



## Changes needed to attract women GPs to rural areas

BY ALLISON HARDING

Country towns will not get urgently needed women doctors unless the system is restructured, according to a Monash researcher in gendered medicine.

The Faculty of Medicine's School of Rural Health senior lecturer Ms Jo Wainer says a deeper understanding of the way women work in their profession is needed now that women comprise nearly half of graduating doctors.

Gendered medicine deals with the impact of sex and gender on the science, art, curriculum and structures of medicine, and the consequences of the near-absence of women in establishing the discipline.

Ms Wainer said Monash University and Australia generally were leading the way in the study of the relationship between women and rural medical practice.

She studied the experiences of women doctors throughout rural Victoria, commissioned by the Commonwealth-funded Rural Workforce Agency of Victoria.

Ms Wainer surveyed 150 female general practitioners and 18 specialists in country Victoria. The study's aim was to develop and implement programs to improve the retention and recruitment of female doctors in rural Victoria and to advise universities on training needs.

"The shortage of rural and remote area doctors means rural practice needs to be restructured so that women doctors are attracted to work in country areas," Ms Wainer said.

She said women doctors had a cyclical relationship with their profession, and her study showed the majority of rural female doctors surveyed were in a relationship and had children - which had a significant impact on the number of clinical hours they were able to work.

"Female rural doctors have specific workforce and professional and personal needs which differ in importance

and priority to those of their male colleagues," Ms Wainer said.

She said women doctors in the country were challenging the notion of what constituted a reasonable workload - particularly the medical profession's definition of part-time work as fewer than 40 hours a week.

Research had revealed that one of the major issues facing female country doctors was the lack of childcare facilities when they were called on in emergencies. Such issues had not been a concern in the past because "the town doctor always had a wife", Ms Wainer explained.

"We've demanded women doctors behave like men for long enough - it's time to change," she said.

Ms Wainer said it took a while for rural communities to accept new female doctors.

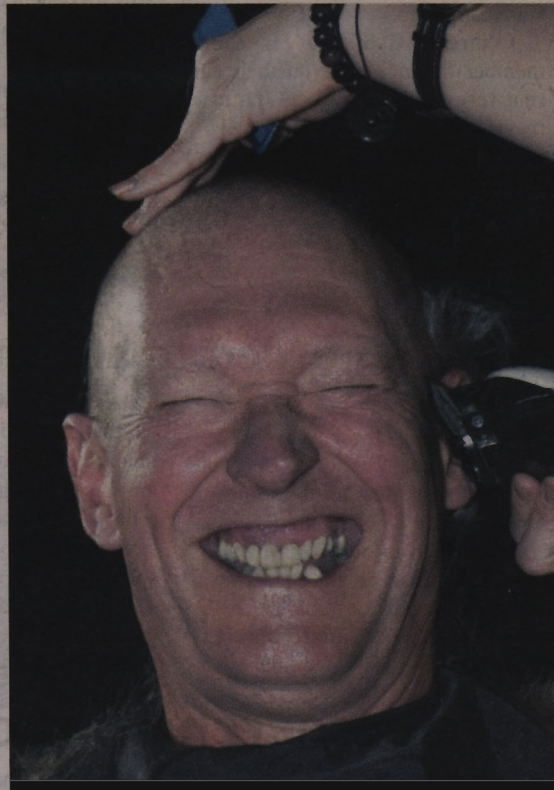
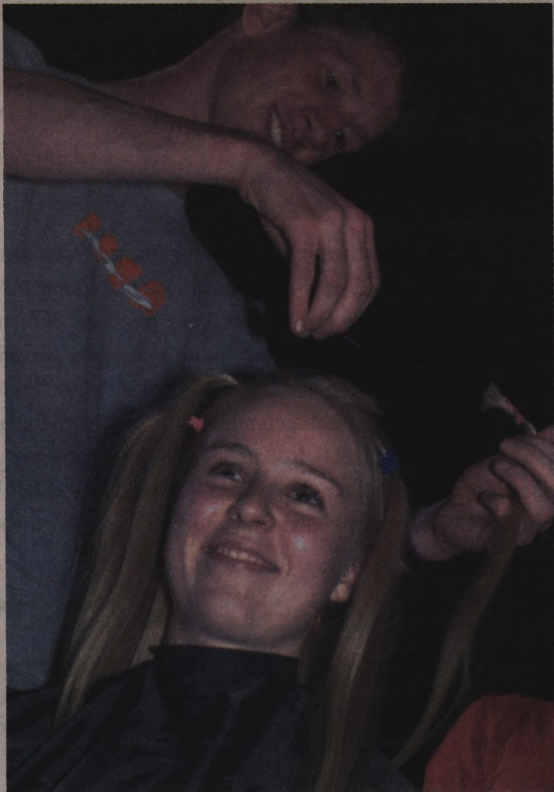
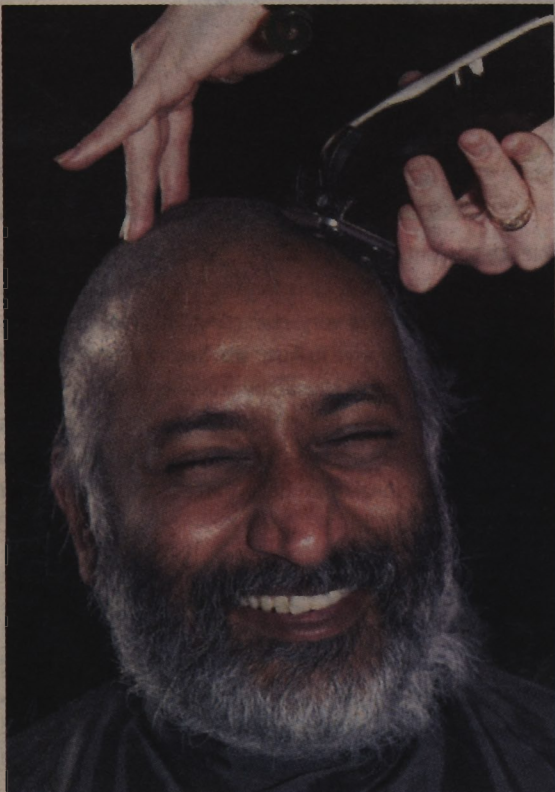
"Many rural communities haven't had the option of a female doctor before, but increasingly they are being given a choice - and when they feel comfortable with the new doctor and realise she's competent and skilled, patients start bringing problems that have been hidden until then," she said.

Domestic violence and mental health are among the issues that patients tend to discuss more easily with female doctors, Ms Wainer said.

"They are more likely to go to a woman if they have a complex or multi-faceted problem - and female doctors tend to generally have a more holistic approach to medicine, which could make rural practice particularly attractive because rural doctors know their patients in the context of their communities."

Ms Wainer said that while Monash was leading the way in research into gendered medicine, the medical profession and governments needed to follow suit.

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**A close shave:** Staff and students from the Faculty of Medicine went under the clippers to raise money for leukemia research. Enjoying the attention are (clockwise from top left) Dr Ramesh Rajan (Physiology), Ms Fiona Gutteridge (medical and surgical student), Dr Steve Bottornley (Biochemistry) and Associate Professor Tony Luff (Associate Dean - Teaching). Pictures: GREG FORD

## More research on motorbike barriers urged

By DAVID BRUCE

The safety of motorbike riders appears not to have been fully addressed in the development of common roadside barriers in Australia or overseas, a report by the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MJARC) has found.

