

MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS

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Monash expands to South Africa



The administration building at the proposed Monash South Africa campus.

Monash University's global vision has been taken a step further with approval to establish a full campus in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The announcement follows two years of sustained effort, culminating in the South African Government's

decision in January to register Monash as a provider of private higher education.

Monash is the first Australian university to be registered to operate in South Africa as a private higher education institution.

The Monash campus will be developed on a 100-hectare site at

Roodepoort, a suburb in a growth corridor of Johannesburg.

The first students will enrol in 2001 in undergraduate courses in arts, business and commerce, business systems, computing and information technology.

Vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson said South Africa represent-

ed a major step in the achievement of Monash's vision of having "a matrix of campuses which will be nodes in an educational network that spans the globe".

"The development of offshore campuses is central to the vision of offering all Monash students a gateway to the world," Professor Robinson said.

"There will be increased opportunities for Monash staff and students to widen their horizons by providing a new and different working, learning, teaching, research and living environment.

"There will also be opportunities to establish points of access and delivery for students at sites in rural and remote southern Africa, and areas where there is presently insufficient access to tertiary education."

With more than 47,000 students, Monash is recognised as one of Australia's leading research institutions and one with a strong international commitment.

Monash established its first offshore campus in Malaysia in 1998. It is also about to open a centre in London in partnership with King's College.

Professor Robinson said South Africa provided opportunities for developing relations and partnerships, not only with major educational institutions in Africa, but in other parts of the world.

"One of the attractions for King's College London, in partnering with Monash, is that Monash will provide King's with a window to other parts of the world and a physical infrastructure to match. King's has expressed interest in joint activity with Monash in southern Africa," he said.

"It is an exciting challenge for Monash to create an institution in South Africa with the highest international academic standards, employing a range of the most appropriate educational technologies in support of a portfolio of educational courses and research programs that are directly relevant to the needs and aspirations of the South African and broader region."



Top of the world: champion debaters Kim Little and Cathy Rossouw with the spoils of victory. Photo by Greg Ford.

Monash mouths take on the world – and win

BY COREY NASSAU

Monash has again proven that it produces the best young debaters in the world by winning the World Universities Debating Championships for the second year running.

The victory was the first back-to-back win in the competition's history.

The 'Monash A' team of Ms Kim Little and Ms Cathy Rossouw put Monash into the history books with a formidable performance at the

20th World Universities Debating Championships in Sydney in January. The pair is the first all-female team to win the week-long debatefest.

Arguing against the premise that 'Karl Marx would approve of the Internet', Ms Little and Ms Rossouw defeated teams from the University of La Verne, University College Dublin and Glasgow University to win the grand final.

Known simply as the 'Worlds' among debaters, the championships are the largest non-sporting intervarsity event in the world and are consid-

ered the cream of debating competitions. This year over 750 delegates from more than 26 countries attended the event.

Reflecting on last year's win in Manila by another Monash duo, the winning pair said Monash's back-to-back wins could be attributed to strong coaching by the Monash Association of Debaters.

"Unlike some of the top overseas colleges and schools, Monash has a real focus on training 'teams' rather than just

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A medical mystery: why does exercise prevent diabetes?

BY STUART HEATHER

Monash research into the link between exercise and glucose uptake could help identify a key factor in diabetes prevention.

The research by a team in the Department of Physiology is seeking volunteers for a new trial funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

It has been known for many years that physical exercise improves and can even prevent the onset of diabetes,

as muscle contractions during exercise stimulate the uptake of glucose from the bloodstream.

However, there is a yawning gap in understanding why this might be so.

Adult or mature-onset diabetes is caused when muscles 'ignore' or do not take up glucose in the blood, even though the pancreas is producing insulin, an agent which normally stimulates the muscles to use blood sugar. Much research has gone into the breakdown of the 'insulin pathway' of

glucose absorption, but little work has been done on the apparently separate but parallel 'contraction pathway' which operates when muscles are exercised.

Customary medical treatments for diabetes centre on controlling blood glucose through medication and diet. Enlightened doctors also recommend exercise, but without knowing why this works, the exercise prescription often takes a distant second place to pharmacological remedies.

Meanwhile, at Monash's Physiology department, exercise bikes are being readied for a trial in which volunteers' labour on the pedals might aid a breakthrough in understanding the cascade of reactions that cause muscles to take up glucose.

The research led by Dr Glenn McConell is focusing on a simple substance - nitric oxide (NO) - and the enzyme which produces it - nitric oxide synthase (NOS).

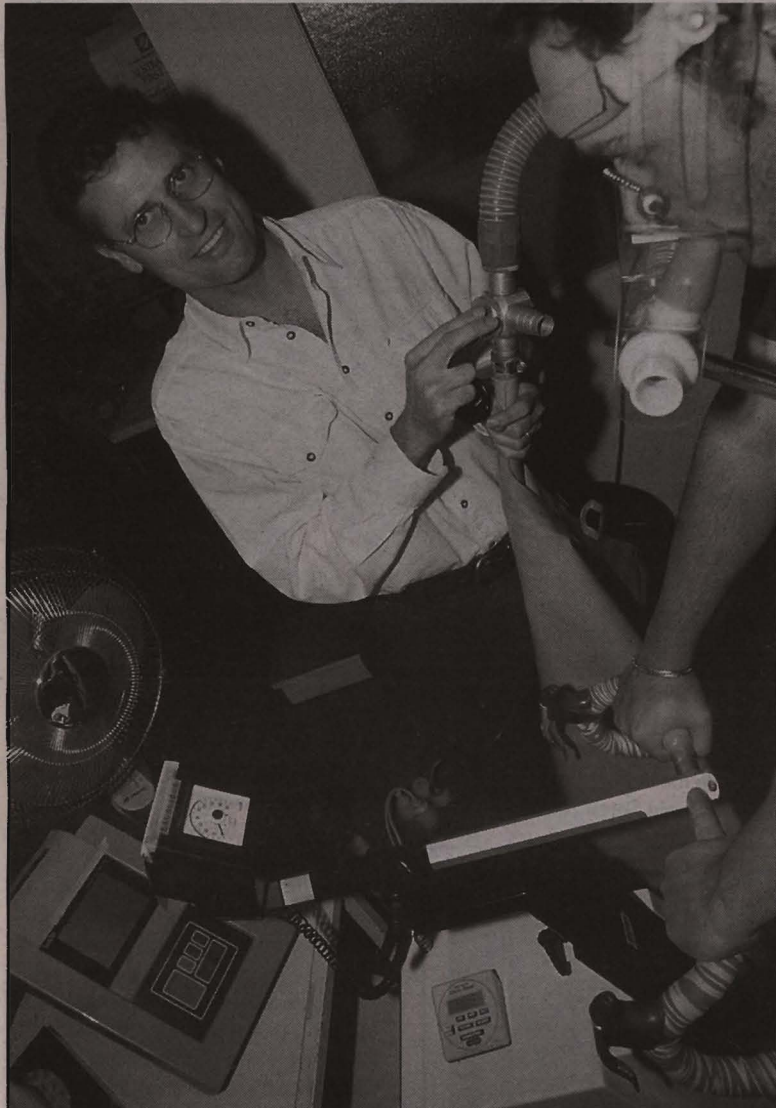
Only in recent years has NO been recognised as having a significant role in a diverse range of physiological responses, including nerve transmission and immune function as well as blood flow. (Last year, a Nobel Prize was won for NO research.) NO's part in preventing diabetes may be even more significant.

