

MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS

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Monash experts in security talks

By BRENDA HARKNESS

International experts on Asia-Pacific affairs plan to meet in Washington and New York in early February to continue a series of unofficial talks to address regional security concerns.

The initiative follows a recent think-tank in Melbourne, led by two Monash

University Asia-Pacific authorities, to discuss potential instability within the region in the aftermath of nuclear testing by India and Pakistan in May this year.

At the Melbourne meeting, more than 60 eminent and influential participants – including former and current diplomats and government representatives, as well as security, defence and international relations experts from throughout the Asia-Pacific region and

the US – signed a communique aimed at strengthening regional security.

The document sets out several recommendations to avert possible nuclear conflict and resolve other tensions in the Asia-Pacific region through a range of sub-regional cooperation and confidence-building strategies.

In particular, the communique urges the Australian Government to take steps to re-establish official visits and dialogue with India and Pakistan

which it suspended in response to the nuclear testing.

"Rarely does an international forum result in such a degree of consensus as was achieved at this initial meeting in Melbourne," said Associate Professor Marika Vicziany, of the National Centre for South Asian Studies at Monash.

Dr Vicziany initiated the unofficial talks, a process known as second-track diplomacy, with Professor John McKay of the Monash Asia Institute, a prominent Monash research centre which has played an important role in building relations between Australia and Asia-Pacific nations.

The communique is currently being distributed to governments, the media, research centres and universities, business and the general public throughout the region in a bid to influence current security policies.

From an Australian perspective, Dr Vicziany said, Australia had missed "important opportunities to play a modest but constructive role" within the region.

"The unofficial consensus is that Australia's reaction to nuclear testing by India and Pakistan in May was too hasty, too strong and too limited," she said. "We (Australia) disengaged very quickly from India and Pakistan and now find ourselves out of the loop."

Dr Vicziany warned that Australia's response, which closely follows that of its US ally, reduces the capacity of both countries to prevent nuclear accidents and confrontations. This is the exact opposite of Canberra's intentions.

In a background paper presented to the Melbourne talks, Dr Vicziany and Professor McKay wrote: "India's exclusion from APEC and its growing sense of regional isolation were certainly factors which compelled it in the direction of developing its own nuclear deterrence."

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Cheers: Part-time winemaker and Monash staff member Mr Henk van den Bergen celebrates his win in the prestigious 1998 Vin de Champagne Award. See the story on page 2.

Photo by Rhonda Joyce

Special issue

In this edition of *Monash News*, we bring you a special update on Monash University's international activities. Turn to page 5 for a round-up of news and views, including:

- Monash's plans to become a major player in tertiary education in southern Africa.
- Second-track diplomatic efforts in Asia.
- Plans for two law courses for Mekong nations.
- Intangible assets and changing notions of 'property'.
- APEC and the need for a reappraisal.
- Working with the World Bank on famine relief in Indonesia.

Moot debuts in Melbourne

The year is 2015 and the surface of the Moon has become a battleground. Developers are pushing to establish a lunar settlement. Conservationists are seeking to protect an unspoilt celestial environment.

The Faculty of Law at Monash University, in association with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the International Institute of Space Law, last month held a law moot with a difference at the Banco Court of the Melbourne Supreme Court, arranged through Monash law academic Dr Wickreema Weerasooria.

This was the first time the grand final of the prestigious Space Law Moot had been held in Australia.

The competition is well known, with most universities in the US and Europe participating. Plans are



Consider your verdict: Justice Christopher Weeramantry, left, one of the Space Law Moot judges, with the acting dean of Law at Monash, Professor Louis Waller, AO.

also to establish an Asian round of the competition.

The competition saw the University of North Carolina come out winners, overcoming the arguments advanced by the University of Helsinki.

The moot was adjudicated by three judges of the International Court of Justice (World Court) - His Honour Justice Weeramantry (vice-president), His Honour Justice Koroma, and His Honour Justice Vereshchetin.

Photo by Rhonda Joyce

'Blood' spilled at truck accident simulation



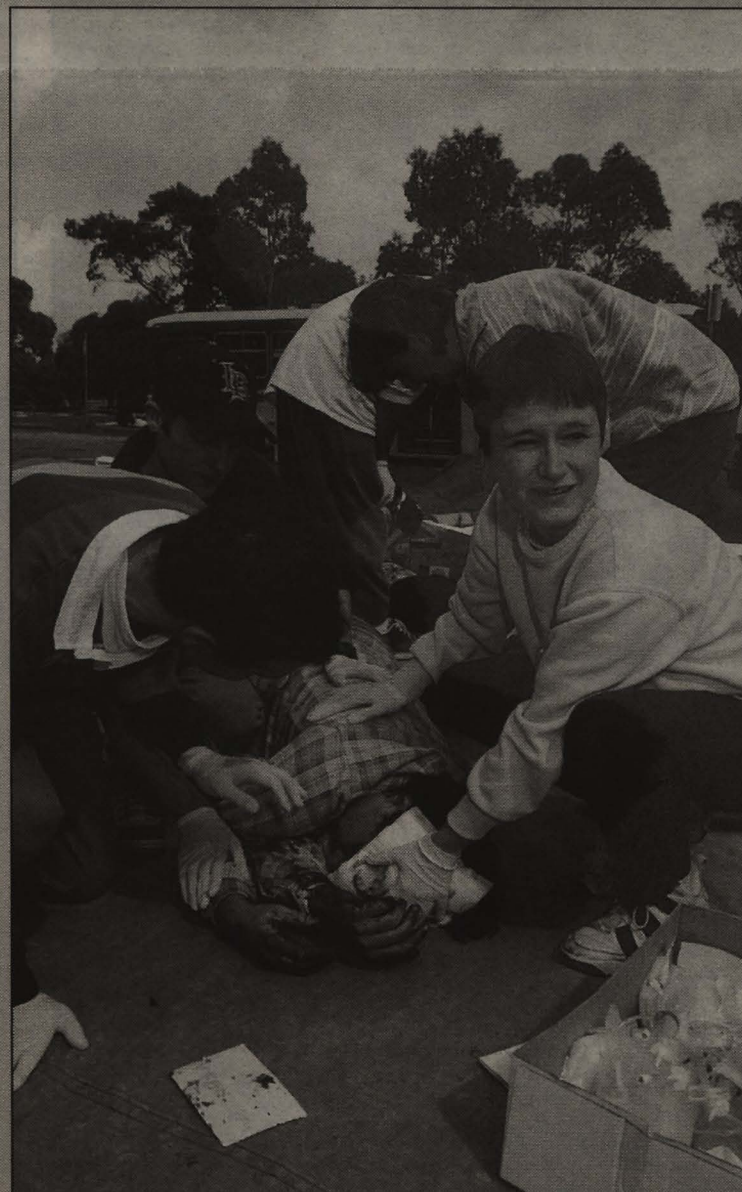
More than 120 Monash University students from a broad range of health fields staged a major incident training session on the grounds of the university's Clayton campus last month.

Students in medicine, nursing, pharmacy and radiography as well as ambulance officer trainees worked together, broadly along the lines of the Victorian medical disaster plan (Vic Displan), at a simulated major accident involving a truck and a bus.

The drama of the day was provided by 40 'victims', professionally made up by the Navy to look as if they had been hit by the truck.

Also in attendance were about 50 supervisory staff from Monash's Faculty of Medicine, five crewed ambulances, and staff from the Southern Health Care Network, Vic Displan, the Army, the Alfred Hospital, the Institute of Forensic Medicine and St Johns Ambulance.

The organiser of the session, Ms Marg Safron, a lecturer in the



The blood might not have been real, but those involved in the training session took their roles very seriously.

School of Nursing, said it was the first time in Australia that students across so many disciplines had taken part in a major trauma incident training session.

"The session was an initiative of final-year students from various disciplines who wanted to work with other

health care professionals before they finished their undergraduate training," she said. "The students wanted an exercise that went beyond the classroom. This should ultimately lead to better care for patients."

Ms Safron said she expected the event to become a regular one.

Photos by Richard Grompton

BRIEFS

City honours

Monash scientists

Two Monash scientists have been honoured with achiever awards from the Committee for Melbourne.

Professor David de Kretser and Professor Alan Trounson from the Institute of Reproduction and Development won the awards for research that has helped promote Melbourne as a centre for medical research.

The committee's theme this year was 'advancing Melbourne's global connections'.

The two medical scientists were recognised for their significant contribution to the understanding of human and animal reproduction, infertility treatments and assisted reproductive technologies.

'Money' helps

finance make sense

An educational program produced under a Monash University-ABC joint venture is aimed at making sense of finance and economics.

'Money Markets' is being broadcast on ABC networks including Radio Australia until early December, with possible re-broadcasts in North America via the World Radio Network. It is also available on-line through the ABC's website.

Targeted to both a student and wider audience interested in business and investment, the program has been developed by Monash's Business and Economics faculty and produced by ABC staff, with support from the Monash Arts faculty.

It is the first in an ongoing series planned by the two institutions.

Enhancement

proves popular

Information sessions for Monash University's 1999 program for high-achieving students attracted hundreds of parents and students at the university's Gippsland and Clayton campuses last month.

The enhancement studies program, taught through a partnership between the university and leading secondary schools, gives secondary students the opportunity to study a standard first-year university subject as part of their Year 12 program.

This year, more than 500 high-achieving students from more than 140 schools took part in the program.

For more information about the 1999 program and application forms, contact Monash's Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 5859.

Economist hailed

for work in the field

A Monash economist has received a Distinguished Fellowship Award from the Economic Society of Australia for his contribution to economics.

Professor Alan Powell, who holds a personal chair in econometrics, was honoured for almost 40 years of work in the field of economic modelling.

For many years, he was leader of the Impact Project, an economic model for policy analysis, which he developed with two other Monash economists, Professor Peter Dixon and Professor Brian Parmenter.

Professor Powell said he was so surprised at receiving the prestigious award that at first he thought his colleagues were playing a joke.

Wine passion takes Henk to 'le summit'

By JOSIE GIBSON

When Henk van den Bergen made his first batch of wine about 20 years ago, little did he realise how far his passion would take him.

The part-time vigneron and Monash staff member recently trod some of winemaking's most hallowed ground in France as a recipient of a 1998 Vin de Champagne Award.

Mr van den Bergen took out the professional section of the annual contest, which is sponsored by the Comité Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne, the body in France which controls every aspect of the production and marketing of champagne.

Winners of state heats are flown to Sydney, where their champagne expertise is subjected to a series of blind wine tastings and panel interviews. Mr van den Bergen was regarded as 'professional' because of his wine science degree.

This year, for the first time, the winners were announced by the head of the CIVC via a direct satellite link from France.

It was Mr van den Bergen's second attempt at the prestigious prize, which was established 25 years ago and offers winners a two-week study tour of France's renowned Champagne district.

"It more than met my expectations," he says of the tour. "We were spoiled stupid. They constantly brought out their best champagnes for us - the oldest, the best vintages you just can't buy, especially in Australia."

For Mr van den Bergen, who is a glass workshop supervisor in Monash's Chemistry department, winning the award was the culmination of decades of fascination with wine and winemaking.

"I started out making fruit wines," he explains. "Peach, pear, apple, grapes, in order of what makes the best wine. And sparkling wine is fascinating because it involves a large degree of winemaker input."

Last year, Mr van den Bergen produced about 1500 litres of wine from his hobby winery and vineyard in Emerald in the Dandenong Ranges.

He admits his winemaking skills have come a long way since that first gallon of fruit wine. "It was drinkable," he recalls wryly. "It had alcohol in it."

Mr van den Bergen is not the only Monash link to the Vin de Champagne Award. Former Monash physics lecturer Dr Paul Hudson took out the non-professional category in 1981, and a decade later Monash biochemistry and physiology graduate Mr Greg Luke won the same category.

Monash researchers probe the far side of car crashes

By DAVID BRUCE

Researchers at Monash University have conducted a series of dramatic two-car collisions as part of world-first research into reducing injuries to people seated on the opposite side of the car to where the impact occurs.

The study, to be completed early next year, suggests that an advanced seat-belt pre-tensioner that tightens within milliseconds of impact could reduce the severity of head and body injuries.

The issue of side-impact protection is one of the biggest safety problems currently facing the automotive industry around the world. Each year, the trauma caused by side-impact collisions costs Australia around \$870 million, of which around \$340 million can be attributed to 'far-side' impact crashes.

Australian studies reveal that side-impact crashes account for 25 per cent of all crashes involving injuries, and 40 per cent of all serious injury crashes where an occupant was either hospitalised or killed.

Almost all research into side-impact protection has concentrated on occupants seated on the side of the vehicle that takes the impact. These 'near-side'

impact occupants are protected with regulatory side-impact test standards.

Evidence from real-world crashes, however, has shown that occupants seated on the side away from the impact site - far-side occupants - are also at high risk of injury but have far less protection.