The report, prepared for VicRoads and released recently by the Victorian Government, seeks to address motor-

cycle groups' concerns: that the increasing use of barriers, particularly wire rope barriers, has made motorcyclists more vulnerable to serious injury in the event of a crash.

Wire rope barriers are currently being installed in the median of some major roadways in Victoria, including the Geelong Road and the Eastern Freeway.

The report has called for more research into motorcycle crashes;

involving all types of barriers so that more 'motorcyclist friendly' barriers could be designed and installed in areas including known motorcycle accident blackspots.

But the report concluded that wire rope safety barriers provided major safety benefits for road users overall and that the incidence of motorcyclists

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## BRIEFS

### Women's activist honoured at Federation ceremony

Ms Beatrice Faust, a Monash staff member and feminist, has been named in the first Victorian honour roll for women at a recent Centenary of Federation event.

The honour roll was presented to Ms Faust for her work on raising the profile of women's issues at 'Women Shaping the Nation', an event paying tribute to women pioneers and significant contributors in a variety of fields.

Currently working at the Gippsland campus developing materials for use in off-campus learning, Ms Faust was one of the first women to argue for the repeal of anti-abortion laws. She also founded the Women's Electoral Lobby in 1972.

### Rare books on show

Monash Rare Books Librarian Mr Richard Overell will take visitors on a tour of the university's rare book collection during the second Club 66 event for 2001.

Club 66, organised by the Monash Alumni Office, includes regular lectures from members of the Monash community working in the fields of writing, publishing and journalism. Club 66 functions are open to the public.

The rare books collection consists of more than 50,000 items, the earliest being a 1476 commentary on the Bible. Other highlights include first and early editions of English literature and history, and early books of cookery and household management.

For more information or to book, contact Mr Gerard Healy, Monash Alumni Office, on + 61 3 9905 2044 or email gerard.healy@adm.monash.edu.au

### Prominent scientist encourages students

Nobel Prize-winning scientist Professor Peter Doherty talked to more than 200 students last month about 'The Scientific Life'.

The seminar, organised by Monash's Department of Physiology, included several other award-winning scientists and aimed to give students an insight into possible science careers.

Professor Doherty described his own science career, which led to the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1996, and encouraged students to think beyond traditional research roles.

He said many opportunities existed for budding scientists in areas such as intellectual property management.

### Australian authors win American prize

A book co-authored by Monash University's Professor Simon Marginson received the Outstanding Publications Award for the post-secondary education division at a recent American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in Seattle.

Professor Marginson and co-author Associate Professor Mark Considine, from the University of Melbourne, received the award for their book, *The Enterprise University: Power, Governance and Reinvention in Australia*.

It is the first time the award has gone to scholars or researchers outside the US.

The book, published by Cambridge University Press, looks at how universities are dealing with a changing world, where global markets and economic rationalism have caused major cultural shifts in approaches to tertiary education.



**Active in the community:** Third-year Monash Commerce/Science student Ms Jacqui Young spends an hour each week teaching English to 25-year-old Vietnamese immigrant Ms Phung Nguyen under the Unis for the Communities program. Ms Young said tutoring Ms Nguyen, who has been in Australia for only a year, was very rewarding. "It's really exciting to know that the skills I am teaching Phung are helping her and her young son to survive in Australia. Seeing even the smallest improvements in her pronunciation is very satisfying." Ms Young is one of 34 Monash University students volunteering their time and skills to benefit the community as part of the program, which is coordinated at Monash by the Monash University Student Union (MONSU). It matches willing university students with community organisations such as the Adult Migrant Education Service, Community Aid Abroad, Australian Volunteers International and Berry Street Victoria. Students from the University of Melbourne and RMIT are also involved. Picture: JOE MANN

## Rural health centre vital to bush: MP

BY ALLISON HARDING

Monash University's Centre for Rural Health is playing a vital role in the Gippsland community, according to Federal Member of Parliament Mr Christian Zahra.

Centre staff briefed Mr Zahra, member for McMillan, on their current research and projects during a recent visit.

Mr Zahra, whose electorate covers the area from Pakenham in the west to Traralgon in east and includes the towns of Morwell and Moe, said he was impressed with the commitment of

the researchers and project officers to the issue of rural health and their involvement in community issues and concerns.

"The centre is a good example of why it's beneficial to have a part of the university in a regional area," Mr Zahra said.

"We want institutions to engage with us in our local communities - not just be based in the district.

"The centre is not only making a contribution to the local area, it is also making a contribution that has significant impact on a national level."

The centre, established in 1992, develops rural health policy, raises the profile of rural health practice and establishes strong health networks in the country.

It also provides undergraduate and postgraduate education for rural health practice and facilitates research into rural health issues.

Current research at the centre includes a study of the role of bush nurses in isolated communities, urgent care models in rural towns, rehabilitation outcomes for injured farmers and gender issues in rural medicine.

## Schools



### Course and careers posters

A set of 15 course and careers posters has been distributed to schools. The posters group courses and their associated careers into broad interest areas. Extra copies of the posters will be available at the Monash Teachers' Seminar, or schools can contact the Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 4164.

### Explore Monash

A school holiday campus visit program for regional and interstate students will be held on 12 July at Gippsland and 13 July at Clayton. The program provides an excellent opportunity for prospective students and their families to visit Monash. Activities include course, fee and scholarship information, faculty visits and a look at accommodation options. Participants in the Clayton program may choose to visit another campus in the afternoon.

For more information, contact Ms Sasha de Silva on (03) 9905 3167.

### Teachers' seminar

The annual Monash Teachers' Seminar is being held on Thursday 14 June at the Clayton campus. Careers and VCE coordinators are welcome to attend. Programs have been sent to all schools. If you would like another copy or more information, contact Ms Val Foster on (03) 9905 4164.

### Undergraduate course guide

Monash's *Undergraduate Course Guide 2002* has been distributed to all secondary schools. For more copies, contact the Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 1320.

## Changes needed to attract women GPs to rural areas

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Since identifying the need to restructure rural practice in 1995, the School of Rural Health has developed an undergraduate curriculum on gender issues for rural doctors, encouraged five other medical schools to do the same, and held conferences on the issue.

"We've identified and are working with a 'sea change'. In Sweden, for

instance, the government has mandated that the universities teach about this issue, and in the US the Institute for Medicine has just published a report recommending the study of sex differences from womb to tomb," she said.

At last month's Victorian Rural General Practice Conference, doctors took part in workshops on issues

arising from the school's research, such as provision of after-hours services by female doctors and how to structure a profitable female-friendly rural practice.

"This is an outstanding example of how public health strategies can be built on sustained research integrated with education and implementation outcomes," Ms Wainer said.

## More research on motorbike barriers urged

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colliding with them was extremely infrequent.

The study leader and a senior research fellow at MUARC, Mr Bruce Corben, said further investigation was needed into the nature and severity of motorcyclist crashes, but it was clear that wire rope barriers were not a major problem on our roads. A search of road crash data showed that barrier crashes constituted only a small proportion of motorcycle crashes.