A year ago Dr McConell carried out the world's first human trial looking at the role of nitric oxide in glucose use by muscles. It is cutting-edge research.

"There are at least 10 steps in the process from muscle contraction to glucose uptake," says Dr McConell, "and we understand at most two or three of them."

Preliminary results from the trial were published in the journal *Diabetes* last September ('Nitric oxide synthase inhibition reduces leg glucose uptake but not blood flow during dynamic exercise in humans').

People interested in becoming involved in the follow-up trials should contact Dr McConell on (03) 9905 9801.



Probing the link between exercise and diabetes prevention: Dr Glenn McConell works out a volunteer. Photo by Craig Wetjen.

Violence 'accepted' in customary law

BY FIONA PERRY

A study by a Monash legal researcher has found that violence was an accepted and expected part of life for Aboriginal women under customary law.

Master of laws graduate Mrs Joan Kimm looked at court cases involving violence against Aboriginal women between 1950 and 1990. She found that despite having some areas of autonomy in traditional society, Aboriginal women were subjugated, particularly sexually, for the perceived good of a communal society dominated by male elders.

Under customary law, Aboriginal women could be subject to punishment such as 'sacred rape' (mass rape) or death for uttering a sacred word used in male rituals, said Mrs Kimm, a solicitor who has worked in the area of family violence.

"However, women did not have reciprocal sanctions against men for infringement of women's law," she said.

The findings came as a surprise to Mrs Kimm, whose thesis, 'Fatal conjunction: Two laws and two cultures', examines the attitude of the Australian judiciary to cases of violence committed by Aboriginal men against Aboriginal women.

"I had expected to write a thesis on how the imposition of European culture has been entirely responsible for violence towards women in Aboriginal society," she said.

"However, while I found that European invasion and alcohol had transmuted and contaminated violence committed by Aboriginal men against Aboriginal women, it had only played a part."

Up until the 1980s, judges were wary of interfering in Aboriginal law and practised cultural relativism - allowing the argument of customary law as a 'cultural defence' - imposing light or suspended sentences.

However, since the introduction of international charters of human rights and the rise of the women's movement, judges have taken a much tougher



Mrs Joan Kimm. Photo by Craig Wetjen.

stand against intra-racial violence, affirming the right of Aboriginal women to be protected against violence, according to Ms Kimm.

"Even so, Aboriginal women, who are strong women, remain the most abused and disadvantaged of any group of women in Australia," she said.

BRIEFS

Achievers under the spotlight

A Monash graduate was recently named Victorian Young Achiever of the Year.

Information technology specialist Dr Milosh Ivanovich (BE(ESCE)Hons 1995, MComp 1996, PhDComp 1998), of Glen Waverley, manages a \$25 million annual account with the Australian Academic Research Network.

Among the category winners were Monash arts/law students Alison Hardacre for community service, Elizabeth Turner for environment and Karl Redenbach for career achievement.

Strong demand for Monash courses

There has been strong demand for Monash courses at all campuses in 2000, VTAC data shows.

Education and nursing degrees continued to be popular while several new courses also caught the attention of school-leavers.

Education courses experienced increased demand at all three campuses where they are offered - Peninsula, Gippsland and Clayton. Nursing scores at Peninsula and Gippsland also rose, reflecting demand across the sector.

New niche courses attracting interest included formulation science and engineering/technology - aerospace.

IT researcher for network chair

A leading IT researcher has been appointed to a new chair in network computing at Monash.

Professor Elizabeth Kendall has more than 20 years' experience in network computing in the US, Australia and New Zealand, both in industry-relevant research and in tertiary education.

Most recently she has been an associate professor in the Computer Systems Engineering and Computer Science departments at RMIT.

The chair was established at Peninsula campus with support from Sun Microsystems Australia.

Researcher enters political fray

A Monash researcher has swapped academe for parliament.

Mr Bob Stensholt, director of the Monash-based Australian Mekong Research Network, took the seat of Burwood in a by-election in December.

The by-election was caused by the resignation of former premier, Mr Jeff Kennett.

At Monash, Mr Stensholt specialised in the cooperation for development among the countries of the Mekong sub-region in Southeast Asia and taught development studies programs.

Best and brightest at IT summer school

Some of Victoria's top students spent a week away from the beach last month, opting instead for Monash University.

The 60 Year 10 students were taking part in the annual Monash Information Technology Summer School, organised by Monash's IT faculty and sponsored by Unisys Australia.

The program was officially opened by Victoria's Minister for State and Regional Development, Mr John Brumby.

Monash Uni mouths take on the world - and win

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brilliant individual speakers," said Ms Rossouw, who is studying arts/law.

"We are trained with an emphasis on having a grounding in good cases, a sound knowledge of events, and a solid awareness of the world around us - especially Asia."

Ms Little, who is completing a masters in philosophy, only started debating three years ago and said she found it extremely gratifying.

"The Monash Association of Debaters caters for debaters of all levels. They will train you from the ground up and make you a better speaker," Ms Little said.

"Debating really gives you a crash course in everything."

"It teaches you clarity and speed of thought, broadens your knowledge and is a great start for anyone who is likely to be in public life and has to think on the hop."

Australia Day honours for two professors

Two Monash academics have been honoured for their contributions in the fields of medicine and public health.

Professor David de Kretser and Professor Mark Wahlqvist were made Officers of the Order of Australia (AO) in the recent Australia Day Honours list.

Professor de Kretser, the director of the Institute for Reproduction and Development, received the award for his service to medicine, particularly in the field of male reproductive biology, and as a

researcher, educator and university administrator.

Professor Wahlqvist, the director of the Asia-Pacific Health and Nutrition Centre, was awarded an AO for service to medicine.

He was recognised for his contribution in the field of nutrition and public health, and as a contributor to the International Union of Nutrition Sciences, the World Health Organisation's Nutrition Committee and the Australian Nutrition Foundation.

A number of former Monash staff and graduates also received awards.

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High-tech tool could be boon for implants



New QEII fellow, Dr Karlis Gross. Photo by Craig Wetjen.

BY PETER GOLDIE

Groundbreaking work in the development of artificial body parts by a Monash University researcher has been rewarded with a major Australian fellowship.

Dr Karlis Gross, based in the Materials Engineering department, was awarded the Australian Research Council's prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Research Fellowship for 2000 to further his research into biomaterials technology and their applications.

His work is based on expertise in the development and use of one of engineering's most advanced precision tools, a thermal plasma spray. The barrel of this gun-like object produces 10-centimetre plumes of electrically charged and ignited gas at temperatures of up to 10,000 degrees Celsius, exiting the nozzle at 800 metres a second.

At such temperatures, materials such as ceramics, metals, plastics and rubber change shape as they soften or melt to produce pancake-like flattened particles. These stack together in a brickwork-type arrangement to provide a coating.

Dr Gross's aim is to modify such materials for use in medical implant applications for controlled degradation within the human body.

Aged 35, Dr Gross has an impressive academic track record. He undertook his Bachelor of Engineering degree at Monash in the 1980s, completing his masters before working at universities in Latvia, Germany, the US, Finland and France, returning to Monash via the University of Technology, Sydney.

His objective is to develop inorganic materials which will meld with organic matter to produce harmonious and durable functioning body parts. It is a research field of growing

interest in the medical world and one which offers significant economic returns on inventions.