The Monash research is investigating the dynamics of far-side impact crashes and the deficiencies of the current three-point seat belt system.

The PhD research is being conducted by Mr Richard Stolinski and supervised by Dr Raphael Grzebieta, from the Department of Civil Engineering, and Professor Brian Fildes, from the Monash University Accident Research Centre. Industry support is being provided by Autoliv Australia and the RACV.

Mr Stolinski's research suggests that the installation of seat-belt pre-tensioners could reduce the risk of head and body injuries in far-side impacts.

"I would like to see them installed in all cars for this type of impact," he said. "Current restraint systems are designed primarily for frontal impacts and do a good job in fulfilling that function. But clearly we need a restraint system that focuses on other types of crashes, particularly far-side impacts, which cause an enormous amount of road trauma each year in Australia."



A test-dummy 'driver' in the vehicle at left is used to test the new seat-belt pre-tensioner under side-impact conditions.



Researchers Dr Raphael Grzebieta, left, and Mr Richard Stolinski inspect the damage from a side-impact collision. (Photo by Richard Crompton)

Cars feature in suicides

By PETER GOLDIE

Every year in Australia, more than 2000 people lose their lives in motor vehicle accidents - a grim but unsurprising statistic.

But each year, as many Australians take their own lives as die in motor vehicle accidents, and a quarter of these - about 500 a year - do it in their cars.

The trend towards suicide by vehicle exhaust gassing is as surprising as it is disturbing. Since the late 1960s, the method has become increasingly popular. In 1996 it accounted for 22 per cent of suicides, making it the second largest category.

For Ms Virginia Routley of the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC), the study of gassing suicides is an unhappy science but one which she hopes will soon produce some promising counter-measures.

A new study by MUARC complements its work on a multi-sectoral committee convened by the Australian Medical Association, which includes organisations with an interest in suicide prevention.

Ms Routley says the issue is important not only because of the tragic loss of life involved.

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Secure future for Arts: VC

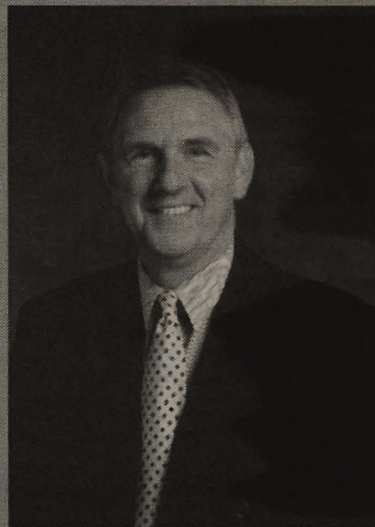
Monash University's Faculty of Arts has embarked on a major restructuring process aimed at ensuring a secure academic and financial base into the next century.

The university's vice-chancellor, Professor David Robinson, has welcomed the process, which is based on the recommendations of a Review Panel report into the future direction of the faculty.

The panel was chaired by the dean of Arts, Professor Marian Quartly, who was assisted by other senior Arts faculty members and external advisers, including Mr David Phillips, Professor Max Brennan and former Bond University vice-chancellor Professor Raoul Mortley.

"This report sets out a clear direction for ensuring an academically sound and financially responsible future for Arts at Monash," Professor Robinson said. "It provides a sound basis for making better use of our resources to better meet the demands of students and prepare graduates for a rapidly changing world."

He said all faculties and administration areas of Monash had to absorb the combined impact of a \$10 million reduction in Federal Government operating funds and \$30 million in salary increases over the next three years. The Faculty of Arts had been examining its forward direction, he said, and had already



Professor David Robinson.

had to cope with a projected \$5 million deficit by the year 2004.

The review report was developed through discussion and consultation across all Monash campuses, and with input from all faculties, Professor Robinson said. The faculty would be advanced \$4.5 million to carry out the necessary restructure and, after repaying the loan, should be substantially in surplus by 2004.

"The report identifies ways to build on Monash's key strengths in teaching, learning and research while responding to significant changes in the higher education environment," the vice-chancellor said. "It sets out a clear plan of action to move the Faculty of Arts forward into the next century and to maintain its leadership position in Australia."

"During the three-year transition period, new courses will be introduced

and others will be enhanced and renamed, while areas of identified low student demand will be phased out. In a climate of declining resources, we cannot continue to offer a large number of subjects that attract relatively low enrolments."

The Monash Faculty of Arts currently offers more than 1000 subjects, and Professor Robinson said it would continue to offer a strong and diverse range of course offerings.

"This report sets out a clear direction for ensuring an academically sound and financially responsible future for Arts."

"Secondary school students thinking about studying at Monash are being kept well informed of all the changes as they occur, through their principals and careers teachers," he said, adding that the Faculty of Arts at Monash would remain among the very best of its kind in Australia.

"It will remain distinguished by its excellence and diversity. With an enrolment of 6200 students, it is an attractive study option for students and will continue to provide the widest range of arts subjects of any university in Australia."

Project lifts the veil on Chinese Muslim women

By JOSIE GIBSON

An international research project is attempting to document the role of women in one of the world's least known Muslim communities.

About 2 per cent of China's population - roughly 20 million people - is Muslim. But according to Monash-based researcher Dr Maria Jaschok, the role of women in China's Muslim communities has generally been neglected in traditional scholarship.

"This is slowly changing as Chinese women scholars reappraise their role and take on a more independent stance from the conventional state-sanctioned view of women's studies," she said.

Dr Jaschok and her collaborator, Chinese researcher Ms Shui Jungjin, have spent nearly four years delving into the lives of Chinese Muslim women and how they fit into their religious communities.

The researchers visited mosques and Muslim women's associations, observing the communities and interviewing scores of Muslim women. A Muslim herself, Ms Shui was often forced to juggle the responsibilities of scholar and observer with being a participant in the religious rituals.

China also boasts an unusual feature in the Islamic world - women's mosques, a development believed to date back at least a century.

"We know of examples of Muslim women's centres or associations in other parts of the world, but mosques led by women appear to be fairly unique within Islam," said Dr Jaschok.

A fellow of the Centre for Cross-Cultural Studies of Women at Oxford University, Dr Jaschok is on a three-month visit to Monash, working with the Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research and the Department of Anthropology and Sociology. She is also involved in collaborative research with several Monash academics.

Ms Shui, who is based at the Henan Academy of Social Science in Zhengzhou, recently spent six weeks in Australia as a visiting research associate at Monash, visiting mosques in Melbourne and Sydney to observe female Muslims. Her visit was supported by the Special Monash University Research Fund and the Monash Research Fund.

"We felt it was time to bring Shui over here to observe religion in the context of Western culture and Australian society," Dr Jaschok said. "It's a two-way endeavour, rather than the usual one-way traffic where Western scholars do their fieldwork in Third World countries. Any such collaboration ought to be based on genuine reciprocity."

Ms Shui said she had been surprised at the great diversity of Islamic communities in Australia, with Muslims coming from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds.

"There were elements of surprise, but there were also a great many commonalities with China in the way the women are capable of taking the initiative, within constraints, and organising themselves," she said.

The fruits of the researchers' collaboration will form the basis of a monograph to be published in English and eventually Mandarin.

Research helping rural doctors

By Tracy Prochazka

Monash research is boosting efforts to improve the provision of emergency care in rural areas, a key area of concern among general practitioners in towns without hospitals.

Results from a survey conducted by the Monash University Centre for Rural Health have been widely quoted as evidence for the need for rural health professionals in such areas.

Study convenor Dr David Campbell, a GP in Lakes Entrance, said the survey, 'Rural GPs in Towns Without a Hospital', showed the centre was helping to address critical issues facing rural communities, particularly the provision of emergency care in rural general practice.

Dr Campbell said that besides introducing a more comprehensive rural GP database and grants aimed at encouraging doctors to stay in regional areas, the survey issue "most positively" acted upon was emergency care in rural communities.

According to the survey, rural GPs in towns without a hospital were more likely to confront emergency situations, yet they lacked staff and infrastructure support and were less confident in their performance and emergency skills.

Dr Campbell said a new study was being conducted by the Centre for Rural Health, in conjunction with the East Gippsland Division of General Practice, on the urgent care needs of rural communities, and he attributed the survey to "getting the ball rolling".

Funded by the Department of Human Services, the urgent care needs study will look at models of provision of emergency care in different-sized towns in Victoria.

Dr Campbell's survey showed that the training needs of health professionals in the no-hospital group were different to those of rural GPs with hospital access, with the overall level of professional support for isolated GPs being considerably lower than for GPs in towns with a hospital.

Dr Campbell said GPs in the no-hospital group were "significantly less likely" to have contact with the nursing sector or hostel patients,

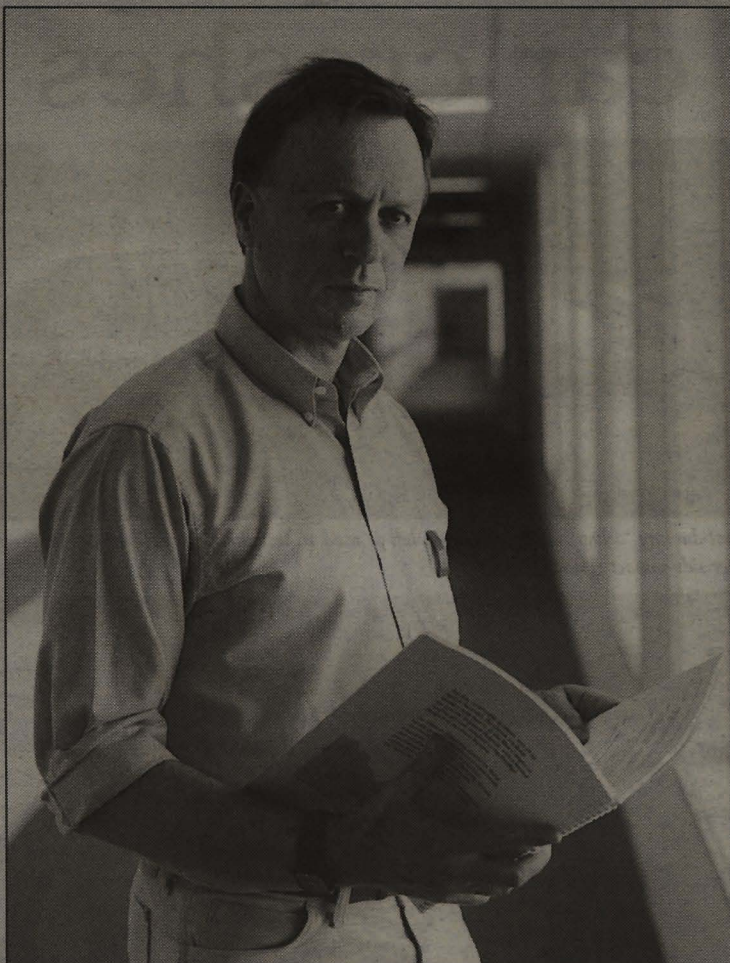


Photo by The Visual Resource

Study author Dr David Campbell says doctors in towns without a hospital often handle emergencies on their own in difficult circumstances.

which made them feel less confident in dealing with emergencies.

"We must find ways to support these isolated GPs with ongoing training and emergency skills and assistance with emergency equipment," he said.

"The reality is that isolated GPs are often handling emergencies on their own in difficult circumstances, with no immediate professional support or assistance with critical decision-making," he said. "This in turn affects the GP, the practice and ultimately the patient."

This issue prompted the newly established Rural Workforce Agency of Victoria to seek tenders for the development of urgent care kits and team training to provide emergency care in rural communities.

As a result of the survey, which indicated that doctors with a lack of access to support feared losing their

skills, Dr Campbell recommended that rural GPs without hospital support be offered both infrastructure support and funded training.

"The findings in the survey have implications for the nature of training for rural general practices," he said. "The conventional view of the rural GP - with procedural skills and competence in most critical situations - is in fact true of around half of all rural GPs only."

Since the completion of the survey in 1996, Dr Campbell said a slow train of support had begun, with an increased awareness that help was urgently needed for the survival of rural general practice.

Similar surveys were needed, he added, to improve the health status of rural communities.

Small-time success

By Kay Ansell

Is a 'can do' attitude enough to succeed in small business? What qualities separate the best from the rest? An exploration of such issues has earned a Monash lecturer the attention of the Academy of Entrepreneurship in the US.

Dr Judy Gray's PhD thesis recently won her an outstanding research award in entrepreneurship from the academy and an invitation to present her findings at a conference in the US.

A lecturer in the Department of Management at Monash's Peninsula campus, Dr Gray was prompted by her own background in small business to explore how decision-making styles and business strategies could be used to predict success in small businesses started by people who had previously been unemployed.

Using confidential surveys and interviews, Dr Gray tracked the experiences of 255 people who had started their own small businesses after completing the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme before 1994. A year later, most were still operating.

But Dr Gray set out to explore what separated those who succeeded from those who failed.