"Given the demonstrated safety benefits of wire rope barriers, it would not be ethically responsible to deny these benefits to the vast majority of road users. We should continue to install wire rope barriers on appropriate roadways and, at the same time, undertake a program of research and

development that will lead to safer barrier design for motorcyclists," Mr Corben said.

"Most run-off-the-road motorcycle crashes occur on curves, and as wire rope barriers are typically not used on roads with tight curves, the probability of a motorcyclist impacting with a wire rope barrier is extremely low"

The report studied the crash data of two of Victoria's major roads - the Eastern Freeway in Melbourne and the Geelong Road, which is a section of the Princes Highway connecting Melbourne and Geelong.

"Where wire rope barriers are installed on the Eastern Freeway, there is generally an open space between the traffic lane and the barrier where a rider might regain control of their motorcycle or manage to reduce their speed before impact," Mr Corben said.

"Clearly, any type of barrier can pose an injury risk to a fallen rider. But, with our current knowledge, it is unclear whether the motorcyclist would sustain injuries more or less severe if there were no barriers along these major roadways

"Both roads present the danger of a rider striking objects like the lighting towers and overpass columns, or crossing the centre median into oncoming traffic. Along the Geelong Road, in particular, there are also trees, poles, culverts, rocks and other objects to contend with"

The report also called for close consultation with key road and interest groups, both in Australia and from overseas, to develop a strategic direction for research into roadside barriers

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See the day

# New \$300m science and technology cluster for Monash

BY JUNE YU

Monash University has launched its concept for an International Centre for Science Technology and Emerging Industries at the Clayton campus.

Federal Industry, Science and Resources Minister Senator Nick Minchin and Victorian State and Regional Development Minister Mr John Brumby attended the launch late last month.

Deputy vice-chancellor (Resources) Ms Alison Crook said the centre would provide opportunities for business and industry to collaborate with researchers and be located in an innovation cluster at Monash.

This would give industry the chance to be part of one of Australia's most prominent research universities, which has six campuses in metropolitan Melbourne, overseas campuses in Malaysia and South Africa, and centres in London and Prato.

Ms Crook said the centre would be multidisciplinary in its approach, involving the faculties of Science, Information Technology, Medicine, Engineering and Pharmacy, with other faculties contributing specialist skills as required.

"Some of the most exciting things happening academically at the moment tend to be occurring across disciplines and faculties, for example, bioinformatics, nanotechnology and environmental science," she said.

Business incubators and facilities for secondary school programs have also been incorporated into the concept.



Specialist adviser, strategy and commercial, Ms Susan Heron, Dr Tom Forgan and Monash deputy vice-chancellor (Resources) Ms Alison Crook with a model of the precinct. Picture: GREG FORD

"We need to make sure that we capture the imagination of secondary students who are the future of science and technology in Australia," she said.

Ms Crook said Monash academics worked on the concept with Dr Tom Forgan, who founded the Australian Technology Park in Sydney. The cluster will include a fully integrated living environment where business and the community could be part of the campus.

"In addition to pure research, much of our research has commercial potential. Therefore we want to be involved with business and industry from the start with our researchers working alongside theirs," she said.

"By progressively incubating companies here with us, students, staff and the local community can see the whole process of taking ideas through to industry growth and the creation of employment opportunities."

She said Monash owned land next to the Clayton campus that could serve as an expansion route for companies as they grew out of their space within the centre. This would enable them to stay close to leading research so that they continue to develop.

Businesses will benefit from having access to Monash's best graduates, while students will have the advantage of working closely with industry and gain part-time work.

Ms Crook said several outside organisations had already expressed interest in leasing space within the centre.

Construction on the first of seven buildings will begin in September and is scheduled to open in July 2002. The entire project will total up to \$300 million and develop progressively over the next 10 years.

## Giving spark to the scientists of tomorrow

BY COREY NASSAU

At a time when science appears to be losing its appeal for young Australians, Monash University has announced a multi-million dollar project designed to rekindle enthusiasm for the discipline.

The Monash Science Centre, under construction at the university's Clayton campus, will provide a link between researchers, academic staff, school teachers, students and the public to deliver educational and informative programs to inspire children about science.

Due for completion during 2002, the centre will attract school groups and families who will come to learn about science through a range of interactive programs.

Monash's Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich, an internationally respected paleontologist and the driving force behind the project, believes children need to be encouraged to consider science as a valuable career path as well as something they should simply explore.

"Kids are like sponges with an enormous capacity to observe and learn," Professor Vickers-Rich said.

"The Monash Science Centre will be an environment where science can be seen, felt and practised as a hap-

pening process, not as some distant, white lab coat experience."

The centre will run programs, as it does now from smaller quarters, for school groups during the week with sessions for the public on weekends which, according to Professor Vickers-Rich, will offer more than the usual "sparks and bubbling liquid" infotainment displays.

"We want to give children the tools and inspiration to think about what they are seeing and then perhaps rethink their futures," she said.

Monash Science dean Professor Robert Norris sees the centre as part of a long-term program to reassert the prominence of scientific contribution in our society.

"We want to excite the minds of Australian youth and make them see that they can be part of a positive future where talented young male and female scientists are as relevant role models as sport stars and artists," Professor Robert Norris said.

The centre has been designed as an environmentally friendly building with minimal energy usage through selected building materials and orientation to weather patterns. The building will also incorporate the latest in both waste management and recycling programs.

## New study probes Latrobe Valley employment trends

A new Monash University survey into industry and employment trends in the Latrobe Valley will help promote the region's skilled but under-utilised labour market.

The project will revive an annual Employment and Industry Survey conducted within the Latrobe region between 1985 and 1994.

The survey is an initiative of Monash's Gippsland Research and Information Service (GRIS) and the new Research Unit for Work and Communications Futures (RUWCF).

According to GRIS manager Ms Tina D'Urbano, the City of Latrobe in south-east Victoria was once economically reliant on major heavy industry but has experienced a dramatic shift in employment patterns over the past decade.

She said restructuring, downsizing and centralisation of industry from the early 1990s had encouraged an increase in casual and part-time employment within the region.

"There have been many changes in employment in the years following the

1994 survey, and resurrecting the employment survey will give us a detailed understanding of the current employment situation and what the region can expect and build on in the future," she said.

Ms D'Urbano stressed the importance of this type of research in attracting new industry and employment to the Latrobe Valley.

"The survey results will be a great marketing and strategic planning tool for business and community leaders in the Latrobe Valley. We will find out how many of the region's skilled labour force are currently being under-utilised in casual or part-time work," she said.

Dr Darryn Snell and Dr Marion Collis, researchers associated with the new RUWCF at Monash, are currently working with GRIS on the first stage of the project with the support of a Strategic Monash University Research Fund (SMURF) grant.

For more information, contact Dr Snell on + 61 3 5122 63477 or Ms D'Urbano on + 61 3 5122 6418.



Media friendly: AFL footballer Brendon Gale surrounded by the Indonesian visitors. Picture: GREG FORD

## It's more than a game

BY DAVID BRUCE

"Are there any dirty games?"

Australian Football League player Brendon Gale was puzzled by the question.

"You say football is a big money business now. Are there any dirty games going on, like bribery?" came the question again.