Dr Gross concentrates on the surface properties of materials and how they interact with human tissue, from the eyes, teeth and lungs to the knees.

For instance, a traditional metal hip implant could have a life of about 12 years because of the bone's failure to attach effectively to the titanium metal implant.

Using the thermal plasma spray, the metal can be coated with hydroxyapatite (HAp) to a thickness of just one-tenth of a millimetre, increasing its effective life to 25 years. Over time, HAp dissolves, producing calcium and phosphate, two of the materials which comprise 'natural' bone.

In this case, the bone 'grows' towards and attaches to HAp, forming a stronger and more permanent bond with the metal implant.

The thermal spray technique can also be used in producing radioactive element-bearing materials for cancer therapy.

"I have a particular interest in extending my work in the area of cancer therapies, which represent relatively undeveloped areas from a materials engineering perspective," he says.

Dr Gross is involved in developing microspheres one-third the width of a human hair. The spheres are fed through the blood supply to the liver where they lodge for a number of days, emitting radiation to control cancerous growth.

In the future, he says, he will continue to explore aspects of biomaterials interactions with tissues, but hopes to widen his interests to respiratory health, where airborne particle size, composition and physical attributes are now recognised as key factors that can contribute to lung cancer.

Leading women join Monash Uni's ranks

Three leading professionals have joined Monash University's senior staff.

Businesswoman Ms Alison Crook took up the position of deputy vice-chancellor (resources) and vice-president at the start of February. Academic Associate Professor Susan Willis begins as the new dean of Education in May, and Professor Gill Palmer as dean of Business and Economics in July.

Business Leader of the Year (Professions) in 1991 and 1992 Business Woman of the Year, Ms Crook was executive director of operations of Serco Australia before taking over the portfolio held by Monash's former general manager, Mr Peter Wade.

She has extensive experience in internationalisation of business enterprises and in public sector management. In 1993, she was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for services to public administration.

Ms Crook has an honours arts degree and has completed graduate



Ms Alison Crook, left, and Associate Professor Susan Willis.

studies in education and library studies. She holds an MBA from the University of Queensland and honorary doctorates from the University of South Australia and Macquarie University.

Dr Willis is currently dean of the School of Education at Murdoch University in Western Australia, and co-dean of the Australian Institute of Education (AIE).

She will fill the position vacated by Monash's new pro vice-chancellor at King's College London, Professor Richard White.

Dr Willis was instrumental in establishing the AIE as a joint venture

with the University of Western Australia. She is also director of Murdoch's Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development.

Her research and professional activities range from mathematics curriculum development to gender, social justice and education, and professional judgment and accountability.

Professor Gill Palmer has been dean of Commerce at the University of Wollongong since 1995. More than half her career has been in London, including research at the London School of Economics, a senior position with the Commission on Industrial Relations and lecturing at the City University Business School.

Professor Palmer has degrees in economics, politics, and sociology from Birmingham, a masters in industrial administration from the London School of Economics and a PhD from the City University Business School, London.

Business, academic leaders for Malaysian conference

BY JOSIE GIBSON

A senior analyst from international rating agency Moody's will give one of the keynote addresses at a major business symposium at Monash University's Malaysia campus later this month.

New York-based Mr Steve Hess heads a list of up to 100 business, political and academic leaders who will attend the 'Malaysian business in the new era' conference, which begins on 22 February.

The event will be officially opened by Malaysia's Foreign Minister, Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar and Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson.

The program features a one-day public policy forum and a two-day academic workshop showcasing new research by Monash staff and Malaysian scholars and think-tanks. The Monash initiative and the research grants supporting it are the result of collaboration between the departments of Management and Economics.

Symposium co-convenor Associate Professor Marika Vicziany of the Economics department said the attendance of one of Moody's chief Asia analysts underlined the significance of the event.

"Keynote speakers will focus on Malaysia's place in the world economy and Australian-Malaysian bilateral relations, while the panel discussions will look at the experiences of Australian and Malaysian companies," she said.

"The aim is to provide an overview of the challenges and opportunities in Malaysia's business, management and economic environment. We are also showcasing the research work by Monash scholars and developing links with Malaysian academics beyond the Monash system."

Despite the Asian economic crisis, Malaysia imported \$2.1 billion in goods from Australia in 1998 and exported \$2.4 billion, Kuala Lumpur's first trade surplus with Canberra in a decade.

The Malaysian exports included fertilisers, furniture and telecommunications, while the imports included gold, copper, aluminium and food projects.

Australia-based Monash staff have been involved in a range of collaborative research projects with colleagues at Monash Malaysia, exploring topics

such as women in international business, competition and privatisation in Malaysia, management practices, and the auditing process.

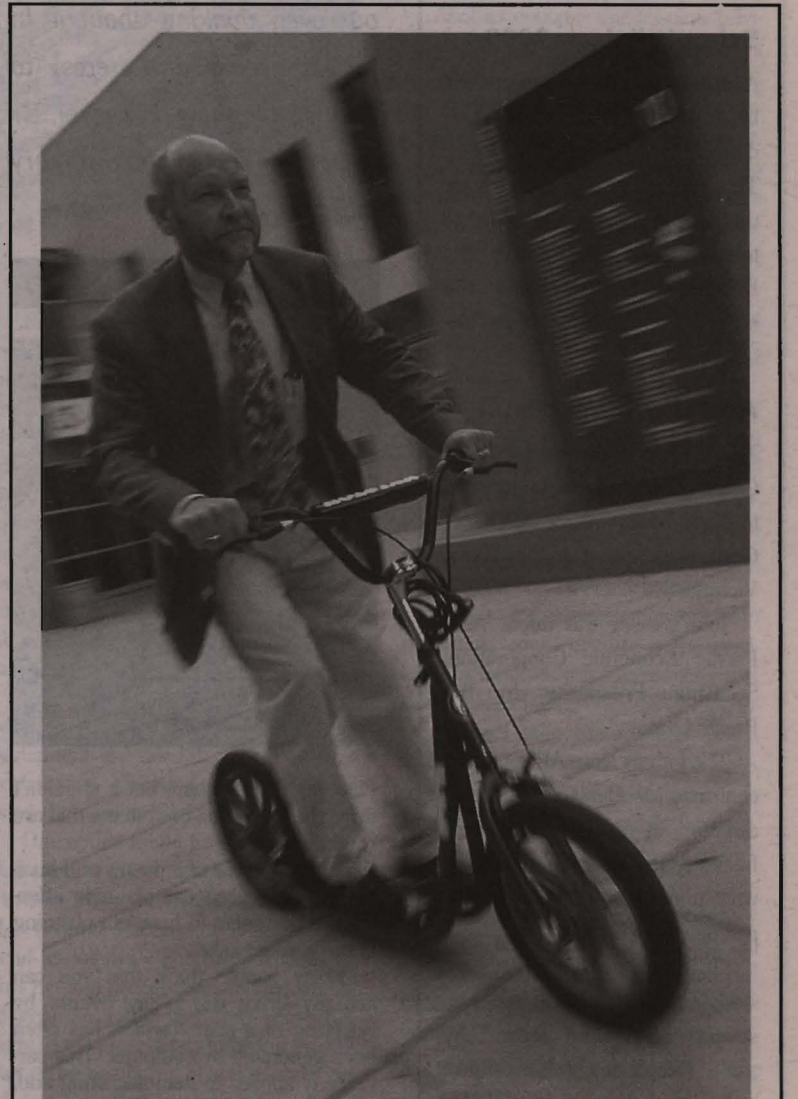
Researchers will discuss their work on the banking sector, on Islamic identity and work, and issues of morality in the public service sector. About half the academic presenters are Malaysian scholars from various universities and think-tanks. As many as 25 Melbourne-based academics from Monash's Faculty of Business and Economics will attend.