She rejected the popular notion that personal confidence alone contributed to the success or failure of a venture.

"It used to be thought that it was only belief in yourself that affected your chances of success. My thesis showed that it's more complicated than that - belief in yourself has an impact on the sorts of decisions you make, and this affects the kind of strategies you select, which in turn affects your success.

"A lot of it comes down to sheer persistence and what they call 'locus of control' - whether you believe in yourself and that you have control over events in your life - or whether you believe in luck and destiny."

A belief in luck and destiny were apparently linked to failure, with some people blaming outside forces for their business failure.

This did not necessarily stop people from trying again, says Dr Gray, although this issue lay outside the scope of her study: "Typically, for those who fail in business, most have the get-up-and-go to try again. They just see it as a learning experience."



Dr Judy Gray.

When asked what business success mean, those surveyed rated 'personal satisfaction' most highly. The ability to be independent came next, followed by a range of business yardsticks, such as profitability.

Asked to give reasons for their business success, respondents cited customer service as paramount, followed by commitment in the form of hard work and determination, along with personal qualities such as reliability, a positive attitude and people skills.

'Financial barriers' was given as the biggest hurdle on the path to success. Next came personal factors such as health, followed by economic issues.

Although governments look to the small business sector to employ more people through expanding their operations, Dr Gray found that some entrepreneurs deliberately kept their businesses small for lifestyle reasons and to avoid the complications that come with employing others.

She is interested in investigating related issues, such as why 40 per cent of US managers who took packages turned to self-employment, when only 8 per cent of Australians in the same position chose that path.

"There's no obvious reason for that difference. It suggests that people in Australia don't realise they have the skills and can create small businesses," she says. "Maybe they need more assistance with examining their skills or help with additional skills, such as financial planning."

And against the prevailing employment tide, age is no barrier to starting a small business, she says. Quite the opposite - small business offered potential self-employment to older, experienced people.

Throw out the doona and stay cool in a crisis

By Josie Gibson

As well as causing discomfort, inconvenience and massive economic losses, the recent Victorian gas crisis also focused attention on the need for more energy-efficient practices in the home, according to a Monash researcher.

Dr Don Hutton, a senior lecturer in the Physics department, said the crisis, which had been exacerbated by the cold snap highlighted the need for a return to commonsense behaviour.

"You can live simply, conserve energy and resources and not lose out in comfort," he said.

Dr Hutton has conducted extensive research on the link between bedding and sleep quality and concluded that many Australians use the wrong bedding - usually too much - and pay the price each morning.

"Many people toss and turn in their sleep because they're too hot," he said.

"But of course they don't notice that this is occurring. They simply wake up feeling tired."

A key culprit is the thick, ten-tog (six-blanket equivalent) doona, which Dr Hutton said should be packed away and rarely used in temperate Australia.

According to Dr Hutton's calculations and measurements, made using a specially constructed mannequin, most people could sleep comfortably without air-conditioning at a temperature of 29 degrees if they sleep nude. At 25 degrees, light pyjamas and a sheet are sufficient while at 20 degrees, pyjamas, a sheet and blanket should do the trick. Only consider a doona - and a thin, two or three-blanket equivalent one at that - at 10 to 15 degrees. Below 10 degrees, the thick doona may be of use, combined with suitable sleepwear.

Dr Hutton said that by matching bedding to bedroom temperatures, people would rarely need to heat or cool their bedrooms. "There are huge energy savings possible, providing you don't use your bedroom for study or

other purposes, when you may need to heat or cool it."

Dr Hutton has used similar calculations to develop guidelines for matching room temperatures with appropriate clothing, depending on the activity involved. He said his research supported the time-honoured advice about adding another layer of clothing (a dressing gown or a fleece jacket) as the temperature dropped to 15 or 16 degrees in living areas.

Dr Hutton and his wife had weathered the gas crisis quite well, he said, by resorting to forgotten 'technologies' such as hot water bottles and hats. Instead of bumping up the ducted heating on cold days, he noted, people could simply put on more clothes or watch television with a blanket over their legs.

"It's nothing new - two generations ago my grandparents were doing all these things," he said. "It's just that the public consciousness is no longer there."

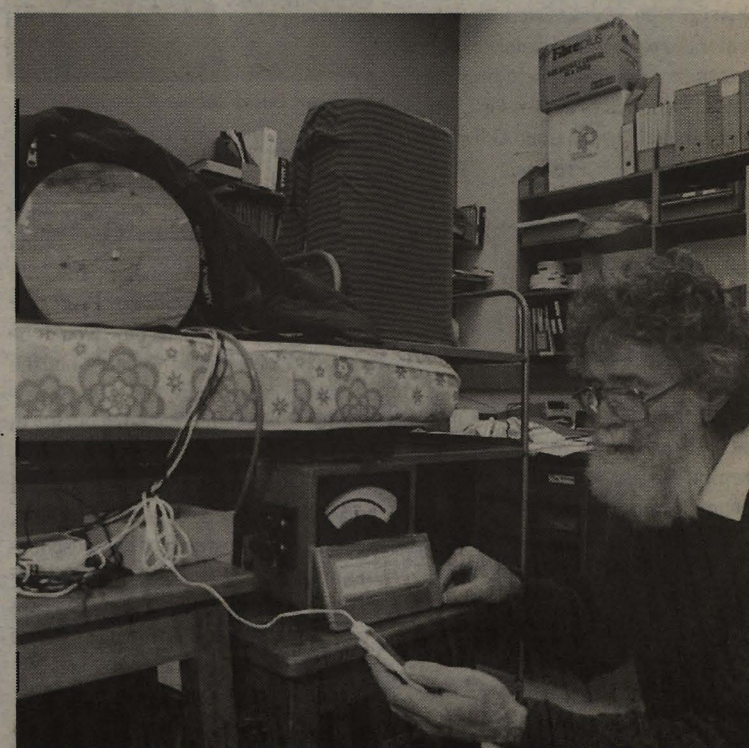


Photo by Richard Crompton

Rugging up: Dr Don Hutton uses a specially designed mannequin to simulate the human body's responses under various types of bedclothes.

Monash-southern Africa partnership takes shape

By BRENDA HARKNESS

Monash University's plans to become a major part of southern Africa's higher education sector have taken a significant step forward.

Education ministers representing the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) 14 member countries welcomed a concept plan presented by Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson at a recent briefing in Paris.

The plan, *Monash University, Southern Africa*, proposes the establishment of a full branch central campus in the region by the year 2000, and a range of satellite campuses. This would support a 'distributed' network of educational programs and activities across the region, delivered in collaboration with local education providers and established universities.

Currently, no other foreign universities operating within the SADC countries have taken such a broad strategic approach.

Professor Robinson said the innovative Monash concept was warmly received by the SADC's education ministers. The briefing following discussions held by Monash's executive director, International, Mr Ian Porter

and Monash International's general manager, Mr Anthony Pollock, in a number of southern African locations, including Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa.

Monash is now pursuing registration requirements as a foreign education provider within the various nations, focusing initially on South Africa.

Plans are also under way to begin introducing a range of key educational and training programs, including foundation-year and associated university preparation courses, to enable African students to enter the tertiary education sector.

Monash's plan to have a major presence within southern Africa follows its success earlier this year in becoming the first foreign university to be invited by the Malaysian Government to establish a full branch campus within that country.

Deputy vice-chancellor (International & Public Affairs) Professor John Maloney said *Monash University, Southern Africa* was designed to make a "distinctive contribution to the region's transformation and growth".

The comprehensive plan was developed to meet the expected increased demand of southern Africa's growing economy on its education sector,

particularly in developing its skills base and workforce to maximise its economic potential.

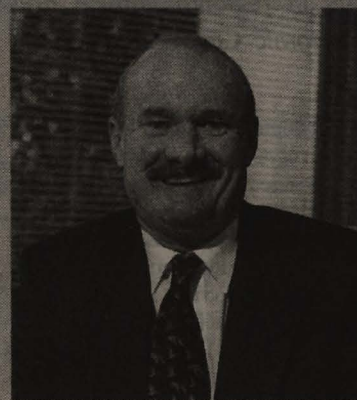
Under the Monash plan, academic programs would be offered at three levels: pre-tertiary/preparatory studies, undergraduate and postgraduate programs in disciplines directly relevant to southern Africa's development, and continuing education programs emphasising the region's workforce needs.

When the program was fully operational, Mr Pollock said, it was expected that undergraduate and graduate courses would be offered in the major subject areas of the arts, social science and the law, business and management, education, health and community development, engineering, science and the environment, and communications and information technology.

"As a priority, the plan envisages commencing, by the middle of 1999, continuing education professional programs in a range of areas, such as upgrading teachers' skills," Mr Pollock said.

As well, Monash aims to offer professional training and development programs directly related to regional needs in areas such as banking and finance.

Professor Maloney said discussions between Monash and local



Mr Ian Porter.

development assistance bodies indicated wide opportunities to deliver such programs throughout the region because of their potential to positively impact on regional development.

The plan also proposes:

- **support** - student access to tertiary education through the provision of bursaries and scholarships;
- **access** - opportunities for increased and broadened participation in tertiary education across the region. This will be provided by 'out-reach' points of access and delivery for students at sites in rural and remote southern African areas where there is currently no access to tertiary education.

- **research** - a major emphasis on research relevant to southern Africa's current and future needs, and which draws on Monash's major research strengths.

Mr Porter, who is a former Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, said South Africa's transformation to a non-racial democracy enabled it "to claim its rightful place in the world" and had "led to prospects for regional growth and stability, unknown this century".

"Southern Africa will now play a key role in the economic, political, technological and cultural development of the African continent," he said.

"To complete the process of transformation, to meet national and regional goals, and to serve as a model for the rest of the continent, southern Africa will depend in no small measure on the rapid and sustainable development of a highly educated and skilled workforce."

Mr Porter said current demand for higher education places outstripped supply in southern Africa, with many high-quality students either travelling overseas to take up study or missing out on university places.

Monash in Asia talks

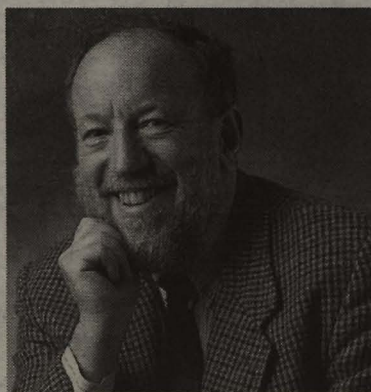
Continued from page 1

Prominent New Delhi newspaper columnist and research fellow Mr Inder Malhotra, who participated in the Melbourne talks, said the communique had already been well received by India's Government and throughout the wider community.

"Those who were earlier dismayed, even angered by Canberra's official reaction, now know that informed Australians have greater and sympathetic understanding of Indian concerns and policies," he said. "The kinds of restraints urged (in the communique) on all nuclear weapons powers, including India and Pakistan, are entirely acceptable to most Indians."

The Melbourne Group, formed as a result of the initial Melbourne talks, plans to conduct a series of round-table discussions throughout the Asia-Pacific and the US to further address the issues raised in the communique.

It is expected that these talks will be held in Washington, New York, Beijing, Tokyo, Dhaka, Colombo, Islamabad, New Delhi and other key capital cities. The Washington round will be hosted by Monash's colleagues at Georgetown



Professor John McKay.

University. In New York, the Asia Society is bringing together a special audience of American companies so that the Melbourne Group can focus on the question of how regional security impinges on business.

In another development, the group is bringing together experts from throughout the region to form a South Asia Security Network, a forum which will exchange and distribute information with the aim of influencing government security and defence policies through regional organisations such as APEC.



Dr Marika Vicziany.

Among its priorities, Dr Vicziany said, the Melbourne Group hoped to pave the way for renewed official contact between Australia and India-Pakistan. She said this could be achieved through mechanisms such as the resumption of Australia's aid program to India and through official visits.

Dr Vicziany said second-track diplomacy enabled countries to "go beyond official boundaries" and address the issues of what should be done.

For further information, email marika.vicziany@arts.monash.edu.au

Universities and the 'second track'

Universities such as Monash are playing a valuable behind-the-scenes role in attempts to resolve some of the region's most intractable disputes, writes Professor John McKay.

OPINION

The end of the Cold War has not, in spite of the hopes and assumptions of many, heralded a period of peace and harmony in the world. In fact, in many ways, the new world order is more complex and intractable, and the earlier methods of dealing with potential conflict can no longer be applied. At the same time, political realities in many countries, as well as globalisation, including modern communications, tend to limit not only the range of actions available to governments but indeed their very capacity to influence events. This makes it impossible for governments to consider, let alone propose, many possible policy responses.

Within this context, a range of non-official or 'second-track' initiatives can play a particularly constructive role, and universities are now taking the lead in attempts to find solutions to particularly difficult international issues. In a number of situations, governments decide not to talk to each other, or even discuss their differences. In other situations, official dialogue is limited to the repetition of existing positions, without any hope of real progress. The role of the second track is to keep a discussion going and hopefully develop new and mutually acceptable agreements. The strength of the universities is that they can often use their

traditional skills of long-term analysis and independence, free from the immediate political pressures faced by governments.