Gale has faced tough questions before in his long football career, but a group of Indonesian journalists visiting Monash University tossed in some extra curly ones.

"Are there plans to put Australian Rules in the Olympics?" Not likely, but Australia would be a certain for the gold, said Gale.

"When is it coming to Indonesia?" It's too hot. But we do play in London, Ireland and North America.

"It is a sexist game. Why are there only men players? Why don't you wear body protection?" The questions continued.

Ruckman and Monash graduate Brendon Gale presented a "show and tell" of the rules and the culture that surround Australian Rules to 24 journalists from ANTARA, Indonesia's national news agency.

They are visiting Monash for six weeks as part of an educational and cultural project funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

After a brief introduction to the game, Gale took the group onto the oval for a kick of the football and let them hold the 1974 Premiership Cup.

In addition to learning about the cultural aspects of Australian life, the

journalists are undertaking journalism training and learning about developments in the application of information technology to the media.

They will also visit news organisations, including *The Age*, ABC TV, Radio Australia, and several regional and suburban news outlets, as well as the Victorian State Parliament, several primary schools and the Melbourne Museum.

The visit is being organised by Mr Bas Koesasi from the School of Asian Languages and Studies.

Gale is a graduate of the Faculty of Arts at Monash and studied under Mr Koesasi on his way to a major in Asian Studies. He is currently studying for a law degree at Monash.

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# For better or worse



Pictures: AAP

The relationship between China and the United States could be better – but it has been far worse in the past, writes political scientist **DENNIS WOODWARD**

## OPINION

**R**ELATIONS between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China (PRC) seem to have reached a particularly low ebb since the election of George W. Bush to the US presidency.

A number of events coming close on each other's heels have exacerbated what was already a far from harmonious relationship. Before examining this latest wave of events however, it is worthwhile placing them in the overall context of the two countries' bilateral relations.

The PRC was established in 1949 at the end of a civil war in which the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) defeated the (US-supported) Nationalists, with Mao Zedong proclaiming that 'the Chinese people have stood up'. While the remnants of the Nationalists fled to Taiwan, the new communist regime could lay claim to reuniting China after a prolonged period of civil war, foreign invasion and humiliation at the hands of the former imperial powers.

Its hopes of gaining early diplomatic recognition by the US and reuniting China by seizing Taiwan and definitively ending the civil war were dashed when it became embroiled in the Korean War, was branded an 'aggressor' by a US-led United Nations, was subjected to a US-led trade and diplomatic embargo, and was faced with the US seventh fleet in the Taiwan straits defending the Nationalists, who were recognised by the US as the sole government of China.

Subsequently, throughout most of the Cold War era, China and the US faced each other as enemies.

This 'stand off' changed in the early 1970s as the US sought to extricate itself from its involvement in the Vietnam War and found that it could

make common cause with the PRC against the Soviet Union. China was admitted to the UN (and Taiwan expelled), gained diplomatic recognition (including recognition in 1979 from the US, which downgraded its ties with Taiwan), had residual trade embargoes lifted, and even benefited from a degree of military cooperation with the US.

But the relationship soured following the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, in which a pro-democracy movement was ruthlessly crushed, to the outrage of US public opinion, which has since been influential in pressing the US government to take a firm line on human rights violations in China.

**T**HE collapse of communist regimes in eastern Europe and the then Soviet Union removed the strategic motivation for maintaining close US-China ties and left China largely isolated as the last significant nominal communist regime. Meanwhile, democratisation of Taiwan was providing a sharp contrast with the continued political repression on the mainland.

With the discrediting of communism, the Chinese government has sought to rebuild its legitimacy by stressing its credentials in terms of overseeing Chinese economic growth and, most importantly, as the champion of Chinese nationalism.

The handovers of Hong Kong in 1997 and Macau in 1999 were given much fanfare in the PRC as the righting of past humiliation by foreigners, and the determination to complete Chinese reunification by joining with Taiwan has been constantly emphasised.

The US is portrayed as the main villain in trying to prevent China from taking its rightful place among the world's great powers.

Criticism of China's human rights record, blocking China's bid for the 2000 Olympics, imposing conditions on its entry into the World Trade Organisation, and warning against any Chinese attempts to use force to reunite with Taiwan are all seen as part of a pattern to block Chinese aspirations and interfere in its sovereign internal affairs.

For some Chinese leaders, these actions are seen as attempts to overthrow the communist regime and promote the breakup of China itself.

A series of books along the lines of *China Can Say No*, which are intensely nationalistic (if not outright xenophobic) in their hostile depiction of opposition to Chinese goals, have been bestsellers in China.

State-sponsored nationalism is used by the Chinese government for its own legitimising purposes but also strikes a responsive chord among the Chinese people, as can be seen by the mass demonstrations in the wake of the US bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade. The CCP may not be overly popular, but it is seen as the only body capable of preventing 'chaos' in China and achieving international respect.

**S**O RECENT events need to be viewed against this background. Much was made by the Chinese government of the US spy plane incident. It was seen as symptomatic of hostile US intentions and the demands for a US apology reinforced the image that no longer will China tolerate anybody 'kicking sand in its face'. An apology of sorts was ultimately given.

For China, however, worse was to follow. President Bush gave an explicit commitment that the US would use 'whatever it takes' to prevent force being used to carry out Taiwanese reunification – a clear rebuff of

China's claim of the right to use force in what it sees as a domestic matter.

Added to this, Bush announced further military sales to Taiwan (in China's view breaching previous undertakings) and promised visas for Taiwan's president to visit the US (in China's view extending de facto recognition of Taiwan and furthering its possible independence). Lastly, Bush announced that plans for a missile defence system – 'son of Star Wars' – would go ahead.

**W**hile the US has justified this latter policy as directed against 'rogue states', the Chinese government sees, probably correctly, that it is designed with China in mind. Little wonder that Chinese protests have been issued at a great rate.

From a US perspective, a China undergoing rapid economic development and military modernisation is seen as a possible threat to stability in the Asian region and a potential threat to the US itself. Hence the post-Cold War debates about whether China should be 'engaged' or 'contained'.

A cynic would argue that the US needs a military threat to justify its continued military expenditure. However, one shouldn't ignore genuine concerns over human rights issues, the influence of loyalty to allies such as Japan and South Korea in US strategic thinking, and residual feelings towards a long-time ally in Taiwan.

Finally, while US-China relations are currently very strained and books such as *The Coming War With China* can become US bestsellers, the potential for conflict should not be exaggerated.

Tempering hostilities is a degree of economic interdependence. China's economic growth is very reliant on its exports to the US, and both it and sections of US business see scope for even greater US foreign investment in China. US-China relations have been better, but they have also been far worse in the past.

Dr Dennis Woodward is a senior lecturer in the School of Political and Social Inquiry in Monash's Faculty of Arts.



The 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre soured US-China relations.

# Stamping the nation

BY DEREK BROWN

Few would consider the humble postage stamp a valuable historical resource, but for one Monash academic it provided the perfect framework for a new book celebrating 100 years of Australian federation.

Dr Mark Peel, from the School of Historical Studies, is the author of the general history sections included in *Stamping the Nation: Australia Since Federation* and released by Australia Post early this year.

He said stamps were a vital source of information on how Australians have seen themselves over the 20th century.