Among the papers, workshop participants will hear the early findings of

a pilot study of Australian business attitudes to Malaysia, which quizzed about 180 companies for basic information about why they were doing business in Malaysia and their perceptions of change and opportunity.

The launch and public policy forum on 22 February is open to the public and has been organised in association with the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute in Kuala Lumpur, the leading conference organiser in Malaysia.

Full details can be found at www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/malaysia/symposium



Professor Homer le Grand appears unfazed by the logistics of his dual role as dean of Arts and acting dean of Science at Monash. His no-frills solution to the problem of commuting quickly from one faculty to the other keeps pedestrians at Clayton campus on their toes. Photo by Greg Ford.

Schools



Admissions statistics

Monash will welcome nearly 6000 new students to its campuses this year. The following number of offers were made in the VTAC first round:

Berwick	447
Caulfield	1133
Clayton	3089
Gippsland	605
Parkville	116
Peninsula	531

Many talented students were also offered scholarships:

Sir John Monash Deans Scholars – 41 offered

Sir John Monash Awards for Excellence – 84 offered

Monash Equity and Merit – 26 offered

Undergraduate Support Bursaries (for fee-liable students) – seven offered

Monash Achievement Awards (conversion from fee-liable to HECS-liable) – 53 offered.

All HECS-liable scholarship students will receive an award of up to \$6000 per annum.

Schools liaison 2000

A schools activities brochure will be distributed to all careers coordinators later this month.

This outlines all major events for the year, the services provided to teachers and students by the Prospective Students Office and other useful contacts around the university.

And the winner is ...

The 1999 Australian APEC Study Centre Essay prize was awarded to John Molloy of St Michael's Grammar School in St Kilda, Victoria.

John's essay was titled, 'Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation: Securing Prosperity in the Pacific Century'.

The judges were APEC centre chairman Mr Alan Oxley, and the director of the Monash Asia Institute, Professor John McKay, who praised the thoroughness and quality of entries.

"It is obvious that schools are studying APEC-related issues in several curriculum areas," he said. "This bodes well for future understanding of this complex range of issues as Australia strengthens its relationships in the region."

Research helps explore needs of PNG's youth

BY JULIE RYAN

Like many young people, the youth of Papua New Guinea often feel isolated from the rest of the community and powerless to change their situation, according to Monash Faculty of Education lecturer Dr Karen Malone.

As the Asia-Pacific director of UNESCO's international Growing Up In Cities (GUIC) program, Dr Malone has undertaken substantial research on the needs and concerns of young people in Australia.

Based on her research with youth in suburban Braybrook and Frankston in Victoria, Dr Malone was invited by the Papua New Guinean government to conduct GUIC-based workshops with youth, government officials and community groups in Port Moresby.

"There are some issues that are common across cultures, including unemployment, safety, low self-esteem, substance abuse and a lack of suitable socialising facilities," Dr Malone said.

"But in PNG there were issues specific to the culture, like separation from the 'old' culture, conflict between the Western way of life and cultural heritage, and the lack of post-primary educational opportunities."



As well as the usual issues facing youth, the PNG workshops highlighted culture-specific aspects such as separation from the 'old' culture and conflict between the Western way of life and PNG's own cultural heritage.

On Dr Malone's first visit to PNG last September, it became evident that while youth issues were an increasing concern to many in the community, there was no substantial research on the impact of urbanisation and globalisation on young people's lives.

From her first visit, Dr Malone developed specific objectives for her return visit in November, incorporating

workshops, site visits, interviews and group activities.

Supported by high-ranking government officials including the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, Mr John Pundari, who gave the keynote address at the three-day program, Dr Malone set about developing models for the evaluation and improvement of local environments.

"The aim of these projects is collaboration on all levels within the community," Dr Malone said. "The GUIC program is founded on several important philosophies, including the cliched but very true saying that young people are the future."

Other key premises of the GUIC program include giving everybody the opportunity to learn and grow through participation, conducting local research to build a foundation for policy and action, using global frameworks to implement local initiatives and using a multi-tiered, long-term plan.

"Young people should be partners in community development. Their participation in policy issues and decision-making only helps cement their commitment to the community and become active, valuable members in the future," Dr Malone said.

Dr Malone says her visit to PNG isn't aimed at providing a quick-fix solution to the issues that have arisen in the community.

"The GUIC program is about establishing the issues and giving community groups the necessary skills to work towards solutions together for the benefit of the whole community."

The problem with planning ...

Most people accept the theory and practice of planning without even thinking about it. In fact, it even seems heresy to criticise planning. However, Dr Robert Johnston has a very different view.

OPINION



Planning is important, but it shouldn't drive the execution of systems that are routine.

In many areas of industry and business, people don't use planning effectively. They seem to have put planning in the wrong basket.

Many people think that you can actually drive day-to-day events by referring to a plan – which has often been generated by computer. This particularly applies to manufacturing and, in a slightly less formal version, to other areas of management.

It comes from a folk theory that has developed over the centuries about how individuals go about their own day-to-day affairs, for example how

people create a model in their heads of what they need to do, and then how they analyse this to decide what to do next.

Society has borrowed this theory of planning for everything from running governments to manufacturing processes.

Most of what we do is routine, and we only really need to use planning when something unfamiliar arises or something goes wrong.

People should build planning systems on this alternative image of what activity is actually like, rather than the folk theory.

So, for example, in systems where outcomes are achieved by routine activity, people could use planning to adjust, repair and reorganise the routines when they prove to be inadequate rather than driving all the day-to-day activities.

A popular planning system is MRPII (Manufacturing Resource Planning II). This involves building and maintaining a computer model of a manufacturing process and using it to derive schedules for production and purchasing of materials.

It's an attractive idea, but the low success rate in achieving this vision is due to the difficulties encountered in running a business at arm's length – by means of a model of the business.

An alternative approach is to set up simple systems in a structured environment so that what you want to achieve becomes routine. At Monash, we are studying systems where you would use simple manual control systems but then take a lot of care to structure the environment – physically, culturally and with the management reporting structure. In this way, we are finding that simple systems work routinely without the need for planning.

This new approach features product production cells, cross-functional teams within the cells, visibility of the whole manufacturing process for the

employees, simple control systems and flattened reporting structures.

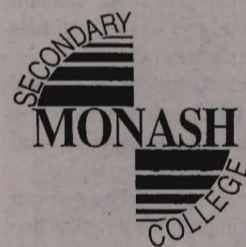
All these factors lead to a very structured environment at work, where planning isn't needed on a day-to-day basis; for example, in a production cell, planning is only used when things go wrong.

An automotive manufacturer such as Toyota, of which the School of Business Systems has conducted several case studies, plans its sequential production of cars to the same degree that a company such as

Ford does. However, at Toyota, the replenishing of parts is completely autonomous from the planning, whereas at Ford, planning is used to drive the parts replenishment.

But there is definitely a place for planning. Planning is an extremely important management function for modelling the future and preparing yourself for the future, but it shouldn't drive the execution of systems.

Dr Robert Johnston is a senior lecturer in the School of Business Systems at Monash University.