The Monash Asia Institute is now emerging as a major centre of second-track initiatives. Australia is a good location for these activities - we are a non-threatening middle power, with strong historical and institutional links to Europe and the United States, but now with many ties to Asia. The Monash Asia Institute has been able to draw on a great depth of expertise on the region and is now involved in a range of forums designed to develop new analyses and alternative policy scenarios covering the following areas:

- the post-Cold War security system in Asia;
- the North Korean nuclear issue, questions of inter-Korean relations and possibilities for reunification;
- the nuclear situation in South Asia;
- the development of the Mekong basin region, particularly disputes about the future use of the waters of the Mekong River;
- the potential for greater economic and political cooperation in the Indian Ocean; and
- relations between China and Taiwan.

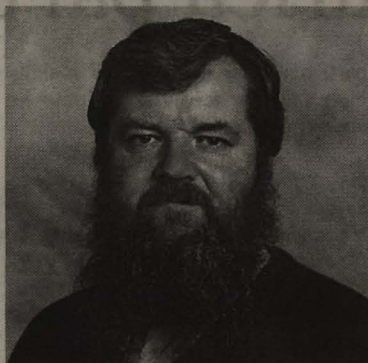
Professor John McKay is director of the Monash Asia Institute.



Monash second-track diplomacy is at work throughout Asia, including the Korean peninsula (1), China and Taiwan (2), the Mekong basin (3), South Asia (4) and the Indian Ocean rim (5).

APEC Centre aids the road to recovery in Asia

The Asian financial crisis has triggered a reappraisal of the role and relevance of the major players in regional finance and politics, including the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC), writes Mr Darby Higgs.



Mr Darby Higgs.

OPINION

Leaders at the APEC summit in Kuala Lumpur this November are facing the biggest challenge in the forum's nine-year history. APEC has become the byword of trade liberalisation, economic openness and regional engagement, but now there is increasing political scrutiny of these elements of international relations.

Since the APEC leaders began meeting annually in 1993, expectations have been high. Public discussion has focused on the goals of free and open

trade, adopted at Bogor, Indonesia, in 1994. Progress towards free trade targets became the dominant criterion for judging APEC's success.

Now the situation has changed. The Bogor goals are long term, but because of the economic crisis, APEC will now be judged on what it can do in the short term. The trade liberalisation agenda and what trade regime may apply in the year 2020 is irrelevant to governments dealing with millions of their citizens who have been cast into poverty over the past year. If APEC cannot contribute to the recovery of the shattered economies of some of its

Agenda. This work needs to be brought to centre stage and stepped up. The issue of corporate governance and transparency is also receiving increasing attention in the wake of the Asian financial crisis.

Monash's APEC Study Centre, in association with the Australian Treasury and regulatory authorities, recently organised a high-level symposium on corporate governance in APEC. The symposium aimed to identify and prioritise the reform agenda. It will report to the APEC leaders meeting and to APEC finance ministers and will be a component of broader APEC initiatives on corporate governance.

Funded by AusAID, the symposium included senior representatives from central banks, stock exchanges, securities commissions and business from

Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, as well as representatives from the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the OECD.

There is an urgent need for recapitalisation of the financial markets in the affected Asian economies. Investors need confidence that private and public institutions are transparent and accountable.

During the years of economic growth, investors ignored weaknesses in institutional structures, but now strong corporate governance is a key element in attracting capital in a competitive market.

Mr Darby Higgs is deputy director of the Australian APEC Study Centre at Monash University.

Mekong network to run two law courses

A Monash-Australian National University group has won an Australian Government contract to run two commercial law courses in Bangkok next year.

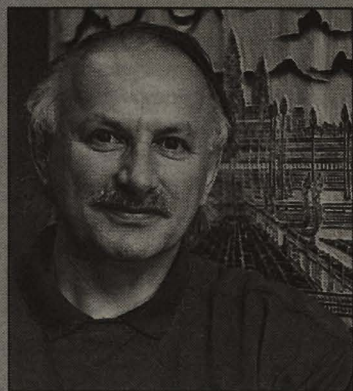
As part of the \$100,000 contract, funded by the government's overseas aid agency, AusAID, the Australian Mekong Research Network will design and present the courses and evaluate the potential for a more extensive program of support by the Australian Government.

The Mekong network was set up by the two universities in June to promote broad-based discussion about economic, social and political developments in the six Asian nations touched by the Mekong River. It is based at the Monash Asia Institute on the university's Clayton campus.

Network director Mr Bob Stensholt said the law courses would cover international trade law, and the supervision and regulation of the banking and finance sectors.

They will be run through the Mekong Region Law Centre in Bangkok, with participants drawn from the private and public sectors and academia in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

"We hope courses like these will have a direct impact on good governance, law-making and participation



Mr Bob Stensholt.

by these countries in international forums like the World Trade Organisation," Mr Stensholt said.

Two Monash academics, Professor Michael Skully and Ms Alice de Jonge from the Faculty of Business and Economics, were involved in the bid and will help with course presentation. The courses will also involve the head of the Mekong Region Law Centre, Dr Pisawat Sukonthapan, and Mr Pornchai Wiwatpattarakul from the Standard Charter Bank.

The head of the Monash Asia Institute, Professor John McKay, said the project continued Monash's long involvement with the Mekong region. "We regard the Mekong as a very important emerging region and have a strong commitment to the countries of the area."

all numbers, particularly over the last decade, in the face of some significant technical developments such as catalytic converters.

"One would have expected the numbers to have reduced," Ms Routley told *Monash News*. "From 1986, catalytic converters were mandated for new vehicles, but the numbers of both attempted and successful suicides increased.

"Deaths are beginning to level off now at about 500 per year. The delay may be related to the average age of cars in Australia being 11 years, which is older than the average for most western countries, or it may be simply becoming more common as a method."

Suggestions that higher per capita vehicle ownership could be responsible for the rise have also been researched and rejected - the rise in suicide attempts outstrips the rise in vehicle ownership.

Security vs intangibility

Once upon a time, 'property' referred to the building or piece of land you called your own - and you had the bit of paper to prove it. But technology and other global forces have worked to change the meaning of such concepts, says Ms Jacqueline Lipton.



OPINION

In this global information age, the valuable assets of a business are no longer "plant and equipment", but valuable information and other intangible assets. A combination of technological innovation and a general movement from a product-based to a service-based economy has led to a subtle shift in notions of property. The implications of this are widespread for any lawyers dealing with use, exploitation, transfer, and even criminal misappropriation, of property.

Secured financiers in particular are experiencing the full impact. Lenders have traditionally used standard fixed and floating charges to secure borrowings over business and personal assets, often supported by deposits of title documents. However, as property becomes increasingly electronic and intangible, security deposits become less viable, and standard charge enforcement mechanisms will be found wanting.

Electronic developments in share trading are a good example. Since the inception of the Clearing House Electronic Sub-register System (CHES) in 1994, financiers have had

to forego share mortgages supported by deposit of share certificates. With no paper share certificates for security deposits and no mechanism for electronic registration of a security interest, lenders face serious enforcement problems in the event of default under a loan secured by CHES shares.

The lack of recognition under CHES of security interests is explained by reference to the rationale of the system, which is to electronically facilitate fast and efficient share trading in Australia in competition with overseas markets. The lumbering of CHES shareholdings with security interests is not in line with these aims. A number of submissions have been, and continue to be, made to the Australian Stock Exchange on behalf of the banking and finance industry in relation to this issue.

The exchange has suggested that financiers could register under CHES as 'non-broker participants'. Security interests might then be protected by holding legal title to relevant shares in that capacity. However, this suggestion has had limited appeal to lenders for obvious reasons. In many cases, lending institutions have simply opted out

of accepting CHES shares as collateral for loans.

Electronic shares are only the tip of the iceberg. Financiers will increasingly confront borrowers whose assets consist of predominantly intangible property. Examples include computer software, valuable technical information, and valuable indicia related to electronic trading, such as a striking Internet domain name, as well as more traditional forms of intangible property such as valuable goodwill and book debts.

In coming years, lending practices will need to be re-evaluated in this respect. The focus in drafting securities will shift from traditional itemising of 'secured property' in standard charging clauses, towards implementation of novel strategies.

In particular, problems of enforcement will be paramount. Where secured property is intangible, it cannot be physically seized and on sold by a lender. This issue will have to be addressed by financiers as new types of intangible property emerge.

Ms Jacqueline Lipton teaches in the area of secured finance law at Monash University.

Cars feature in suicides

Continued from page 3

"Although exhaust gassing is relatively lethal, there are many who survive an attempt at suicide, and for these victims there can be major long-term health consequences," she said. "Promoting preventive measures is certainly something the study is aiming for, so part of our work has been researching technically feasible and low-cost measures that would make motor vehicle exhaust gas suicide substantially more difficult to undertake and to succeed at."

While the Monash work, funded by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, is set to deliver some tangible results, the increasing popularity of the method remains a matter for grim speculation.

There is little evidence as to why it should increase in popularity as a proportion of all suicides and in over-

World Bank challenge to help Indonesians caught in crisis

For Indonesians, 1998 will go down as a year of momentous political and social change. It has also been a year of extreme hardship for many, with the economic crisis exacerbating problems caused by drought and crop failures. Monash anthropologist Dr Penny Graham has been working with the World Bank and Indonesian officials on a famine relief program in the east of the country. She says a major challenge has been preventing yet another disaster if ill-conceived emergency relief undermines local efforts towards more sustainable development.

OPINION

In the midst of political transition in Indonesia, I have been working in that country on a US\$12 million famine relief program financed by the World Bank. When they rang me earlier this year, I jumped at the chance to assist village communities like those in which I had lived for more than two years while conducting my research on the island of Flores. Anthropologists owe a tremendous debt to the people whose lives they share and study – people who accept a curious stranger into their midst and who then patiently foster an understanding of what it means to be a complex human being in that particular socio-cultural context with all its stresses, strains and imponderables.

“Don’t let the World Bank coming in and throwing money at the problem constitute a third disaster for the people of this area.”

Being in Indonesia at present is distressing, fascinating and exhilarating all at once as the country faces multiple economic and environmental crises, yet people simultaneously sense new possibilities for a different kind of political community. My Indonesian friends seem to oscillate between tremendous optimism and enthusiasm for change on the one hand, then heightened anxiety and even moments of despair on the other.

As one of two Australian social scientists on this famine-relief team, my task is coordinating the Bank’s effort to assist the hungry in more than 1000 selected villages on the islands east of Bali, from Lombok through to west Timor. Hunger is nothing new in many of these villages, where people have long suffered what they term a “month of no eating”, when food stocks run short prior to the annual harvest. Earlier this year, however, as the El Nino drought left fields without rain, harvests failed completely in many parts of eastern Indonesia, just as Jakarta was finding it difficult to provide assistance without external funding of relief programs.

Under its articles of establishment, the World Bank, more specifically the Bank for Reconstruction and Development, is constrained to lend money only to national governments and only for development purposes. There is indeed an argument that the Bank should be seen as a lender of last resort in the case of humanitarian crises, given that it has no grant aid at its disposal, only loan funds which

must later be repaid with interest from the productivity such long-term development aid is supposed to generate. Although World Bank loans thus further indent the country and its people, with grant aid insufficient to date, the Indonesian Government asked the Bank to provide loan funds to augment relief efforts.

While anthropologists are sometimes still caricatured as students of exotic isolated communities far from the national or international stage, nowadays they frequently find themselves doing fieldwork in the corridors of power. For me, the challenge in this instance was to comprehend the ‘culture’ of the World Bank itself, not to

mention the ‘practice’ of those segments of the Indonesian Government at national, provincial and local levels that are responsible for implementing the famine relief program. Far from getting back into the villages, I have been doing participant-observation, analysing the cultural forms of World Bank action and Indonesian bureaucratic inaction so as to liaise between these institutions to facilitate a more, rather than less, appropriate form of intervention in village life.

As the head of one local non-government organisation (NGO) in Timor put it when he welcomed us: “We already have two disasters here – the

long drought and the currency crisis – don’t let the World Bank coming in and throwing money at the problem constitute a third disaster for the people of this area!” He was concerned that in the rush to alleviate hunger and evincing a band-aid mentality, the World Bank would provide massive handouts, generating further dependency while ignoring the underlying causes of persistent poverty in environmental degradation and structural inequalities.

His point serves to remind us that disasters such as famines are rarely just natural facts about the world, but rather have social, political and ecological causes and consequences.