"There have been many times when Australia Post has had to decide who or what should represent Australia on our stamps. Should it be the monarch's head, a prime minister, a kangaroo, sheep or wattle? The answers change over time," Dr Peel said.

"From an early emphasis on youth and sport, we can see a gradual move towards the incorporation of Aboriginal art into our stamps and the inclusion of cultural festivals from the 1970s onwards."

He said *Stamping the Nation* provided the opportunity to counter popular but misleading versions of our past.

"The history I have written tries to answer some of the mistaken notions we have about our nation, including the idea that Australia was born in 1915 – basically that we weren't a real nation until Australians died during the First World War," he said.

"This notion denies a great deal of activity undertaken in Australia from 1900 to 1910, when we were regarded as one of the most progressive countries in the world. Australia was one of the first countries to officially recognise women's right to vote, to introduce pensions and to implement compulsory arbitration in industrial disputes."

In many histories written during the early part of the century, the voice of Indigenous Australians is often conspicuously absent, said Dr Peel, who attempted to faithfully represent the experiences of Australia's indigenous peoples since 1901 in the book.

"It was important to ensure that a narrative of Indigenous Australians



Stamp of success: Historian Dr Mark Peel. Picture: PETER SMITH

was always present in the book, not absent for long periods of the history and then suddenly resurfacing," he said.

"I aimed to show that as the century progressed they became increasingly vocal in their argument that they had never consented to what had happened to this country."

While *Stamping the Nation* deals with major issues such as Indigenous land rights, the world wars and women's liberation, Dr Peel hopes people will also be able to find their own histories in the book.

"I wanted to write a history where people could locate themselves – one which showed what people were eating at the time, what they wore and what they talked about. I wanted people to remember what it was like the first time they ate ice-cream or had a television in their home," he said.

*Stamping the Nation* can be purchased from the Australian Philatelic Bureau, from any local post office or by contacting 1800 331 794 (from within Australia) or + 61 3 9887 0033 (from outside Australia).

# Arts graduates need to hone career skills: study

BY FIONA PERRY

Arts students have valuable skills that they could be more proactively 'selling' to potential employers, a Monash University survey of employers, graduate recruiters and careers advisers has found.

Researchers Dr Maryanne Dever and Ms Liz Day, from Monash's Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research, conducted the qualitative study earlier this year to find out how employers view arts graduates. The study was conducted as part of a larger project examining career outcomes for women's studies students.

The researchers talked to more than 100 Melbourne-based employers and graduate recruiters in the government, non-government and community sectors, in arts, cultural and media organisations, in the business and corporate sectors, and in health and welfare areas. They also spoke to campus-based careers advisers. Ten per cent of those surveyed were selected for detailed follow-up interviews.

According to Dr Dever, the results indicate that graduates and employers hold differing views about the recruitment process. "There are some strategically important ways in which arts students can approach their studies and their early career development," she said.

She said the researchers consistently found that employers recognised the valuable attributes that arts graduates could bring to a position,

including skills in research, problem-solving, critical analysis, project management and the ability to handle and communicate complex ideas.

But employers and career advisers reported that many new graduates were not conscious enough of the range of skills that they had developed through their studies, she said.

She said employers were more interested in arts graduates' transferable personal and professional skills than in the specific knowledge gained from their studies.

"Employers said the better the candidate's personal skills and attributes – such as confidence, flexibility, an ability to communicate well and work in a team, creativity and verbal reasoning – the less their particular discipline seemed to matter," Dr Dever explained.

She said employers suggested that lecturers could assist students by placing more emphasis on the skills side of their subjects, by encouraging them to talk more effectively about the significance and application of their major, and by acquainting themselves with contemporary recruiting processes and workplace conditions.

Employers also stressed the importance of internships and work experience, noting that arts students generally underestimated the benefits of these opportunities and too often failed to seek them out during the course of their degree, Dr Dever said.

# Monash wins World Bank and AusAID tenders

BY JUNE YU

Monash University has been recognised internationally for its academic expertise by winning an unprecedented number of AusAID and World Bank training projects.

Monash International secured the tenders for courses to be delivered by Monash's Privatisation and Public Accountability Centre (PPAC), the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law and the School of Asian Languages and Studies.

More than 120 Indonesian and Thai government officials and 24 Indonesian journalists will undertake the courses before the end of the year.

The World Bank is funding another program for 40 Indonesians to visit Australia in June for commercial law training by Monash's Law faculty.

Monash International manager of development assistance Mr Paul Verwoert said winning so many AusAID tenders reflected Monash's academic expertise in international areas of need.

"The main training need in the region since the Asian financial crisis has been in the area of good governance – Monash has the expertise and is well placed to meet this need," he said.

"Securing the World Bank project is also an indication of our international standing, as we competed against education providers from all over the world."

Mr Basoeki Koesasi, convenor of the School of Asian Languages and Studies' Indonesian department, is

delivering a journalism course to 24 correspondents from the Indonesian ANTARA news agency.

Supported by the Gippsland campus's Department of Journalism, the journalists will improve their skills and see how IT can be applied to the media.

PPAC director Professor Graeme Hodge said the centre was already delivering courses in district and provincial planning and accountability in public sector management to Indonesian officials.

"There are 49 delegates being trained in good governance by Monash's own staff, as well as representatives from the Victorian public sector and independent consultants," he said.

Another PACC course in participation, decentralisation and civil society will be held in Thailand next month.

Castan Centre director Professor David Kinley said Monash had also started one human rights course for 14 Indonesian delegates.

"The purpose is not to provide Indonesians with a model of human rights law, but to give them a perspective on how Australia implements its international human rights obligations," he said.

He said the delegates would meet representatives from up to 50 institutions, including the Federal Government, Amnesty International, the Red Cross, the Federal Police, drug rehabilitation units, and Aboriginal legal and health services.

# Burning an Aboriginal 'farming' technique, research reveals

BY FIONA PERRY

Aborigines used periodic burning primarily to create and maintain ecosystems necessary for their survival, according to research by a Monash ethnobotanist.

Dr Beth Gott, an honorary researcher in Monash's School of Biological Sciences, said burning or 'firing' was used by Aborigines to manage food resources for themselves and the animals they hunted. "This challenges the commonly held belief that burning was used only as a hunting, path-clearing and communication tool," she said.

"The ecosystems found in Australia are not pristine – they are artefacts of Aboriginal land management," Dr Gott said. "The Aborigines used burning to maximise plant food and the vegetation that supported animals."

To conduct her research, Dr Gott examined historical records and undertook fieldwork, studying individual food plants used by the Aborigines and their location. She also studied the charred remains of Aboriginal campsites.



Aborigines used regular burning to produce food.

According to Dr Gott, Aborigines would systematically burn small patches of land in the dry forests and grasslands of southeastern Australia, possibly every three to five years. This returned nutrients to the soil, removed shading, and created clear areas favourable to seed germination and the regeneration of plants from underground organs. The new green growth also attracted grazing animals.

Dr Gott said that as a result, food plants thrived in those ecosystems which adapted to the frequency and seasonal timing of burning.

To ensure the survival of herbaceous species such as *Liliaceae*, *Orchideaceae* and *Microseris lanceolata*, it was necessary to burn in high-to-late summer, when these food plants had already shed seed and existed underground as tubers.

