boat enthusiast who had been racing cars and boats for 30 years," Chris Kastropi said.

"He loved going out and driving his remote-controlled boats all over Adelaide. He would often swim out and retrieve his boats and make it safely back."

"He recently started going



**LOVING:** Nick Kastropi had a 30-year passion for remote-controlled cars and boats. Picture: FAMILY SUPPLIED

to the River Torrens and was unaware of the dangers that it holds. It was a tragic accident that took his life."

Mr Kastropi's tragic drowning death follows the death of another brother in a car crash in 1999.

"In 1999, his brother died in

a tragic car accident," Chris Kastropi said.

"After his mother passed away in 2006, he stayed home to care for his elderly father.

"He will be sadly missed by friends and family."

Witnesses reported that Mr Kastropi successfully swam

## Mum slams photo option

A MELBOURNE mother has slammed an option to "retouch" her daughters' school photos, saying it fuelled body image problems.

Mira Smoljko said she was shocked to find she could pay an extra \$22 to retouch her daughters' photos as part of a package offered from company National Photography.

"The more I think about it, the angrier I get. I have three daughters and it's an ongoing battle for them not to obsess about their looks," she said.

Ms Smoljko, whose daughters are in Year 8 and 9 at St Columba's College, said it normalised the idea young people had to strive for a perfect appearance.



**TRAGIC:** Police at the scene. Pictures: DEAN MARTIN



**SCENE:** A police officer with Mr Kastropi's model boat.

## Torrens drown victim ignored warning yells



The Sunday Mail yesterday.

out to the boat and turned it up the right way before disappearing under the surface on his way back to the river bank.

Some bystanders had yelled at Mr Kastropi, urging him not to go into the water.

A report is being prepared for the Coroner.

## Rosewater servo robbed

A GROUP of youths have assaulted a staff member and stolen cash during a robbery at a Rosewater service station.

Four youths entered the BP petrol service station on Grand Junction Rd about 2.55am yesterday and confronted staff.

Two of them jumped the counter, assaulted a staff member and stole cash from the till before the group fled.

A fifth suspect waited outside the service station throughout the robbery.

All five suspects were described as male youths of Aboriginal appearance.

Anyone who has information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at sacrimestoppers.com.au.

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