Together with Indonesian colleagues on the team, I am attempting to minimise any undermining of other institutions, be they traditional self-help exchange relations in rural areas or the grant aid flowing into eastern Indonesia from various national and international agencies. With a government-run short-term but large-scale project of this kind, I see our role as trying to anticipate and avoid ill-conceived interventions that might run contrary to sustainable development, while facilitating a better immediate outcome for local people cast as recipients of the assistance than might otherwise be the case.

“I see our role as trying to anticipate and avoid ill-conceived interventions that might run contrary to sustainable development.”

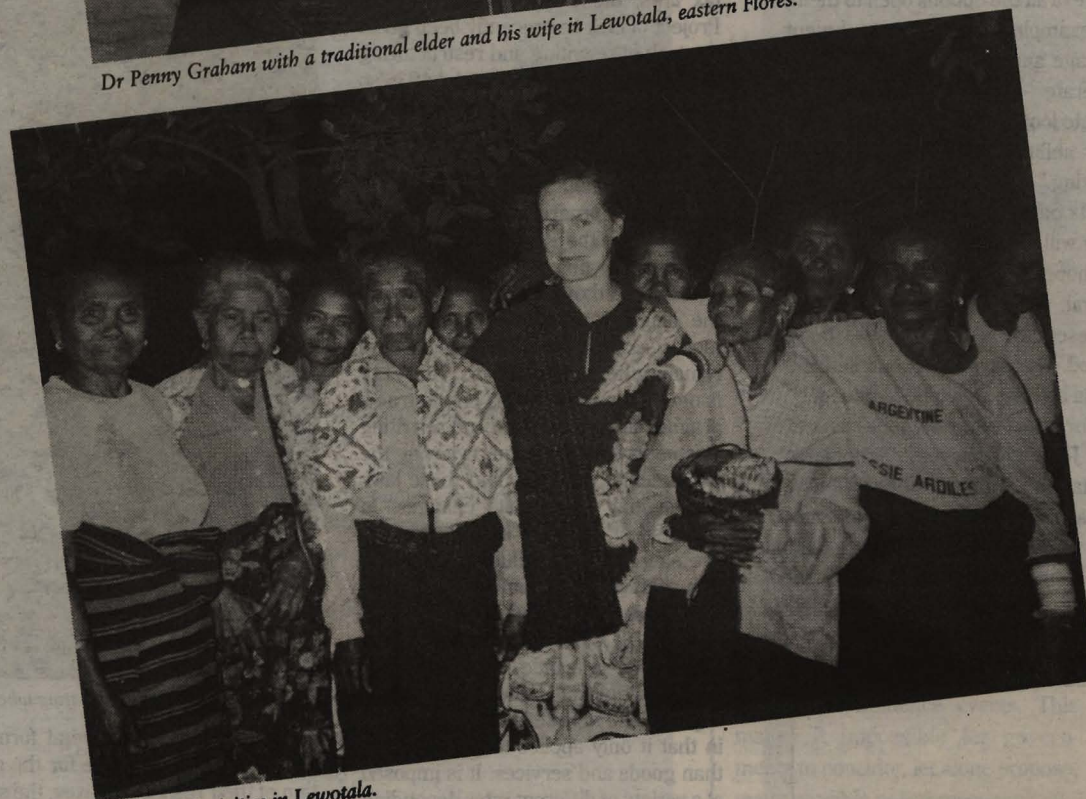
We have done this partly by channelling the aid funds from the World Bank necessarily via the Indonesian Government but then involving NGOs in each participating area. In the Nusa Tenggara Timor province centred on the islands of west Timor, Sumba and Flores, for instance, an overwhelming response from local NGOs led to nearly 100 of them volunteering to become involved in establishing World Bank-funded labour-intensive projects in villages as a means of channelling some much-needed cash to people in the drought-stricken communities. Given a very different ethos and the degree of mutual suspicion between some civil servants and local NGOs, this agreement to work together constitutes something of a breakthrough.

Still, it remains to be seen whether we have actually achieved workable arrangements. Do the NGOs have more than a cosmetic role legitimising government action? Do the villagers themselves have a determining say over the application of these Bank-financed wage-labour opportunities for local community works? Are the communities identified for assistance actually the ones which need it most? Does the scheme deal adequately with local power relations to ensure a spread of benefits given the social diversity within affected communities? These issues are being explored further as the relief effort continues.

Dr Penny Graham, a senior lecturer in anthropology, is on research and consultancy leave in 1998–99.



Dr Penny Graham with a traditional elder and his wife in Lewotola, eastern Flores.



Joining in festivities in Lewotola.

Projects show how the bush fights back

By KAY ANSELL

It's not all bad news from the bush - and a Monash University video conference on 10 November will prove it by highlighting many of the positive projects under way outside the big cities.

The video workshop, 'Stories of success from regional and rural Australia', will feature local people explaining how they are overcoming the damage wrought by restructurings and closures by taking the initiative in innovative ways.

In South Gippsland's Mirboo North, for example, the local paper was saved from closure when it was taken over by a community cooperative. The community support generated is now being tapped for other battles, such as the town's bid to get a credit cooperative to take over the services abandoned by the local bank branch when it closed.

Other projects to be showcased at the video workshop include the networking of regional industry clusters like wedding services, a sawmill in south-eastern Victoria which developed a new method of sawing timber in response to the concerns of a local conservation group, and a Hunter Valley project linking farmers and restaurateurs.

In the Latrobe Valley town of Traralgon, a group called Work Focus has been supporting Wood Worx, a project which uses recycled timbers in outdoor furniture priced to suit the local market. It has achieved a \$60,000 turnover in the last 12 months, says project worker Rob Sandall, with any profits going back into the group to help support training and self-employment programs.

As well as Monash University, other academic institutions co-hosting the workshop are Central Queensland University, the Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE in Shepparton and Newcastle University.

One of the conference organisers, Ms Jenny Cameron, a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Humanities and Public Policy at

Monash's Caulfield campus, says the workshop aims to counter the perception that regions do not have control over issues affecting their own lives. "We wanted to shed light on some of the stories of people working to find solutions."

While the media often portray the polarisation of rural communities under pressure, many of these projects drew together people of different class, race, gender and political backgrounds, says Associate Professor Katherine Gibson of Monash's Department of Geography and Environmental Science, another organiser behind the forum.

She says the workshop is intended to highlight alternative forms of economic development built around ethics such as sustaining the community or producing value-added products in a sustainable way. "It's showing the viability of economic activity that doesn't go for the bottom line all the time."

Providing examples of such ventures might spawn other projects, she says, instead of "waiting for big business or government to come in with more money".

"In an area as hard hit as Newcastle, people might not be aware of all the options open to them, for example using a retrenchment package and their inherent skills to generate economic activity. We want to look at how people have used their abilities, with a bit of lateral thinking."

Ms Cameron says the video workshop will allow the sharing of ideas and hopefully generate support from federal, state and local government representatives who have been invited. She says the public and the media are also welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Ms Jenny Cameron, School of Humanities and Public Policy, Monash University, Caulfield campus, on (03) 9903 2395, email jenny.cameron@arts.monash.edu.au or Ms Nel Halloran, School of Humanities, on (03) 9903 2378.



Regional communities are fighting back against restructuring and closures.

Tax reform - a GST by itself is not enough

With the federal election over, the Howard government is keen to push ahead with its pledge to reform Australia's taxation system. Associate Professor Stephen Barkoczy argues that if the GST is to succeed as a tax reform measure, it must be accompanied by long-overdue policy reforms to our income tax system as well as tax cuts and meaningful social security measures to protect those less well off in the community.

OPINION

In commenting on Australia's current tax system, the Treasurer, Peter Costello, recently stated that "no one would deliberately design a tax system like this today".

There is little doubt in the community that the Australian tax system has grown quite out of control. In particular, the major federal tax regime - income tax - has become one of the most intricate systems operating in the world today and continues to evolve at a rapid pace. Our income tax laws are contained in thousands of pages of legislation and are frequently litigated.

Much of the growth in the law has occurred in the 1980s and 1990s. During this period, complex capital gains tax, international tax and anti-avoidance measures contained in hundreds of pages of legislation were introduced. The vast body of income tax law continues to be constantly subjected to a barrage of amendments. Each year, hundreds of pages of amending legislation are introduced with the result that even experienced taxation practitioners have serious difficulty in keeping up with developments.

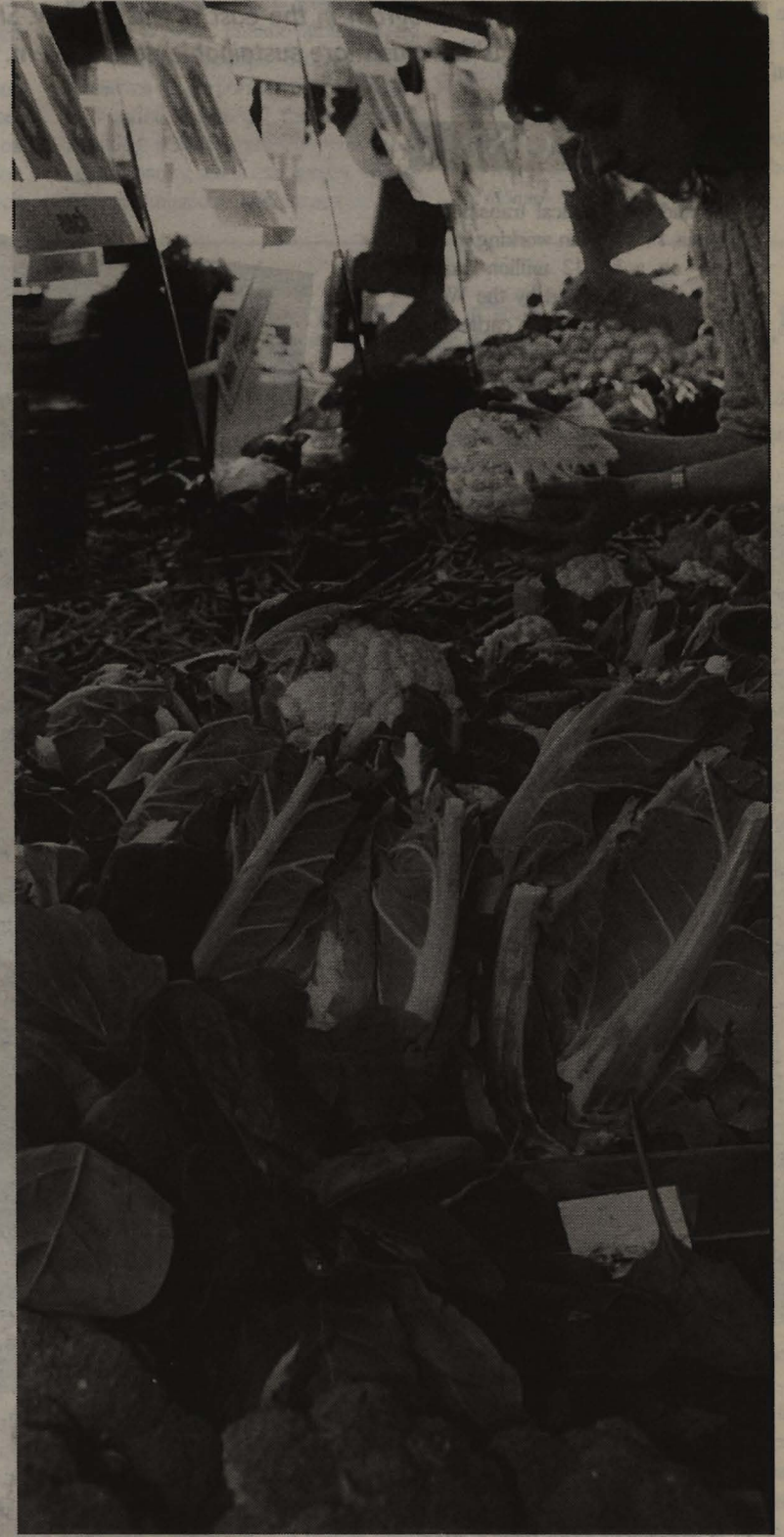
In an attempt to simplify the income tax laws, the Tax Law Improvement Project (TLIP) has recently been given the task of rewriting and restructuring the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* so that it can be better understood. The TLIP is mid-way through its agenda and has spawned a new Act, the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, which contains the progressive rewrite of the provisions in the 1936 Act.

While the new Act is certainly better structured than its predecessor and the language employed is generally more user friendly, the income tax laws remain inherently complex. The TLIP is not able to remedy this problem as it is aimed at restructuring and rewriting existing laws rather than reviewing the fundamental policy behind these laws and making appropriate changes. In this respect, the TLIP is really window dressing and a lame duck, as opposed to a solution to fundamental problems with the income tax system.

Coupled with our complex income tax regime is a little understood and messy wholesale sales tax (WST) regime. The regime is narrowly based in that it only applies to goods rather than goods and services. It is imposed at a variety of different rates depending on the classification of the goods involved and is hidden from consumers.