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Protected speech is a privilege, not a right for MPs

The right to speak openly in parliament, without fear of defamation, has long been regarded as a right, not a privilege, by politicians. However, parliamentary privilege has been subject to abuse by politicians seeking publicity or revenge at great personal cost to others. The time has come to limit the privilege to curtail its ongoing abuse and make politicians accountable for their actions, says Mr Michael Kroger.

OPINION



Photo by Cathryn Tremain/Courtesy of The Age.

Parliamentary privilege is a right given to members of parliament to speak in the parliament on issues or individuals in such manner as they choose, without fear that any words spoken by them will be used, or held against them, in any legal proceedings.

As it operates in Australia today, it is a protection given to members of parliament against the ordinary laws of defamation which apply to every other citizen.

The difficulty with parliamentary privilege as it exists today is that the privilege protects against redress a member of parliament who makes a statement knowing it to be false, or who is recklessly indifferent to the truth or falsity of such a statement.

Neither the speaker of the House of Representatives nor the president of the Australian Senate has any formal role in ensuring that parliamentary privilege is not misused.

However, it is often said by members of parliament that it is essential for them to retain an absolute right to speak in parliament without fear of legal retribution. This argument is partly based on the justification that, as the highest elected bodies in the nation, the parliaments must have the powers which allow them to question or investigate any activity or person they deem fit.

If this is the ultimate reason for retaining parliamentary privilege, then it may have some merit. However, in most cases, the abuses of parliamentary privilege are not directed towards uncovering conspiracies, but arise as a result of a desire by a member of parliament to pursue a personal agenda at great personal cost to others, under the cover of asserting that their remarks are to protect the national interest or rest on some other moral high ground. This is a situation which should not be allowed to continue in Australia today.

Where the existing privilege does have justification is in a situation where there was clear evidence of a conspiracy by judges, politicians and law enforcement agencies to protect parties from



Artwork by Elizabeth Dias.

prosecution, investigation or scrutiny by virtue of that conspiracy.

Yet for that to be alleged, surely the member of parliament involved would need to possess sufficient evidence to justify making those types of allegations.

If there are serious issues to be raised by members of parliament alleging dishonest or criminal behaviour by others, perhaps their first obligation is

**The time has come
when some limitations
must be placed
upon members.**

to consider whether or not there is another appropriate body which can investigate the complaint before the member of parliament seeks to exercise the privilege of parliament to act as both accuser and judge.

A notorious attack on Melbourne lawyer Mr Mark Leibler, by former Liberal MP Mr Ken Aldred in the House of Representatives, is a case in point. On 4 June 1995, Mr Aldred

alleged that the secretary of the Foreign Affairs Department, Mr Michael Costello, had signed a receipt for drug money from the Government of Surinam in a deal involving Mr Leibler and the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

In responding to Mr Aldred, the then-Attorney General, Mr Michael Lavarch, said in the House of Representatives on 6 June 1995 that if any member of parliament has matters which he believes disclose offences against the laws of the Commonwealth, the appropriate course of action is to refer those matters to the Australian Federal Police for investigation.

He made the obvious point that people are entitled, if charges or allegations are made against them, to have those allegations pursued by the police without the glare of publicity and without the consequent damage to their reputation.

He also added that, if there was any truth to the allegations, the manner in which they were raised may well prejudice any investigation. In my view, Mr Lavarch was right on each count.

Later, media reports indicated that Mr Aldred had been told, long before he tabled his correspondence in the parliament, that the letters upon which his allegations relied were fakes.

Parliaments themselves can, of course, admonish a member who they believe has seriously transgressed in the use of the privilege of the parliament. Sanctions include seeking apologies, passing censure motions and suspending the member in question with appropriate loss of salary.

However, the time has come when some limitations must be placed upon members to ensure that the ongoing abuse of parliamentary privilege is curtailed.

The answer is to find a balance where the ordinary workings of the parliament are not interfered with by restrictions placed on members for what they say in the House.

One option might be to insert a new sub-section 8 in section 16 of the *Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987* of the Federal Parliament which might read as follows: "For the purposes of this Act and proceedings in Parliament in general, a Member may waive his right to the protections afforded by this Act at the beginning of and completion of any remarks, statements or questions to which he does not wish the Act to apply."

A more radical option would be to alter the act so the protection previously provided to members of parliament only

applies when it is claimed at the beginning of and completion of any remarks to which the member seeks protection.

Alternatively, or additionally, the parliament itself should be given power to waive privilege in such circumstances as it deems fit, for that right does not yet exist. This is something the New South Wales Parliament has already done.

Another alternative is to remove the right of absolute privilege and replace it with qualified privilege as it is known under the law in Australia today, to statements which allege dishonest or criminal activity by any person who is not a member of the parliament.

**Parliamentary privilege
as it operates in
Australia today is an
anachronism and should
be treated as such.**

Another option is that absolute privilege continues to apply only when a member is questioning the veracity of persons engaged in the conduct of carrying out the business of the parliament.

Yet another alternative would be to retain absolute privilege for members of parliament to name or criticise other MPs or persons outside parliament only after the courts and/or other judicial law enforcement bodies have exhaustively examined a member's complaint.

There is, of course, the alternative open to the parliaments to retain absolute privilege but give strong and very prescriptive powers to the privileges committee of each parliament to penalise members found guilty of the abuse of parliamentary privilege.

Mandatory suspension or expulsion provisions could operate if the privileges committee was not satisfied that statements alleging criminal or dishonest conduct were supported by prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements and some justification that the statements were in the public interest.

It's time for our parliaments to seriously consider foregoing their rights to absolute privilege. Parliamentary privilege as it operates in Australia today is an anachronism and should be treated as such and reformed accordingly.

Mr Michael Kroger, B.Juris (1978), LLB (1980), is a former president of the Victorian Liberal Party. This is an extract from his 1999 Monash University Law School Foundation lecture, 'Parliamentary privilege - ending the abuse'.

Distilling the pure essence of fashion

BY JOSIE GIBSON

How to capture the spirit of some of Australia's top fashion designers?

That was the complex brief facing a group of Monash students last year as they set about developing the Department of Design's highly successful annual calendar.

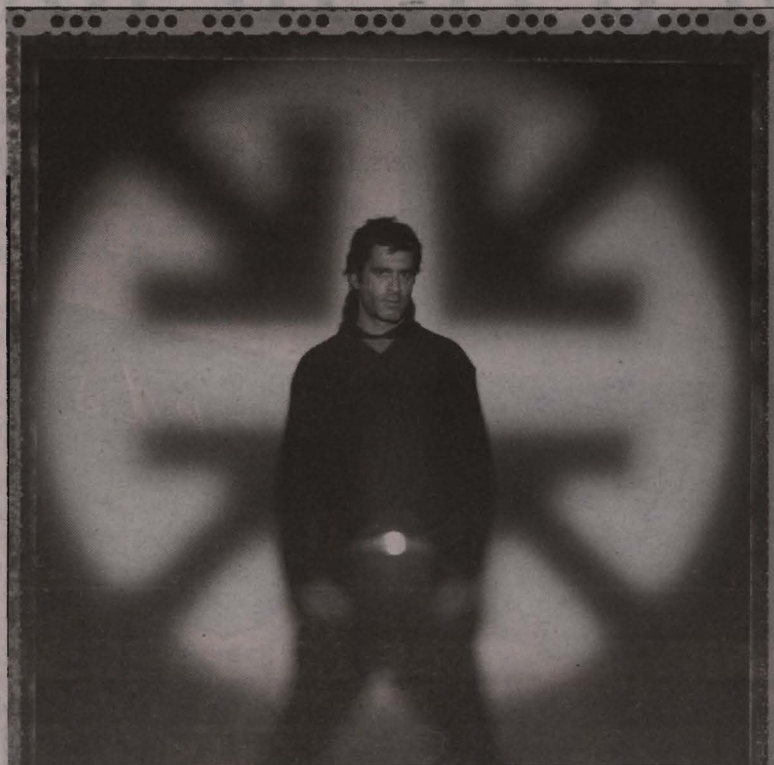
The result: a stunning visual tribute to Australian fashion leaders on the verge of the new millennium.