Dr Gott said only those plants that could adapt to the burning regime survived.

"We can only guess at how the landscape in these areas would have looked if there had been no burning," she said.

In the 6000 years before European settlement, both plant and animal food was abundant.

"Historical records indicate that before European settlement, Aborigines were tall, healthy, strong and athletic, with exceptional eyesight and particularly fine teeth.

"Land management techniques, learned and passed down orally through the generations for thousands of years, ensured the resources on which Aborigines depended for their existence were renewed and not depleted."

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# Monash scientist helps vineyards keep the fruits of their labour

BY JUNE YU

A Monash researcher has developed a biological control that could save the Australian wine industry millions of dollars in lost crops.

Dr Mary Cole, director of Monash's Wine Technology and Marketing Unit in the Faculty of Business and Economics, has helped identify and develop a unique organism that fights botrytis, which causes rot in grapes that split as the result of wet weather at harvest.

The wine industry can lose \$20 million a year to botrytis, but Dr Cole's research could reduce that by up to 90 per cent - and save many small vineyards from financial ruin.

She stumbled across a unique organism that had apparent inhibitory effects against botrytis in 1989 when she was working as a consultant to wine-makers Brown Brothers and researching botrytis in Monash's Botany department.

"This organism was taken off a grape surface in a lab at Brown Brothers by one of the technicians and sent to me for identification. We in turn sent it to America and were informed it was unknown," she said.

She said Brown Brothers decided to develop the organism into a

biological control against botrytis, which currently cannot be controlled by traditional chemicals.

"Most of the chemical controls used in the vineyard can't be used after the berries have formed, which is very early in the season," she said.

"A biological control allows the option of using a 'chemical' right up until the harvest - which can't be done with a true chemical control if Australian wines are to meet international chemical level standards."

In 1995, Dr Cole and Brown Brothers secured \$2.6 million in funding for the project from the Federal Government's Syndicated Research Grant Program.

By then she had moved on to Charles Sturt University, where she spent four years developing the organism with a team of four scientists before returning to Monash to head the wine technology program.

"We came out with two potential products for the commercial market - the organism itself and a synthetic version which could become a chemical control of biological origin," she said.

Brown Brothers is now negotiating with agrichemical companies to produce the organism for commercial sale.

For more information, contact Dr Mary Cole on + 61 3 9904 4621.



Dr Mary Cole's research could save the wine industry millions of dollars.

## 40 years ago - 1961

### Art collection proposed for the university

Monash vice-chancellor Professor Louis Matheson has promised the newly formed Art Purchasing Committee £500 per year for the sole purpose of buying suitable works of art for a new collection for the university.

In a proposal to the Professorial Board, Professor Matheson said the money would be set aside each year for artwork in order to enhance new buildings on campus. The Art Purchasing Committee has decided to spend the money on a number of works by promising young Australian artists.

■ *The Monash University art collection is now worth \$6 million and incorporates 1252 works, spread across the university's six Victorian campuses. Sir Louis Matheson was vice-chancellor of Monash from 1960 to 1976.*



## 20 years ago - 1981

### Monash triumph in fertility research

A Monash team has become the indisputable world leader in in-vitro fertilisation successes.

## MONASH UNIVERSITY

# 40 YEARS

1961-2001

In 1961, 363 students arrived at a new university in Melbourne's south-east. Today, more than 44,000 people are studying at Monash University. We wander back through the years.

Of the 13 'test-tube' babies born so far worldwide, 10 - including the world's first and only twins - have involved the Monash team.

Heading the team is Professor Carl Wood, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Monash. Also involved have been clinicians from the Queen Victoria Medical Centre (QVMC) and St Andrew's Hospital.

One of the projects being carried out by Monash researchers at QVMC that has aroused international interest is the development of techniques for freezing and preserving human embryos.

The work, which has been approved by the hospital's ethics committee, is being done by Dr Alan Trounson, a lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Mrs Linda Mohr, a research assistant.

■ *Monash's expertise in techniques such as in-vitro fertilisation, artificial fertilisation and gene cloning resulted in the creation of a research group, the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development (MIRD), and numerous breakthroughs in reproductive medicine for both humans and animals. Professor Alan Trounson is now deputy director of M.I.R.D.*



Monash graduate Ms Lucy Kiraly attracts attention with her yellow hot-pants in 1971.

## 5 years ago - 1996

### New campus opens at Berwick

Monash's newest campus at Berwick has opened with more than 200 students.

The campus, built on the old Casey airfield in the south-eastern growth corridor of Victoria, Australia, has been designed to take advantage of a number of innovative course structures and teaching techniques.

Monash has spent \$2 million buying the latest teaching equipment for Berwick, including providing students with teleconferencing, computer-based tutorials and access to email and the internet.

Berwick campus is the first in Australia to offer double award courses, where students study concurrently for a university degree and a TAFE diploma or associate diploma.

■ *New boasting more than 1,400 students, Berwick offers a range of courses in communication, business, science, tourism, multimedia and electronic commerce. The campus's second building was completed in 1998.*

## Is 'best practice' really the best we can do?

BY FIONA PERRY

Artists have long held up a mirror to society, causing us to pause and reflect on who we are and where we're going.

In a new exhibition on at Monash University's Faculty Gallery this month, four artists have come together to examine and challenge the bed-fellow of economic rationalism - the popular management mantra of 'best practice'.

*Best Practice!* questions the current trend of categorising companies, industries and even individuals in line with notions of 'best practice', according to exhibition curator Samantha Comte, from 200 Gertrude Street Artists' Spaces.

"The term 'best practice' has come to embody efficiency, cost effectiveness and productivity, but who has determined these standards? How does it incorporate the intangibles of experience, knowledge and enjoyment?" she asked.

"Contemporary art explores ideas and challenges structures - *Best Practice!* looks at how art fits within an environment that demands a best practice standard, and what the broader social, political and cultural implications of that practice are."

The four artists in the exhibition - Penelope Aitken, Narinda Cook, Lee Paterson and Andrea Tu - all use unusual materials or methods such as plasticine, paper and quilt making, Ms Comte said.

"Their methods challenge the notion that a best practice outcome is more important than the process or journey itself," she said.

"Penelope Aitken's piece 'the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen' is a delicate and intricately constructed white quilt with squares of fabric extending off its base onto the floor, and fragments mounted around the walls of the gallery, which suggests that the project is ongoing.

"Narinda Cook's installation takes the viewer into a fantastical space of childhood play and imagination. A large, organic, pink plasticine object casts a tactile yellow shadow across the room, while smaller sculptures in red, yellow and blue traverse the gallery space.

"A series of drawings by Lee Paterson records her journeys through art museums around the world. Tracing a complex path across the gallery space, the work unfolds to a fluctuating tempo of movement, short sharp changes of direction and moments of repose.

"And 'Slow Motion', an installation by Andrea Tu, features a pile of black paper boats sitting on the gallery floor, while yellow, plaited paper streamers cascade from the ceiling, revealing three diagrammatic paintings of a cat. They remind us of the corruptible and impermanent things we may have created as children."

**What:** *Best Practice!*  
**When:** 8 June to 14 July  
**Where:** Faculty Gallery, Caulfield campus  
**Who:** For more information, contact gallery manager Mr Malcolm Bywaters on + 61 3 9913 2882.