The regime is an archaic system developed in Australia in the 1930s. Many countries around the world have, over time, rejected similar regimes. The WST regime is based on hair-splitting classifications rather than any principled policy. For instance, there appears to be no policy rationale for taxing toothpaste on the one hand and exempting toothbrushes on the other.

A central pillar of the recently re-elected Coalition government's election platform has been the controversial proposal to reform the tax system by introducing a broad-based goods and services tax (GST) at the rate of 10 per cent from 1 July 2000. The GST is proposed to replace the WST as well as several state taxes, including the



The community is hotly debating whether a GST should also apply to food.

FID, debits tax and several forms of stamp duty. In exchange for the abolition of their respective taxes, the states are to receive GST revenue.

However, the GST should not be viewed as a panacea to our tax problems. While it will operate to eliminate certain problematic taxes, it will not remedy the fundamental concerns that exist with our income tax system. The complexity will remain, and fundamental policy reforms to the system continue to be long overdue.

Moreover, it should be remembered that in contrast to income tax, which is a tax on earning, a GST is a tax on spending. The fear about a GST is that it has the potential to operate as a regressive tax. An increase of up to 10 per cent on the cost of food and telephone calls will affect a poorer person proportionally more than a high-income earner.

Tax reform in this country will only succeed if those currently most dis-

advantaged in the community are not further disadvantaged by a regressive tax. Mere adjustments to income tax rates may not, by themselves, prove to be a sufficient form of compensation. The only way in which this problem will be circumvented is if meaningful social security measures are put in place to compensate those less well off and these measures continue to be reviewed after the introduction of the tax.

Even if a GST has the potential to operate as a more efficient tax, it will not be a success unless the community as a whole benefits. As Professor Parsons once said: "A tax will not have respect, and will not deserve respect, unless it is coherent in principle and has a claim to fairness."

Stephen Barkoczy is an associate professor in the Department of Business Law and Taxation at Monash University.

Law students see the harsh side of life

By BRENDA HARKNESS

Catherine Caruna's first glimpse of legal work was, she recalls, a rude awakening.

Confronted by the harsh realities of life in suburban Melbourne, her experience as a young law student is typical of that of most Monash University Law School students during the first weeks of their practical work placements at Springvale Legal Service (SLS).

In a place where there are more than 137 multicultural and language groups, pockets of entrenched poverty and other battlers just struggling to make ends meet, these law students learn the meaning of doing it hard through their first one-to-one dealings with clients.

Here, what may present as a straightforward legal matter often belies a difficult case, according to Catherine, who has returned 11 years later to SLS as a qualified solicitor and the centre's community development lawyer.

Catherine and SLS coordinator Adrian Evans use the word 'difficult' to explain how client problems are mostly a complex combination of social, economic, legal, financial and cultural factors.

"Typically, clients are residents who speak little if any English and are under enormous financial and/or emotional stress when they come to the centre - usually as a last resort," says Adrian.

"And increasingly, the cases are the ones we refer to as between the frying pan and the fire, where clients may be facing heavy fines or possibly jail sentences.

"They are people who are ineligible for legal aid but can hardly afford to pay the rent - let alone pay for a private lawyer to represent them."

Others may be involved in complex family court matters, are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, or are involved in property dispute matters and have nowhere else to go for help.

Catherine recalls how her first client, a European woman with limited English, was a particular challenge. "She came up with half a dozen issues requiring resolution and I was totally overwhelmed," she says.

"But the students are taught, under the strict supervision of SLS staff legal educators, to prioritise, like in a hospital emergency department, to deal with one matter at a time and in order of urgency."

At the same time, students encourage clients to help themselves. They refer them to other agencies and to a range of workshops and information sessions run by SLS.

Most students, who undertake work at SLS as part of their subject 'Professional practice' and the recently introduced subject 'Advanced professional practice', find it a challenging and sometimes humbling experience.

As with many of her Monash colleagues, Catherine's experience convinced her that her future lay at the coalface of community legal work, rather than in the corporate law environment.

After graduating, she undertook her articles in the Northern Territory and then worked at the NT Legal Aid office. She later worked on the inquiry into Aboriginal deaths in custody.

Despite growing criticism that too many lawyers are motivated more by the market than by their clients' interests, Catherine says there are many excellent lawyers committed to the philosophy of social justice.

"Most lawyers I know and interact with are motivated by the desire to ensure equal access to justice rather than the size of their pay packet," she says.

And in the current climate of economic rationalism, she believes there is an increasing need for lawyers with conscience.

In terms of legal education, Adrian believes there is a close link between "quality legal education" and the development of values in law students and community access to justice.

He says anecdotal evidence suggests that law school graduates with clinical experience in programs such as SLS enter private or community legal practice as more rounded and motivated lawyers.

"This is because their first workplace experience is under the supervision of legal educators who are focused on social justice - they haven't gone straight into the commercially-driven environment of law firms," says Adrian.

In community legal centres such as SLS, students learn to enter "morally responsible, as distinct from legally responsible relationships with their clients".

Motivation, he believes, does not mean an ambitious, success-at-any-cost approach to practice. "Rather, it is the willingness of a student to explore issues of injustice confronting clients in poverty," he says.

"Students understand that they have an obligation to empathise, to gather facts carefully, to research and to advocate on behalf of their clients.

"They know, or come to know, that if they do not accept such responsibilities, their clients will suffer."

At SLS, which this year celebrates its 25th year of operation, including 21 years of running Monash's

'Professional practice' subject, students also participate in small Policy Change Task Groups, which tackle a diverse range of issues such as problem gambling and the family law system.

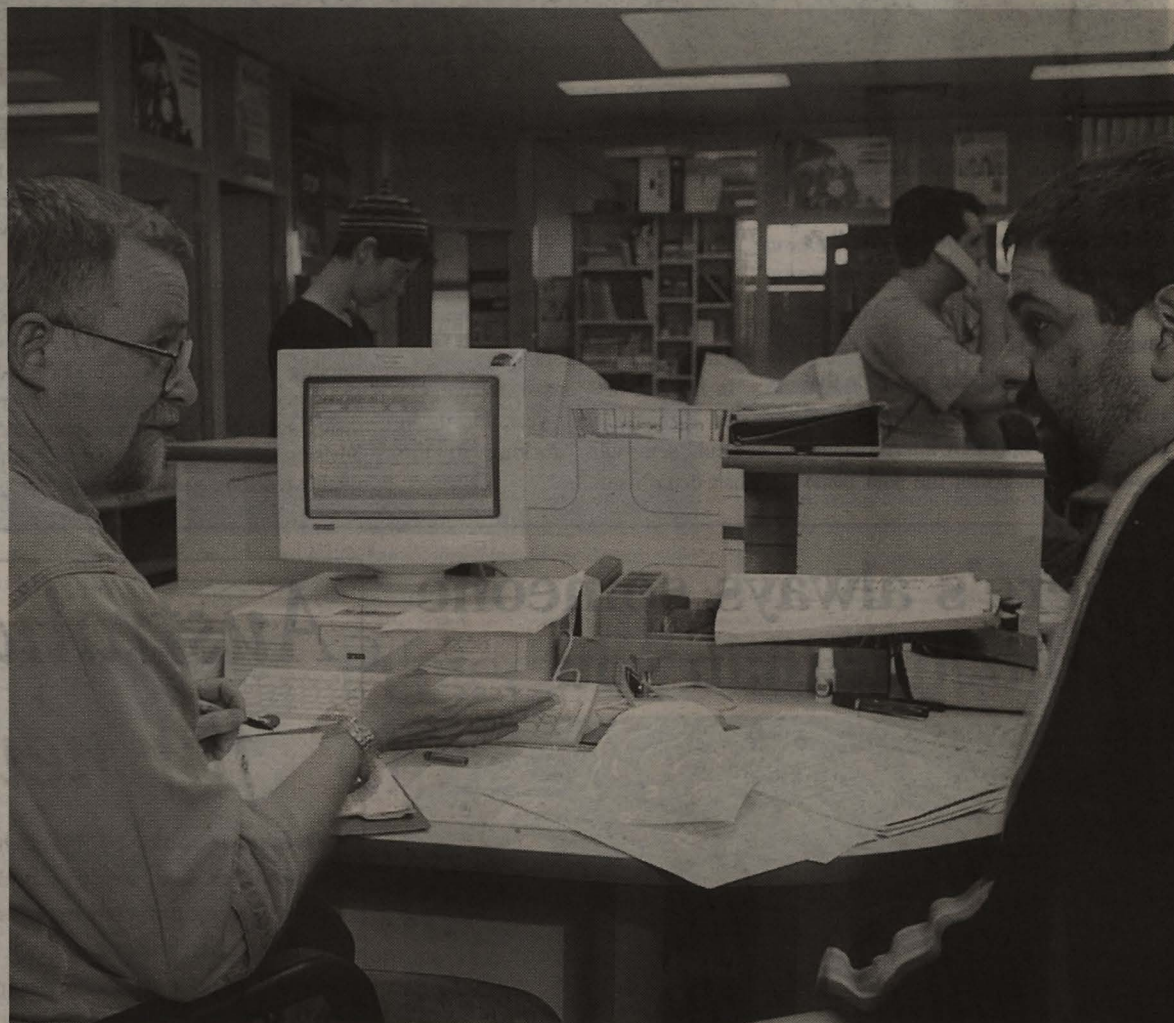
As well, SLS runs a duty solicitor service at the Dandenong Magistrates' Court for people seeking the protection of intervention orders.

And in a major development, the Law faculty has this year launched a Forensic Psychology and Sentencing Clinic at SLS as part of 'Advanced professional practice'.

The clinic pairs law students with doctoral students from the Forensic Psychology department, the aim being, Adrian says, to "get to the bottom" of what motivates particular criminal behaviour.



For Catherine Caruna, the realities of legal work were initially overwhelming.



Mr Adrian Evans, left, briefs law student Avi Furstenberg.

Scheme gives young researchers a helping hand

By VICKY DAWE

Five Gippsland secondary students have been pushing the boundaries of research in areas ranging from the impact of divorce to the physics of motion, in an innovative mentoring program at Monash University.

Selected under a Department of Education program to support gifted children, the budding researchers have been collaborating with academics at Monash's Gippsland campus for the past year.

The students have been communicating weekly with academics via email, and recently met their mentors face-to-face for the first time in a two-day workshop at the campus.

Adele Smith, from South Gippsland Secondary College, has been studying the workings of the brain, known as lexical access, with Mr David McMahon, an assistant lecturer from the Department of Psychology.

Her classmate, Michael Paragreen, has been involved in a project on computer programming with assistant lecturer Ms Wendy Doube from the School of Computing and Information Technology.

Sale Secondary College students David Neumann and Ben Laux have been working on individual tasks involving friction and the workings of computers with Ms Barbara Panther, an assistant lecturer from the School of Applied Sciences, and Mr Brian Ware, an assistant lecturer from the School of Computing and Information Technology.

For Carolyn Mitchell, from Drouin Secondary College, the experience gained from working on a social research project with a Monash academic in the social sciences has been invaluable. "I have learnt so much by working with someone older, and it was really rewarding to produce something together," she said.

Carolyn has been looking at the effects of divorce on children - an interest she developed as a result of her own experiences. "I wanted to

focus on the positives of divorce as well as the negatives," Carolyn commented. "Children of divorced parents are often stronger and more in touch with themselves and their own feelings."

"Carolyn was absolutely sensational," said Ms Robyn Cooke, Carolyn's mentor and a postgraduate from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. "All of the students were articulate, confident, intelligent, cheerful and motivated. Kids get such a bad rap these days that it was refreshing to meet a group of young people who don't fit the stereotype."

During their workshop, the students learned how to post their projects on the Internet, and later presented their reports to representatives from both the university and participating schools.

The research reports will eventually be posted on the Internet together with reports of participating students from other Victorian regions.



Carolyn Mitchell with her mentor, Ms Robyn Cooke.

Russian pianist strengthens Monash links



Photo by Rhonda Joyce.

Star Russian pianist Yuri Rozum (pictured) has become an adjunct professor in Monash University's Department of Music.

Rozum, who trained at the Moscow Conservatoire, is one of the world's top bravura pianists, playing in a style that requires both exceptional technical brilliance and expressive interpretation. Rozum is a master of the solo piano

music of the Romantic era, including highly passionate as well as gentle, lyrical works by composers such as Chopin, Schubert and Rachmaninov, and the piano music of the modern Russian composer Shostakovich and others.

In his role at Monash, Rozum will spend a month each year, mostly in second semester, working in the Music department.

During his visit, Rozum will continue each year to play the solo part in a piano concerto with the New Monash Orchestra, and perform a recital for Monash staff and students. He will contribute to the artistic and academic life of the department, conducting master classes for talented piano and other music students, supervising some student examinations and advising on the development of high-quality teaching and learning.

Rozum's links with Monash date back five years, when he made his Australian debut and his first concert appearance outside Russia at Monash's Robert Blackwood Hall in 1993. He has since returned annually to give performances and recitals and has attracted a large following.