The fifth calendar produced by the department's senior graphic design students, *Pure* was created specifically for the 2000 Melbourne Fashion Festival.

Images from the giant calendar form part of an exhibition at the Faculty Gallery at Monash Caulfield over the next month. Also on show are student pieces and artwork from the Monash University Collection along the fashion and body theme.

According to the course coordinator for visual communication at Monash, Mr Russell Kennedy, the calendar's scientific theme teases the beholder with the thought of a secret formula for success, depicting fashion as part of a periodic table – a pure element.

"The featured designers represent a diverse mix of the Melbourne fashion scene," he said. "All represent excellence in their field."



Included in *Pure* are the fashion labels Princess Highway, SIX, Vixen, Chiodo, Roy, Ellin Ambe, Square, Perri Cutten, Christopher Graf, Victoria Loftes, Saba and TL Wood.

Each designer has been photographed in a scene reflective of his or

her individual style and vision, with Perri Cutten, for example, caught sipping a soda in a 1950s setting above the caption, "Everyone needs a shot of raspberry to liven up their wardrobe".

Designer Roy admits: "I'm into that whole tribal thing".

Produced with the help of sponsors, the Art and Design calendar adds the spice of competition to the creativity of third-year graphic design, with students competing to work on the project.

Project manager Andrew Wood, now in the process of setting up his own photography and graphic design studio, described the Monash calendar as the most challenging project he had experienced.

"I learned a lot very quickly," he said. "But it was a good job – we came up with a good result."

Pure will be officially opened on 18 February at 6 pm.

What: *Pure*

When: Until 11 March.

Where: Faculty Gallery, Monash Caulfield campus

Who: For more details, contact gallery manager Mr Malcom Bywaters on (03) 9903 2882.

Pure January: Princess Highway (Mark Burnett), left, and *Pure* May: Roy (Roy Christou), above, are two of the 12 high-profile designers featured in thought-provoking style in the Art and Design 2000 calendar.



Organ recital for Bach milestone

Even 250 years after his death, Johann Sebastian Bach remains a haunting, powerful presence.

To mark this important musical milestone, Monash University will stage a Bach recital on 3 March featuring internationally renowned organist John O'Donnell.

The official Monash University organist will perform *Clavierbung III*, described as the greatest volume of organ music of all time, at the Robert Blackwood Concert Hall at Clayton campus.

For O'Donnell, the performance will be the latest development in a long association with one of Western music's greatest composers.

Accomplished in organ, harpsichord, fortepiano and pianoforte, O'Donnell has forged a distinguished career in international performance since graduating as student of the year from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 1966.

He first performed Bach's complete organ works in Melbourne in 1974. With his 1985 performance of Bach's complete harpsichord music, followed by the first Australian performance of the newly discovered Neumeister collection of chorales, he became the first person ever to perform Bach's complete keyboard works in public.

One of O'Donnell's current projects is editing the complete keyboard works of Pachelbel. In spite of this, however,

he says Bach remains central to his musical life.

"Bach is all-encompassing and eternal. To perform Bach is to immerse oneself in the richness of his music, where passion and reason find their perfect marriage," he explains.

"And to play him on the organ is surely the ultimate musical experience, involving great physical coordination and calling on all mental and emotional reserves."

What: *Clavierbung III* organ recital

When: 3 March

Where: Robert Blackwood Concert Hall, Monash University, Clayton campus

Who: For bookings and inquiries, call the Monash Box Office on 9905 1111.

Life drawings trace the heart of the human form

BY JOSIE GIBSON

Despite achieving considerable success and respect as a painter, Rick Amor believes in perfecting the basics.

One of his early loves was life drawing, which he credits for securing him a recent stint as an official Australian war artist in East Timor.

Each Monday night for years, Amor and a group of friends have hired a model for drawing sessions lasting several hours.

About 30 works from those sessions have been selected for a new exhibition at the Faculty Gallery at Monash University's Caulfield campus over the next month.

Rick Amor: Drawings celebrates the often under-appreciated skill of draughtsmanship, which Amor says underpins his painting success.

"In figurative painting it's a vital skill," he says. "You have to have form and shape and be able to understand the body, whereas it's not so important, for example, for the conceptual or video artist."

One of Australia's leading contemporary realist painters, Amor is regarded as disciplined and prolific in his work.

For Amor, the difficulty of good draughtsmanship is the challenge. "It's a very hard thing to draw and make it successful," he says. "Whether the figure's male or female, being able to do it successfully is seen as a yardstick of ability."

Amor had his first taste of life drawing as a fine arts student at Monash Caulfield, graduating with a certificate of art in 1965. "I have fond memories of that period," he recalls. "Pop art was the big thing; we all drew all the time."

Late last year, Amor's draughting skills were put to the test in East Timor when he accompanied Australian troops on peacekeeping duties in the troubled territory.

The nation's first war artist in almost three decades, Amor was humbled by the experience of witnessing such devastation and despair first hand. "It was very depressing, very interesting," he says. "A thing worth doing."

It was also demanding, working quickly under pressure to translate his impressions and vision into an artistic record of Australia's involvement in the mission.

"I was chosen for the role because of my draughting skills," he says. "There's no point in doing drawings that aren't representational. Soldiers come in and say, 'You got the belt wrong'. Accuracy and an eye for detail are essential."

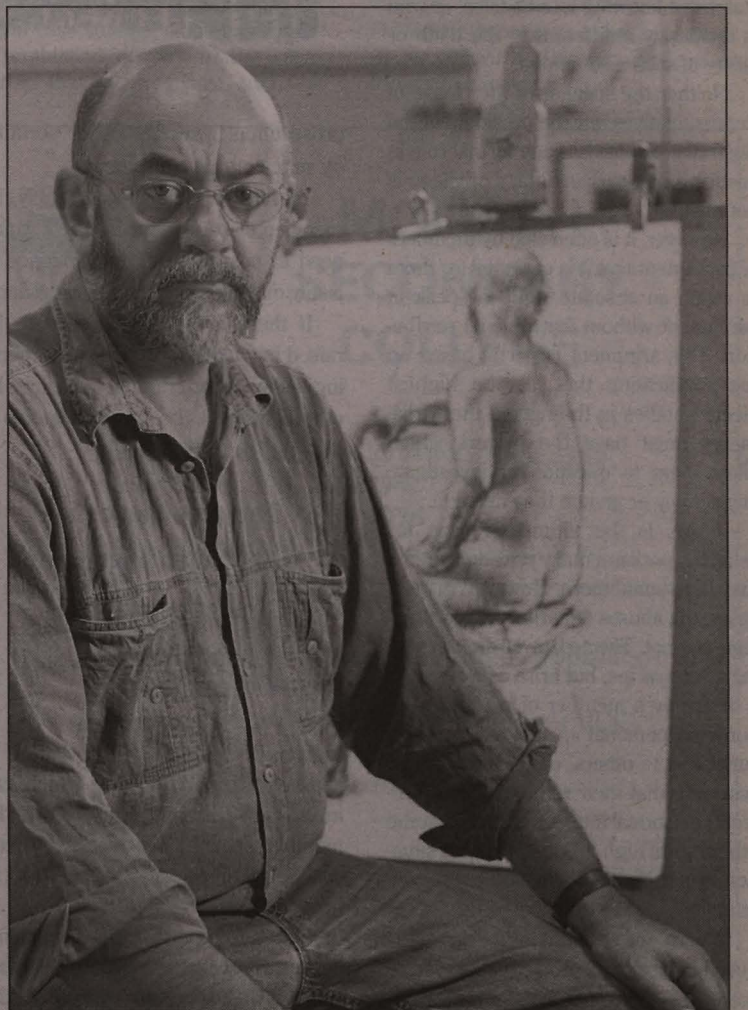
Amor's East Timor work will go on show at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in March.