# Lighting up Federation Square

BY JUNE YU

Monash digital artist Mr Jon McCormack has designed an interactive outdoor sculpture to be displayed in the courtyard of the Victorian Government's Federation Square project.

Mr McCormack, a computer science lecturer in the Faculty of Information Technology, said the display, titled 'Future Garden', will consist of thousands of lights set in three glass beds and laid in the ground next to the Atrium.

The lights - known as light-emitting diodes, or LEDs - will be programmed to show different coloured patterns that change according to the seasons and human touch.

"The area around the installation was actually underwater 20,000 years ago and all the molluscs and shells that were around then can now be found in the Yarra. I've now programmed the algorithms in the display to reflect those shapes," he said.

Mr McCormack worked with London firm Lab Architecture Studio and Melbourne company Bates Smart Architects to develop the piece. The government is now seeking sponsorship, particularly for the expensive LED boards, to produce the work.

As well as 'Future Garden', Mr McCormack's installation 'Turbulence' has been purchased for display in the Cinemedia building in Federation Square.

'Turbulence' is an interactive laser disc work that has won eight international awards and secured more than



Digital artist Mr Jon McCormack. Picture: GREG FORD

40 international exhibitions, including one at Scienceworks in Melbourne.

It consists of animated sequences that show artificial life forms evolving in a parody of natural selection.

"Rather than deciding the colour and shape of a form, you look at a whole series of 'species' and evolve traits that you find interesting by selection using the computer," Mr McCormack said.

"It's animated by writing computer programs which generate behaviours that are similar to lifelike forms."

Both 'Future Garden' and 'Turbulence' are examples of Mr

McCormack's interest in using the computer as an art medium and his fascination with artificial life.

He has won numerous awards both in Australia and overseas, including the Australian Video Art Award, and has exhibited in the US, Japan, the UK, Europe and New Zealand.

Mr McCormack has qualifications in film-making from Swinburne University and applied maths and computer science from Monash. He is now undertaking a PhD in applications of rule-based modelling in the electronic arts.

## Nobel laureate targets globalisation issues

Nobel laureate and Indian economist Professor Amartya Sen spoke about the inequalities of economic development in the Asia-Pacific region to Monash University academics, alumni and guests at a seminar last month.

As the complex issues surrounding the global economy are debated in public forums around the world, Professor Sen held a timely and vigorous session that touched on the issues of poverty and famine, democracy and political freedom, information technology and health systems, ageing populations, and world trade.

Professor Sen was visiting Melbourne as part of the Federation Festival and the Alfred Deakin Lecture series. His visit was sponsored by Monash's Faculty of Business and Economics and the Monash Asia Institute and was coordinated by the Monash Alumni Relations office.

His seminar at the Naval and Military Club in Collins Street attracted more than 50 people and several media representatives. Professor Sen was welcomed by Professor Gill Palmer, dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics, and by Professor On

Kit Tam, from the Monash Asia Institute.

Professor Sen, who also spoke to a packed Melbourne Town Hall during his visit, is a world authority on globalisation and inequality, and on the possibilities of wealth creation in emerging economies. He is Master of Trinity College at Cambridge University and Professor Emeritus at Harvard.

Born in India in 1933, he has taught at Oxford, Delhi University and the London School of Economics. Professor Sen won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1998.

## Birds play key role in local habitats

BY COREY NASSAU

Birds are as picky as people when it comes to choosing which fruit to eat, according to a Monash University researcher.

While it may appear that birds are happy to eat anything they can get their beaks into, the Department of Biological Sciences research shows that there is much more decision-making involved than is otherwise evident.

The study could help scientists better understand the role of birds in seed dispersal and vegetation regeneration.

According to Ms Margaret Stanley, author of the thesis 'Factors influencing fruit choice and seed dispersal by the silvereye', a number of issues affect which fruit a bird will choose to ingest.

Findings from the research suggest that birds are concerned with fruit quality in terms of profitability - weighing up the expenditure of energy required to eat the fruit with the quality of its pulp and the size of the seed they are likely to ingest if they eat it whole.

"If the fruit is one they can swallow whole, it is a catch-22 situation for the bird. They must decide whether the quality of the pulp outweighs the seeds 'ballast' that will fill up their gut and prevent them from eating more food until



Researcher Ms Margaret Stanley

the seeds pass through their system," Ms Stanley said.

"The birds also showed preference towards sitting next to or reaching up to a fruit rather than hanging upside down to ingest it, as this action was much more energy-expensive."

While the research covered many bird species, much of the study concentrated on the silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*), a small bird commonly found in south-eastern Australia - and a prolific fruit eater.

"In fruits that were translucent, such as those on the native saltbush, the silvereyes actually chose the ones that they could see had smaller seeds. Tests done on these seeds, after recovery from the birds faeces, showed that they

were not destroyed while in the gut and still had the ability to germinate."

The study, while concentrating on bird behaviour, has broader application for better understanding the part that various bird species play in seed dispersal, an important activity for the spread and regeneration of vegetation.

"Birds are considered the most important dispersers of seeds of fleshy-fruited plants, particularly in temperate regions, but their effectiveness at this depends firstly on the probability that they will ingest a particular fruit and the seeds it contains," Ms Stanley said.

"Silvereyes are good dispersers of native fruits, as long as they can swallow them, otherwise all they are doing is robbing the pulp and not dispersing the seeds. The silvereyes were particularly remarkable at avoiding even the tiniest seeds in large fruits."

Fruiting plants are commonly used to attract birds that will aid the regeneration of vegetation on building and mine sites. Having a better understanding of which fruits are most attractive to birds as well as which seeds they will best disperse can ensure this process remains both efficient and effective.

## INPRINT



### Reading Shoah Testimony: Pathways to Understanding

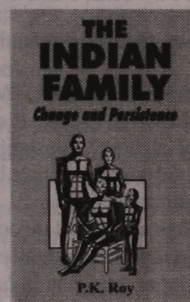
By David Rood  
Monash Publications in History  
RRP: \$11 plus postage and handling

The horror of the Holocaust defies description. In *Reading Shoah Testimony*, Monash PhD student Mr David Rood explores the difficulty expressing and transmitting understanding of the Holocaust, referred to in

the text by the Hebrew word *Shoah*, meaning catastrophe.

Analysing a number of narratives including poetry, novels, popular films such as *Schindler's List* and a selection of images, the author argues that our historical approach to understanding the *Shoah* serves our desire to forget and to put the past behind us. In contrast, the memories and testimony of *Shoah* survivors reveal the Holocaust as a lived experience with a direct impact on the present.

Mr Rood completed his BA honours degree in the Department of History at Monash University in 1997 and is now undertaking doctoral research exploring the lives of Australian Vietnam veterans. Books published by Monash Publications in History can be purchased by contacting +61 3 9905 2164.



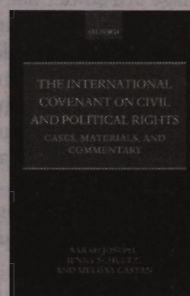
### The Indian Family: Change and Persistence

By Parimal Roy  
Gyan Publishing House  
RRP: \$35

The traditional Indian family is a large web of kinship which, since unprecedented social change in India and around the world during the 1970s and 1980s, has increasingly come under attack.