Rozum, who has just completed his month-long residency, is expected to return to Monash next August.

There's always someone better than you



Detail from the painting by H. J. Wedge, 'There's Always Someone Better Than You' (1998), from the exhibition, Close Quarters, currently on show at Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus, until 28 November. For opening times, contact the gallery on (03) 9905 4217. Admission is free.

Students vie for drama prize

Students from 18 Victorian secondary schools are this week taking part in the 1998 Monash University Schools Drama Festival at the Clayton campus.

Up to four schools are performing each night during the event, and four schools from the series will be selected to go into the final on 22 November.

Open to Years 9 and 10, the festival gives students an opportunity to express their ideas, opinions and personalities through a professionally staged drama presentation.

Students are responsible for all aspects of the production, including scripting, directing, costuming, audio and lighting. There is no restriction on theme or style.

Executive director of Performing and Visual Arts at Monash Mr Stephen Dee said the university was delighted to host the festival, which he said had the potential to become a state-wide event.

Adjudicators include Playbox Theatre education officer Ms Margaret Stephen, lecturer in theatre craft at Monash Mr Michael Coe, and 'Blue Heelers' actor Mr John Wood.

Australian themes for new books

Five new books by Monash academics are set to shed new light on different aspects of Australian culture.

The works, by Professor Graeme Davison, Professor Barbara Caine, Associate Professor Jennifer Strauss and honorary associate Dr Brenda Niall from the Arts faculty, were launched last week at Clayton campus by Professor John Rickard from the faculty's National Centre for Australian Studies.

Their themes range from Australian feminism to literature and history.

Family Ties: Australian Poems of the Family, edited by Professor Jennifer Strauss of Monash's English department, brings together 250 poems in the first anthology of Australian family life. The author's second anthology, the work was launched with *The Oxford Literary History of Australia*, which she co-edited with Professor Bruce Bennett from the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Professor Graeme Davison, from Monash's History department, is co-editor of *The Oxford Companion to Australian History*, together with La Trobe University's Dr John Hirst and Melbourne University's Dr Stuart Macintyre. The companion includes some 1600

entries on the people, institutions and events that have influenced Australian society, politics and culture.

Recently appointed chair to the Monash Women's Leadership and Advancement Scheme, Professor Barbara Caine is chief editor of *The Oxford Companion to Australian Feminism*. Professor Caine has spent nearly five years working on the project, and several Monash academics have contributed essays covering themes ranging from motherhood, the body and religion to employment and rape.

With assistance from senior librarian at the National Library Mr John Thompson, Dr Brenda Niall has edited *The Oxford Book of Australian Letters*, which begins with a letter from James Cook, written in 1771, and ends with an exchange of email messages from painter Mandy Martin and writer Nick Jose. It contains 200 letters - many of them published for the first time - from explorers, convicts, politicians, journalists, sports people, judges, scientists, painters and musicians.

The new works are available from the Monash University Bookshop. For details, contact (03) 9905 3111 or email bookshop@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au

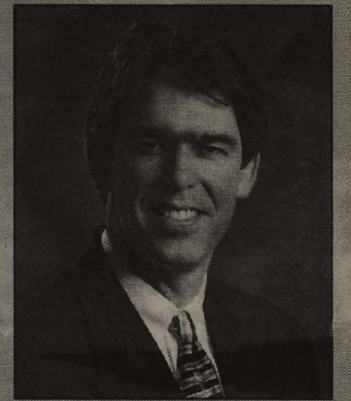
Review sees new direction for theatre

Monash University will discontinue its Monash Theatre Season at the Alexander Theatre at the end of this year, as part of a broader review of performing and visual arts at the university.

Under the review, the university is looking at ways to boost its role and profile in the performing and visual arts scene and plans to increasingly direct its funding into projects with strong research or educational links.

The executive director of Performing and Visual Arts at Monash, Mr Stephen Dee, said Monash was a strong supporter of the arts and was actively seeking new and exciting ventures, some of which would be announced over the coming months.

The university's recent decision to withdraw funding from the Playbox Theatre and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) was also part of the wider review.



Mr Stephen Dee.

"Monash is set to take on a more active and specialised role in the Victorian arts scene," Mr Dee said. "Projects supported in future will be more closely tied to the university's wider roles of teaching, learning and experimentation."

The Monash Theatre Season has accounted for about a quarter of the bookings at the Clayton campus, Alexander Theatre.

Mr Dee said the university always understood that the season had a high financial risk and "for nine years Monash had been willing to underwrite that risk".

"Monash now has to operate within a reduced budget and this is affecting all areas of university activity. It no longer has the capacity to accommodate continued losses," he said. "This year, attendances at the season are running at 52 per cent of capacity, which translates into a loss of around \$170,000 for the university."

"The activities of Monash's Performing Arts Precinct need to more closely reflect the university's key strengths as well as being innovative and engaging."

"While the season is of benefit to the local community, it clearly did not appeal to most Monash staff and students."

"It is with regret that I have had to make this decision, which will disappoint loyal subscribers to the season, but Monash is now in a better position to play a stronger and more targeted role in the Victorian arts scene."

From next year, the Alexander Theatre will continue to be available as a venue for hire by school and community theatre groups.

Life behind glass

By JULIE RYAN

Wendy Lawson lived with feelings of anxiety, confusion and disconnection for 40 years.

She was diagnosed with schizophrenia when she was 18 and placed on anti-psychotic medication, but her sense of disconnection continued.

Then, in 1994, at 42 years of age, Wendy was diagnosed with autism.

She says the relief of finally having an accurate diagnosis was overwhelming. Since that time, her "insatiable appetite for knowledge" has led her to explore every aspect of autism, including undertaking a masters thesis at Monash University which aims to explore ways of reducing stress for families with a child with autism.

Autism is a neurological disorder which affects a person's thinking, communication and social understanding, Wendy explains. Subsequently, it affects their behaviour.

"People with autism are unable to process too many things at the same time," she says. "A neurotypical person can process many sounds and sights to understand a situation, but a person with autism can suffer 'sensory overload' which manifests itself in unusual or bizarre behaviour including rocking back and forth, covering the ears or shutting themselves in confined spaces."

It is for these reasons that people with autism are often considered 'difficult' - a label Wendy endured throughout her childhood and adolescent years.

Wendy has achieved remarkable things by anyone's standards. As well as doing her honours thesis through Monash University's Faculty of Arts,



Wendy Lawson at the launch of her book, Life Behind Glass.

Photo by Richard Crompton

she has two university degrees and currently operates her own business as a social worker and adult educator. She has also written training manuals and runs programs for families with autistic children.

Her passion for words has also taken her beyond the field of education - it has given her an outlet in terms of understanding her own world and explaining it to others.

Her recently released book, *Life Behind Glass*, provides a compelling

insight into the issues she faced growing up 'different' and her determination in coming to terms with her condition.

"When neurotypical people gain more understanding of the world of those of us with autism, then maybe their knowledge of how to relate to us will facilitate better communication and healthier relationships."

Wendy's book, *Life Behind Glass*, can be ordered from Autism Victoria on (03) 9885 0533. RRP \$19.95.

INPRINT

John Dedman: A Most Unexpected Labor Man

By Andrew Spaul
(RRP \$29.95)

John Dedman, Labor's Minister for War Organisation of Industry and Post-War Reconstruction in the 1940s, lost Corio in the general election of 1949. He never returned to politics and, as a result, almost disappeared from Labor historiography.

Andrew Spaul of Monash University's Faculty of Education has recovered Dedman's reputation as a

Labor 'true believer' in his political biography, *John Dedman: A Most Unexpected Labor Man*.

The book, based on Spaul's research in the Australian Archives and the National Library, explores Dedman's unusual background and his contribution to the political direction of the civilian war economy and postwar reconstruction.

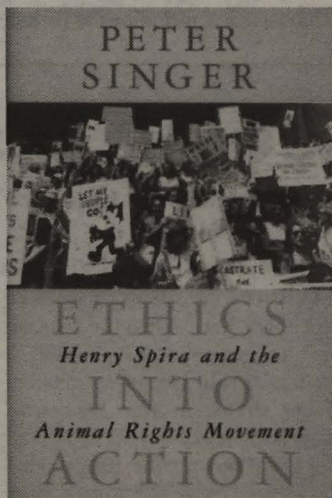
Dedman's major accomplishments included his leadership roles in the establishment of the Universities Commission, the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, CSIRO, ANU, veterans' training and land settlement schemes, motor vehicle manufacturing, postwar defence planning and international trade agreements.

The book recounts the fortunes of one of Australia's most fascinating political characters and gives readers an insight into Dedman and his times, as well as our own.

Ethics into Action: Henry Spira and the Animal Rights Movement

By Peter Singer
(RRP \$45.95)

He led Revlon, Avon, and other cosmetics companies to change their testing procedures so that the words 'not

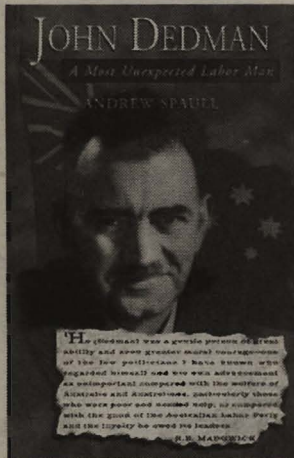


tested on animals' now appear on most cosmetic products.

He stopped bizarre sex experiments on cats at a famous American museum and saved millions of animals from pointless drug testing.

Ethics into Action tells the inspiring story of lifelong activist Henry Spira, whose creativity and careful thought set the standard for the animal rights movement in the 20th century.

Author Peter Singer, a professor in Monash University's Centre for Human Bioethics, gives an insightful look at Spira's life and the philosophy behind his activism.



All books featured in 'Inprint' are available, or can be ordered, at one of Monash University's four on-campus bookshops. Some on-line ordering facilities are available. Check with your nearest bookshop.
• CITSU (Caulfield), telephone (03) 9571 3277 or email orders@citsu.bookshop.com.au

• Clayton, telephone (03) 9905 3111 or email bookshop@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au
• Gippsland, telephone (03) 5122 1771 or email ros@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au
• Peninsula, telephone (03) 9783 6932 or email orders@citsu.bookshop.com.au

MONASH HIGHLIGHTS November '98

Art exhibitions

To 28 November 'Close Quarters'

Contemporary works by artists from Australia and Aotearoa, New Zealand, brought together as a visual dialogue between neighbouring countries. A collaborative project with the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art. Curators: Christina Barton, Zara Stanhope and Clare Williamson. Monash University Gallery, building 55, Clayton campus, Tuesdays to Fridays, 10 am to 5 pm; Saturdays, 2 pm to 5 pm. Inquiries: 9905 4217.

Asia seminars

Presented by the centres of the Monash Asia Institute

• 18 November: 'Consequences of Globalisation for Malaysian Industry', by Dr Loong Wong, lecturer, Department of Management, Monash University, Room SG02, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, 1 pm to 2 pm.

The following seminars will be held in room SG03, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, from 11.15 am.

• 5 November: 'Language and Oppression in Java', by Laine Berman, Australian and International Studies, Deakin University.

• 12 November: 'The Solo Riots of May 1998 - Events, Reactions, Context', by Helen Pausacker, PhD candidate, History, University of Melbourne.

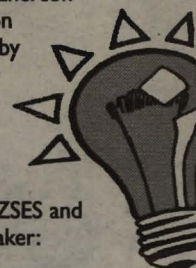
• 19 November: 'Understanding the Cambodian Conflict in the Context of Two Cultures: East and West', by Thel Thong, PhD candidate, Education, Monash University.