What: *Rick Amor: Drawings*

When: Until 11 March

Where: Faculty Gallery, Monash University Caulfield campus

Who: For more details, contact gallery manager Malcom Bywaters on (03) 9903 2882.



Rick Amor in his Melbourne studio. Photo by Christopher Alexander.

Legacy of Menzies lives on at Monash

BY DEREK BROWN

The annual Menzies lectures at Monash University have served as a platform for conservative political thought for more than 20 years.

According to Dr Alan Gregory, editor of a new book of transcripts of the series named after Liberal Party founder Sir Robert Menzies, the lectures have struggled to survive, often faced with strong opposition and student protests.

"When I was approached by a group of students from the Monash University Liberal Club in 1978 to help set up the lectures, the university was in a period of upheaval. At the time, Monash was seeing the most radical and violent student activism of any university in Australia," Dr Gregory said.

"It was a very intolerant time, with huge opposition to opinions that went against the radicalism of the time. It was this intolerance that encouraged Michael Kroger and other members of the Monash Liberal Club to create a trust that would ensure the survival of a different political voice."

According to Dr Gregory, who has been associated with the lecture series since its inception, the greatest protests were seen when prominent figures such as Malcolm Fraser and Margaret Thatcher addressed crammed lecture



Sir Robert Menzies.

theatres on their controversial political views.

With major Australian political figures such as John Howard, Andrew Peacock and Jeff Kennett speaking on topics as diverse as business philosophy, education and the constitution, the strong Liberal flavour of the series is obvious.

The Menzies Lectures, published by the Sir Robert Menzies Lecture Trust, provides a snapshot of the Australian political landscape over the past two decades. Dr Alan Gregory is chairman of the Sir Robert Menzies Lecture Trust.

Ex-pastors tell a bruising tale of leaving the ministry

BY DEREK BROWN

Pastors who leave the Adventist ministry are often demonised by their former parishioners, isolated from the church community and rejected by friends and family, a Monash researcher claims.

Dr Peter Ballis, a former Adventist pastor who has published a new book on the subject, said the decision to exit the ministry was often accompanied by feelings of confusion, pain and bewilderment.

"From my own experience and from the experiences of those I interviewed during my research, I know that exiting can be very messy, leading people to feel unsure about where they are going with their lives," said Dr Ballis, from the Department of Sociology.

Dr Ballis believes that, even though ex-pastors generally cite differences with theology and doctrine as reasons for their decision to leave the ministry, it is often the personal and social relationships with church leaders combined with these factors that cause pastors to exit.

"When I interviewed people who had left the ministry, they often pointed to holes in theology and



Dr Peter Ballis. Photo by Richard Crompton.

limitations within organisational structures as the reasons behind their decision to leave, reasons that made their decision acceptable to the outside world," he said.

"But as I listened to them during the interviews, I began to hear stories of disappointment, about being bullied by an administrator or feeling cheated by the community. It is these reasons,

along with religious or organisational differences, that fuel a desire to leave the ministry."

According to Dr Ballis, once a pastor decides to leave, the religious and social networks surrounding them often fail to provide adequate emotional support. His research revealed that only 23 per cent of those who exit the ministry remain a part of the Adventist community.

"When you leave the system you are completely spat out and become an instant outsider. You are rejected because you are threat to the system," he said.

"In one instance, the wife of one person I interviewed was approached in church and told that her husband was a fallen angel from Satan. That's the sort of reactions ex-pastors have to deal with."

In *Leaving the Adventist Ministry: Study of the Process of Exiting*, Dr Ballis has collected interviews and findings from more than eight years of work. He says he hopes his research can be extended to look at the experiences of a wide range of career groups such as police, teachers and social workers.

ARTS BRIEFS

Craft award goes to Monash student

A student from Monash's Faculty of Art and Design has won the prestigious Craft Victoria student award.

Karl Kowalczyk, who completed his bachelors degree in craft in 1999 and will undertake honours this year, entered an unusual bowl made of aluminium tubing and stainless steel wire. The award was judged by Melbourne writer and critic Paul Kraffy.

It's the second year in a row Monash has taken out the award: 1998 winner Emile D'Acree used the \$2000 prize to travel to the UK and Europe.

Diverse themes in two new shows

Works by Walkley Award winner and Monash graduate John Spooner (BJuris 1970, LLB 1972) are on show at the George Adams Gallery at the Victorian Arts Centre this month.

On until 26 March, *Recent Thoughts* is a collection of cartoons, landscapes, monoprints and etchings by one of Australia's foremost political cartoonists.

Melbourne's Docklands provided the inspiration for a new exhibition by Melbourne artist Jimmy Pasakos (BA FineArt 1989, GradDip FineArt 1991, MA FineArt 1995). The works, which are oil slick on paper, are being shown at the Australian Galleries in Collingwood until 4 March.

Choir honour for conductor

Monash senior music lecturer and conductor of the New Monash Orchestra, Andre de Quadros, has been invited to join the international jury for the first Choir Olympics in July.

The event is being held in Linz, Austria, under the patronage of the Austrian president and in collaboration with the European Union.

It is expected to be the largest choir competition ever staged.

Ceramics, painting for Caulfield

Works by two Melbourne artists have gone on show at Monash University's Caulfield campus.

Andrew Cope (BA CeramicDes 1991, GradDipArt CeramicDes 1994), an exhibitor in the recent *Space and Time* alumni exhibition, is showing a selection of ceramic vessels, platters, teapots and bowls in the Hall Gallery in the Faculty of Art and Design.

Nadine Sawyer, a master of arts painting student, has created a large installation/painting, *The Common Good*, within Gallery Three, the space with the large window facing out of the main gallery.

Both exhibitions run until 11 March.

Adornment shows closing soon

Two exhibitions focusing on adornment and cultural identity at the Monash Gallery in Clayton wind up on 19 February.

Circles About the Body includes the work of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists from Tasmania and mainland Australia and explores the role of adornment in making cultural statements.

Past Pacific features jewellery and adornments by New Zealand artist and jeweller Niki Hastings-McFall.

New cultural take for exhibition

Visiting artist Gordon Burnett staged a farewell show at Monash University's Caulfield campus in December.

Burnett, from the Grays School of Art at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, spent nearly 12 months based at the metals and jewellery studios at the Faculty of Art and Design.