*The Indian Family* attempts to provide readers with a better understanding of the changing structure and functions of the extended and nuclear family in rural and urban India. By analysing the impact of land, caste and industrialisation on traditional structures, the text provides a well-researched and informative snapshot of the current frictions and tensions at play within modern Indian families.

Dr Parimal Roy is a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Social Research at Monash University's Gippsland campus and has published many journal articles and monographs on subjects including race and ethnic relations, social change, family, social networks and inter-ethnic marriage.



### The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Cases, Materials and Commentary

By Sarah Joseph, Jenny Schultz and Melissa Castan  
Oxford University Press  
RRP: \$220

The need for a wide-reaching world treaty on human rights led the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1966. Under the covenant, nations are obliged to take specific legal and other measures to protect human rights and to provide remedies in case of violation of those rights.

*The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* aims to bring the work of the Human Rights Committee, the monitoring body established under the covenant, to a wider audience. Through an analysis of the jurisprudence of the committee, the authors hope to encourage understanding of the covenant's potential, implications and limits.

Ms Sarah Joseph and Ms Jenny Schultz are senior lecturers at Monash University, and Ms Melissa Castan is a lecturer in law, also at Monash.

## POSTscript

A new book by Monash arts graduate Ms Sally Dammery explores the life of one of the first Indigenous political leaders in 19th century Australia. *Walter George Arthur: A Free Tasmanian?* has been published recently by Monash Publications in History, and can be purchased by contacting +61 3 9905 2164.

If you are a member of the Monash community and have a forthcoming book, contact [monash.news@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:monash.news@adm.monash.edu.au)

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# London artist brings his passion to life

BY JUNE YU

London-based multimedia artist Mr Richard Brown brings his passion for art and science to Monash for a two-month artist-in-residency.

Mr Brown's unique ability to combine the two disciplines produces interactive installations that fascinate the viewer.

His 'Millie', a virtual reality neural net starfish, was a popular exhibit in the *Mind Zone* at the London Millennium Dome.

The interactive starfish projected onto a hard surface allowed people to touch and interact with the computer-generated tentacles.

"Over the space of a year or so, the surface was worn away from the millions of people who were interacting with the work," Mr Brown said.

His more recent work, 'Biotica', was built around the theme of artificial life and exhibited in London and New Orleans.

It simulates a three-dimensional physical space with flying objects that evolve and immerse the viewer in an experience of artificial life.

'Biotica' also explores the idea of 'emergence', which involves programming simple rules into an artwork that produces constantly changing complex patterns.

Mr Brown, a research fellow at the Royal College of Art in London, briefly ran a multimedia company but for the



Multimedia artist Mr Richard Brown at work. Picture GREG FORD

past few years has focused on multimedia art.

During his time at Monash, Mr Brown will produce a piece based on his fascination for alchemy consisting of glass, liquids and metals, which he will exhibit later this year.

"One of the glass and metal objects will be monitored by two computers showing a time lapse of what it has been doing," he said.

"The glass and metals constantly change and produce different colours

over time, and viewers will be able to see this process on-screen as a type of animation."

**What:** Multimedia artist Richard Brown

**When:** 7 June to 14 July

**Where:** Monash Concourse Gallery Caulfield campus

**Who:** For details, contact Mr Malcom Bywaters on + 61 3 9903 2882.

## Magritte-inspired cover a winner

BY FIONA PERRY

A design paying homage to surrealist artist Magritte has won a Monash visual communications student the prestigious international *Print* magazine cover design competition.

Mr Huy Truong's design beat 180 other entries to win the prize for best student cover design by the respected New York graphic design magazine. It is the second successive year that a Monash student has won the award, with Monash graphic design student Mr Ben Wundersitz winning the award last year.

Mr Truong said the cover design was a reflection of the process of brainstorming that he engaged in to create the design.

"In my design, brainstorming is represented by the image of a bowler hat, or 'brain', symbolising the experience and wisdom of previous designers," he said.

"An upturned umbrella represents 'storm'. Quotes by famous graphic designers relating to conceptual thinking pour out of the bowler hat like rain and into the umbrella."

According to the judges, Mr Truong's design was "backed by a strong idea and

executed with conceptual rigour". They also noted the "elegant mix of style and content" of the design and rated Mr Truong's cover as the one with the most magazine rack appeal: "It's definitely the most sophisticated: other covers would be lost," they said.

As part of his prize, Mr Truong's design was featured on the cover of the January/February issue of *Print* magazine this year. Monash visual communication student Mr Spencer Bitcon was awarded third place in the competition.

## ARTS SCENE

### Rivers residency for Monash painter

Monash painting lecturer Mr Gregory Pryor is spending five months in Eltham as an artist-in-residence funded by Parks Victoria and Nillumbik Shire Council.

Living in a mud brick house designed by architect Alistair Knox, Mr Pryor, from the Faculty of Art and Design, will be only a short walk from the Yarra River, which will be the focus of his creative talents.

His work will include drawings, digital photographs, video clips and thoughts and feelings captured in journals.

Mr Pryor has received awards to travel throughout Australia, France, China and Italy for his work, which is held in various Australian collections including the National Gallery of Australia.

### In the beginning, there was art.

Glass works and realist paintings are the subject of two new exhibitions on at the Switchback Gallery at Monash's Gippsland campus this month.

The glass works exhibition, *In the beginning ... the evolution of Australian Studio Glass*, showcases an exciting

array of glass art featuring flamboyant colour, design and imagery.

The works, selected from the permanent collection of the Latrobe Regional Gallery, are mainly by Gippsland artists from the 1970s and 1980s, including Brian Hirst, Rob Wynne, Tricia Allen, Nick Mount, Warren Langley, Tony Hanning and Kirsty Rea.

These world-renowned artists were the first in Australia to study glass as a medium at Monash and were involved in the evolution of the Australian studio glass movement of artists producing individual works of art. The exhibition will run until 14 June.

An exhibition of realist paintings by international artist John Derrick will begin at the gallery on 19 June.

In *John Derrick Realist Paintings*, the artist aims to show the "internal workings of a scene" as though the viewer is looking at it through "transparent curtains".

The artist says: "I want the viewer to submerge themselves in the paintings, and interact with the people and objects. These spaces become fictitious, remnants of real people and places." The exhibition will run until 19 July.

For more information, contact the gallery on + 61 3 9902 6261.

### National Gallery honour

Monash visual arts student Ms Dana Ashlakoff has won the National Gallery Award for excellent achievement in her final-year studio work.

She produced a series of mixed media works consisting of abstract paintings on fabrics.

Ms Ashlakoff is now undertaking postgraduate studies in visual arts at the Gippsland Centre for Art and Design.

### A glass act

New York is the next destination for ambitious Monash glass blowers Ms Sophie Emmett and Ms Elaine Miles, known collectively as Seem Design.

They are now branching out into the overseas market after successfully selling their range of glass vases and ornaments through several outlets around Australia.

These include Space Furniture, which has stores in Melbourne and Sydney and is due to open a new store in Singapore, where Seem's merchandise will also be available.

The duo plans next to target the New York market, where there has been interest in their product range from prestigious stores such as Global Table, Terrain and Breukelyn.



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# MONASH NEWS

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**MONASH UNIVERSITY**

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