• 26 November: 'An Interview With Chin Peng, Leader of the Communist Party of Malaya' (Film showing and commentary), by Leon Cornber, Research Associate, Monash Asia Institute. Inquiries: Anne Nichol, 9905 5280, anne.nichol@arts.monash.edu.au

Wind energy conference

30 November 'Wind Energy for Electricity Utilities, Developers and Planners'

Sponsored by Enercon and NEG Micon and organised by the Centre for Electrical Power Engineering, Monash University, ANZSES and ATA. Main speaker:



Paul Gipe, 1998 World Renewable Energy Congress 'Man of Honour'. Cost: \$480 (concession \$350); early bookings (14 November) \$430 (concession \$300). Inquiries: Alison Ling, Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering, 9905 5749, alison.ling@eng.monash.edu.au

Sport

Monash Clayton Sports Centre

Now offering membership to the public. The centre is open seven days a week. Contact 9905 4111 or see <http://www.monash.edu.au/sra>

Learning a language via the Internet

5 November Virtual Language Learning

Learn, improve or perfect a language with the help of Internet resources. A lecture led by Associate Professor Uschi Felix, followed by a



hands-on workshop. Language Centre, Faculty of Arts, 6 pm to 9 pm. Cost: \$20. Bookings and inquiries: Judith Bothroyd, 9905 4238, fax 9905 5117, judith.bothroyd@arts.monash.edu.au

Business on the Mornington Peninsula

9 November 'Watching Westernport: Profiting From Social and Economic Changes on the Mornington Peninsula'

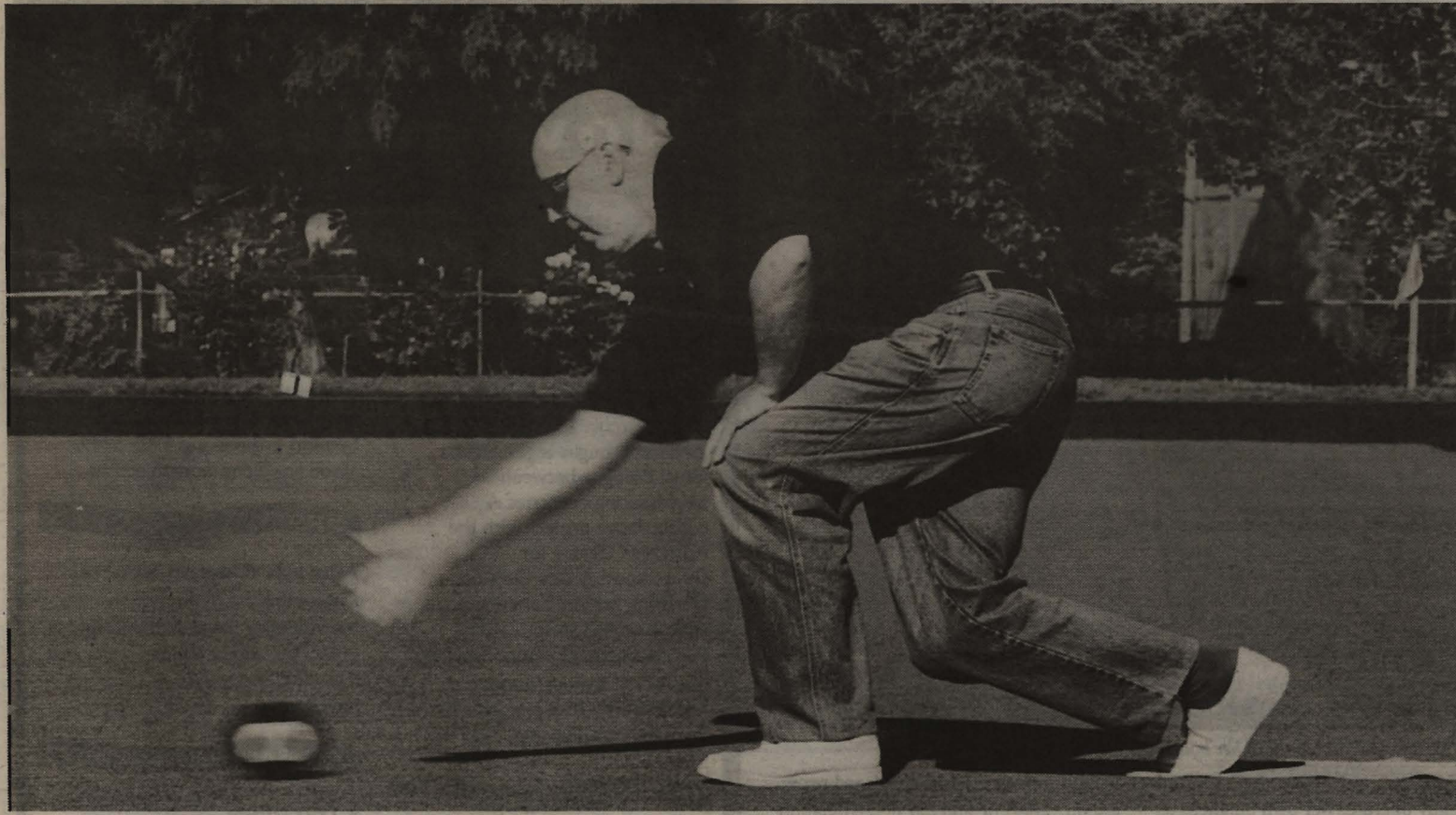
Breakfast seminar focusing on labour market trends, construction activity, demography and transport on the Mornington Peninsula. Hosted by Monash Syme Business Associates at Peninsula campus, with a presentation by Associate Professor Kevin O'Connor from the Department of Geography and Environmental Science. Bookings: 9904 4175.

Berwick campus: Clyde Road, Berwick.
Caulfield campus: 900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East.
Clayton campus: Wellington Road, Clayton.
Gippsland campus: Switchback Road, Churchill.
Parkville campus: 381 Royal Parade, Parkville.
Peninsula campus: McMahons Road, Frankston.



Report urges bowls care

Nigel takes top honours



A bowler polishes his technique during practice at the Fitzroy Bowling Club.

BY FIONA PERRY

When you think of the gentle sport of lawn bowls, sports injuries probably don't spring to mind.

But according to a new report by researchers at Monash University's Accident Research Centre, fractures, strains and sprains, joint problems and cuts and bruises are all part of the game, and more could be done by lawn bowls clubs and associations to help prevent injuries among players.

The report, *Rolling Injuries out of Lawn Bowls*, by Ms Erin Cassell and

Ms Alicia McGrath, is the latest in a series on injury prevention in some of Australia's most popular sports.

It found that more than half the injuries sustained by players were caused by falls on or around the bowling green due to loss of balance, slipping on the green or tripping, mainly over bowls.

About 30 per cent of injuries consisted of strains and sprains due to over-exertion, 7 per cent occurred when players were struck by a bowl, and 3 per cent were caused by a foreign body in the eye.

The figures were based on data obtained from 25 Victorian hospital emergency departments between 1995 and 1997.

According to the report, fall-related fractures, which made up 35 per cent of the injuries sustained by lawn bowlers, were of particular concern because they could cause longer-term disability in older players, reducing quality of life and independence.

The researchers urged lawn bowls clubs and associations to do more to reduce the risk of players falling over by improving the playing environment and club facilities, including car parks.

According to the report's wide-ranging recommendations, clubs and associations should also educate players on injury prevention, develop pre-participation screening programs, provide coaching to improve players' bowling techniques, and develop risk management plans to control environmental hazards.

The report acknowledged the lack of data and research on lawn bowls injuries and recommended that clubs collect data in order to provide comprehensive information on the pattern of bowls-related injuries and the risk factors for injury.

If you're lost, Nigel Aylott would be a good person to ask for directions.

The Monash science/engineering graduate was recently named world champion at the world rogaining championships in Kamloops, Canada.

A senior engineer with Telstra, Aylott and his Finnish team mate, Iiro Kakko, defeated 135 other teams to take top honours.

The pair first met two years ago when Kakko visited Perth for the last world championships.

Rogaining is similar to orienteering, with teams battling tough terrain and temperatures to locate the maximum number of checkpoints on a survey map, usually over 24 hours. Success relies on athletes' fitness and stamina as well as their compass and map-reading skills.

Canada was Aylott's third attempt at the world title, and he said this was probably the hottest and hilliest course he had tackled.

"We each carried about two litres of water between water stations, and there were some lakes you could cool off in, but it still got very hot," he recalled. "I probably drank about 14 litres of water over the 24 hours."

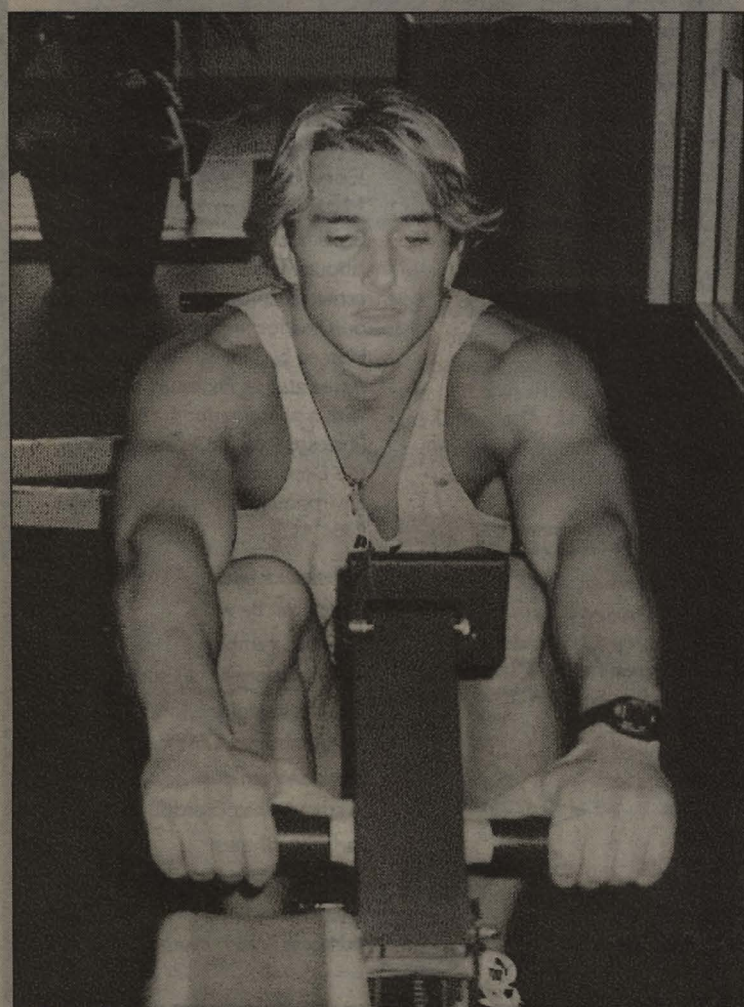
Rogaining competitors had to be both physically and mentally fit, he said, because "a single navigational mistake can lose the event for you".

Aylott has already set his sights on the next rogaining world championships in New Zealand in 2000.

An active member of the Monash University Bushwalking Club, Aylott also enjoys long-distance running.

In fact, he recently competed in Japan in a 100-kilometre road race, coming in 32nd, describing it as "winding down" from his latest rogaining effort.

Photo by Elizabeth Dias



Hawthorn footballer Ben Dixon was surprised at the intensity of competition at the recent "body electric plus" fitness gym triathlon at Monash University. The annual event was won by defending champion and gym manager David Collopy, while the women's honours went to Nicole Huntress.

Seeing Europe – the hard way

Most Australians head to Europe to take in the sights and soak up a bit of history and culture.

Not Terry Kerr. When the Monash student hit Europe at the end of July, it was to take part in a gruelling round of triathlons stretching from London to the Czech Republic.

For about two months, Kerr trained and competed against Europe's best, his strongest performance a win in the Credit Suisse triathlon, Switzerland's premier triathlon series.

Not all his races were so successful. Kerr arrived in Frankfurt in late July and travelled by train for about 40 hours to Schliersee, south of Munich, to compete in a European Cup triathlon.

"I was exhausted from the journey and unfortunately fell ill and was unable to train in the lead-up to the race," he recalled. "I finished a disappointing 26th in what must have been the hardest and most spectacular race I've ever done. It was called the Alpine Triathlon and it was, as the name suggests, extremely mountainous."

The next day, Kerr boarded another train for Remoray in France, a small town just over the Swiss border, where the Australian triathlon team had set up a base camp.

"This was a good place for a camp," he said. "The only thing to keep us amused was training, and maybe the

cows walking past every morning on their way to being milked."

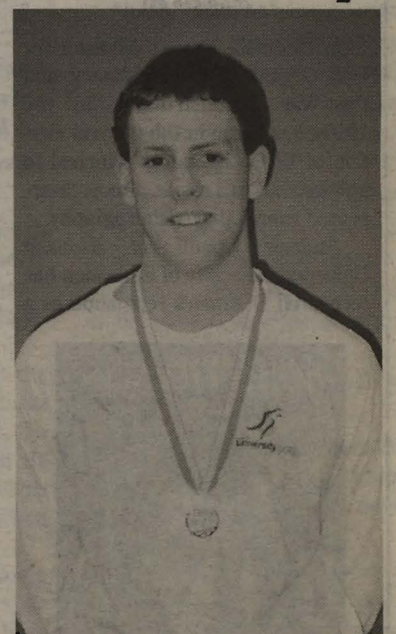
Race conditions were often less than optimal. In September, Kerr travelled to Brno in the Czech Republic to compete in another leg of the European Triathlon Cup.

"The weather was appalling," he said. "It was raining quite heavily and it was quite dangerous on the bike." He still managed to finish seventh, despite being directed the wrong way by a marshal on the last lap of the race.

Kerr ended the European season with a strong performance at the London International Triathlon, the world's third-largest triathlon, coming in eighth.

Then, he said, it was on to the greatest endurance test of all – two days of partying and sightseeing in London before returning home.

Kerr has just been chosen for the Australian team to compete in the Auckland round of the Triathlon World Cup.



Monash student Terry Kerr with his first-place medal from the Swiss triathlon.

MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS

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