His exhibition centred on Australian cultural issues such as dispossession and multiculturalism, 'redefined' by digitally crafted domestic objects such as cups and containers. The work was accompanied by poetry and narrative written by Tony Birch.

INPRINT

Sydney's Century: A History

Peter Spearritt
UNSW Press (RRP:\$35)

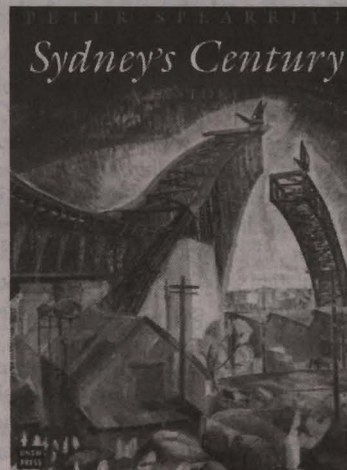
At the end of the 20th century, Sydney stands as one of the world's great cities, with the Opera House, the Harbour Bridge and the harbour itself acting as internationally recognised icons for the city.

In *Sydney's Century*, Professor Peter Spearritt traces the development of the city from Federation celebrations in 1901 to the 2000 Olympic Games. He describes the growth of the suburbs, the rise of the

car and the population explosion that have turned Sydney from a port and manufacturing centre into an international financial hub.

Spearritt places the city in its historic context with a detailed look at the planning, construction, and eventual deconstruction, of many of the city's buildings. *Sydney's Century* includes several photos of notable buildings and their histories, supporting recent moves in Sydney to protect its architectural heritage.

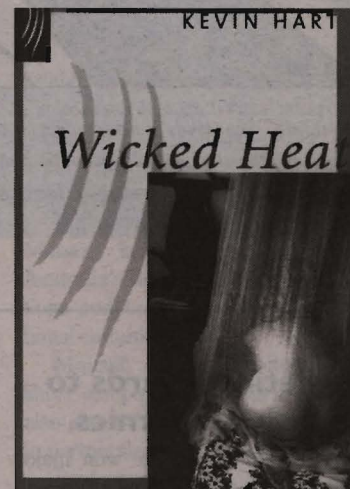
Drawing on novels, newspaper articles, government papers and first-hand accounts, Spearritt, director of the National Key Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University, explores the way ordinary citizens have helped shape, and been shaped by, Australia's largest metropolis.



Wicked Heat

Kevin Hart
Paper Bark Press (RRP \$18.95)

According to Professor Kevin Hart, his latest collection of poetry, *Wicked Heat*, was born in the steamy, subtropical world of his Brisbane childhood – a world where the physical heat was often mirrored by the steamy, human activities of those who lived in it.



However, just as 'wicked' in colloquial Australian English can also mean good, the heat evoked in the book can also be read as love, a theme that continues to run through more than 40 pieces of poetry.

With a look at the gentler side of relationships, Hart is able to balance the aggressive, erotic overtures within the work to produce a collection that explores both the highs and lows of desire.

Hart, based in the School of Literary, Visual and Cultural Studies at Monash University, has produced numerous collections of poetry, an anthology of Australian religious verse and several volumes of literary criticism.

All books featured in 'Inprint' are available or can be ordered at Monash's four on-campus bookshops.
• CITSU (Caulfield) (03) 9571 3277 • Clayton (03) 9905 3111 • Gippsland (03) 5122 1771 • Peninsula (03) 9783 6932
www.monash.edu.au

Ambulance paramedics begin a new era

BY JULIE RYAN

With emergency vehicles becoming a common sight at Monash University's Peninsula campus of late, people could be excused for thinking the campus's occupational health and safety record wasn't up to scratch.

However, the ambulance and mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) units seen regularly on campus are important training tools for the state's ambulance paramedics who, from December, embarked on a new era in education at the campus.

The inaugural director of the Monash University Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies (MUCAPS), Associate Professor

Frank Archer, said the new centre, which took over training Victoria's ambulance paramedics from the Ambulance Officers' Training Centre, recognised the increasing importance ambulance paramedics have in the health care sector.

"The move to a university-based training model within the Faculty of Medicine recognises the high level of skills ambulance paramedics need on the job," Dr Archer said.

"This is a significant move in ambulance paramedic education, which has changed progressively since 1961 when ambulance personnel were only required to have the equivalent of a St John First Aid certificate."

Dr Archer said it was also consistent with national and international trends.

To undertake studies at MUCAPS, students must be employed by an ambulance service - either the Metropolitan Ambulance Service or Rural Ambulance Victoria. As part of their employment contract, student ambulance paramedics receive on-the-job training over three years, integrated with 32 weeks in a residential program at Peninsula campus.

Over the next few years, a pre-employment training model will be developed to enable those interested in ambulance paramedic studies to apply directly through the university.

Meanwhile, the 'ambos', who are easily recognisable in their uniforms, add a new dimension to the Peninsula campus and have embraced university life, using the library and computer facilities and enjoying the gym, café and Seahorse Tavern.



Victoria's ambulance paramedics have embarked on a new era in education at Monash University's Peninsula campus.

Signing up for Monash



It's official. Thousands of new students got their first taste of Monash life recently at enrolment. Before classes kick off in late February, they'll have a chance to learn more about what's ahead during Orientation 2000, a program of activities designed to introduce newcomers to academic and social life at Monash. Photo by Craig Wetjen.

BRIEFS

Marketing awards to Monash academics

Monash academics have won major marketing awards presented by the Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy.

Professor Peter FitzRoy, the head of Monash's Department of Marketing, received a distinguished marketing educator award for his work in advancing the marketing discipline through teaching, service and research.

Associate Professor Frank Alpert, from Marketing, won a distinguished researcher award for a paper on consumer memory, attitude and perceptions towards pioneer and follower brands.

Executives briefed on retail trends

Australian executives will be brought up to date with worldwide retailing trends at the Australian Centre for Retail Studies' 2000 executive briefing.

The Monash centre's annual briefing session will be held this year in Melbourne at Le Meridien at Rialto.

Among the issues to be examined are the e-commerce revolution in the

US, the new retail landscape in Europe, the outlook for Asia, and the growth ambitions of elite global retailers.

Lecturers honoured with awards

Monash University has named its top teachers for the past year.

Lecturer Ms Melissa de Zwart and senior lecturer Dr Bernadette McSherry from the Law faculty won the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Distinguished Teaching, while Associate Professor Graham Jenkin from the Physiology department took out the award for Postgraduate Supervision.

The awards, which carry a \$5000 grant each, are based on nominations by students and colleagues.

Multimedia learning projects honoured

Monash staff featured recently in Brisbane at ASCILITE, Australia's premier educational multimedia conference.

Educational designer Mr David Kennedy from the Centre for Learning and Teaching Support won the best paper award with two others for an

evaluation of the use of multiple perspectives in the design of computer-facilitated learning.

Dr Len Webster, a senior lecturer with the Centre for Higher Education Development, jointly won an award for the best web development.

New look for Monash Uni website

Monash University has a new-look website.

The site, at www.monash.edu.au, provides extensive information about Monash courses and campuses, statistics, teaching and learning policies, details of annual events such as Orientation 2000 and easy-to-find links to associated groups such as the Monash Alumni Association.

A new feature is Newline, an up-to-date forum of news about Monash research and achievements found under 'News and Events' or by clicking on 'The Latest' on the home page.

Another addition is the latest *Media Contacts Guide*, a searchable database of Monash academics available to comment to the media on their areas of research and teaching expertise.

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