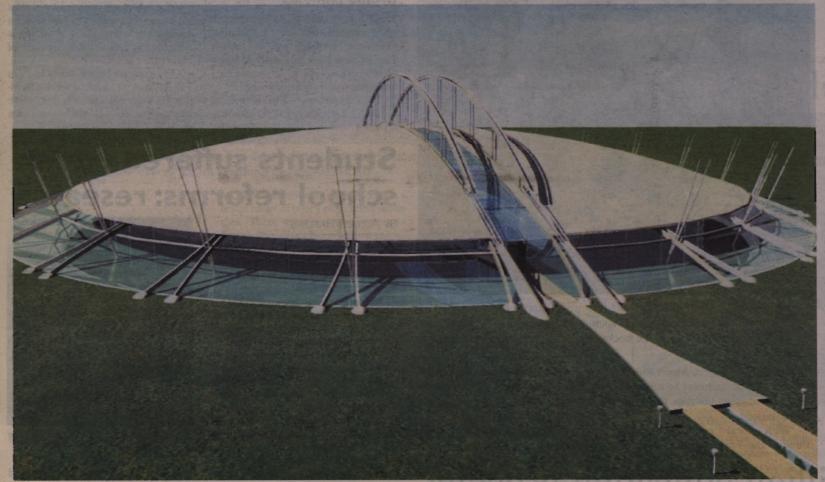
# SINIH WS

NEWS FROM THE CAMPUSES OF MONASH UNIVERSITY
VOLUME 4 NUMBER 6 JULY 2001

MONASH

## Monash wins \$157 million national synchrotron facility



Above: Australia's first synchrotron will be built at Monash University. Below: Victorian State and Regional Development Minister Mr John Brumby, Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson and Victorian Premier Mr Steve Bracks examine a synchrotron model at the project launch last month. Picture: GREG FORD

BY JUNE YU

Monash University will host Australia's first synchrotron, a powerful \$157 million microscope that will revolutionise scientific research in this country.

Victorian Premier Mr Steve Bracks recently announced that the State Government would provide \$100 million for the project, with the remaining funds to come from universities, other research institutions and private sector investors.

With a diameter of 60 metres, a synchrotron is a large, circular particle accelerator tens of billions times more powerful than the best conventional microscope. It allows scientists to examine molecular structures at an atomic level.

Construction of the synchrotron, to be built on the corner of Wellington and Blackburn roads, Clayton, is scheduled to start in the next year.

Mr Bracks said the development of the synchrotron was the most significant scientific infrastructure investment in Australia for decades.

"It will provide a massive boost to Victoria as a leader of biotechnology and scientific research, create 700 jobs and add \$65 million a year to the Victorian economy," he said.

"It will help our scientists make major scientific breakthroughs in areas such as the fight against cancer, the development of new computer chips and advances in drug design."

Victorian State and Regional Development Minister Mr John Brumby said the synchrotron would cement Victoria's position as the scientific and technology capital of Australia and the Asia Pacific region.

"Nobel Prize winner Professor Peter Doherty has said that in five to 10 years' time 80 per cent of research for pharmaceutical products will be undertaken in a synchrotron," he said.

Monash deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development)
Professor Peter Darvall said many
Australian scientists who now had to
travel overseas to use synchrotrons in
other countries for their research
would welcome the project.

He said medical achievements such as: the development of the anti-flu drug Relenza would never have been possible if Monash and CSIRO researchers had not gained access to a synchrotron facility overseas.

"A synchrotron is an essential tool for researchers at the leading edge in fields including pharmaceutics,



information technology; biotechnology and mineral processing," he said.

Vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson said Monash was an ideal site for the national synchrotron facility, given its proximity to several major CSIRO centres and a cluster of other research and development organisations.

The announcement complemented the university's plans to construct a \$300 nuillion Science Technology Research and Innovation Precinct, he

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A new exhibition at Monash this month aims to give viewers an experience of extra-spatial dimensions.

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#### St Kilda, Monash in new alliance

BY ALLISON HARDING

Monash and the Melbourne-based St Kilda Football Club have announced a new strategic alliance, the first of its kind between an AFL club and a

As part of the deal, St Kilda will gain access to top sporting facilities as well as education and professional development opportunities.

The alliance will also see St Kilda players and Monash researchers collaborate on research programs designed to improve player performance, such as the ongoing hamstring injury research project in the Department of Physiology:

Monash viceschancellor Professor David Robinson and St Kilda president Mr Rod Butters made the joint announcement at the Clayton campus Sports; and Recreation Centre last month.

Professor Robinson, who was signed up as an honorary St Kilda member during the announcement, welcomed the new alliance.

Continued on page 2

## Sports minister launches new hockey facility at Peninsula

BY JULIE RYAN AND JUNE YU

A new \$1 million hockey facility at Monash University's Peninsula campus will become a central point for sporting activities in the community, according to campus director Mr John White.

Launched last month by Victorian Minister for Sport and Recreation Mr Justin Madden, the project will involve the construction of a synthetic hockey pitch, lighting, fencing and car parking.

The Monash Student Union (MONSU) will manage the facility, which will be used by local hockey clubs, schools and other community groups

Monash is contributing \$100,000 to the project, MONSU \$300,000, the State Government \$250,000, Frankston City Council \$165,000, the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council \$125,000 and local hockey clubs \$50,000.

Both the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula hockey clubs, which currently do not have a home ground, will use the new facility for training and home games.

"The multi-purpose, synthetic surface allows the pitch to be used for other sports including netball, touch footy and soccer, and it is expected that school groups will be main users during the day," Mr White said.

"And with flood-lighting being installed, there will also be plenty of opportunity for evening activities.

"This is a great community initiative. Students, staff and the local community will benefit from this for years to come."

Mr White said the new facility was a sign of the great working relationship between the Monash Student Union (MONSU), the university and local community groups.

"Not only has Monash provided the land and contributed \$100,000 for the construction of this multi-purpose facility, but MONSU has also allocated



Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson, Victorian Minister for Sport and Recreation Mr Justin Madden and Peninsula campus director Mr John White get into the spirit of things at the hockey project launch last month. Picture: GREG FORD

\$300,000 to the project, which shows their overall commitment to supporting their student body in the long term," he said.

"With local council support through the Frankston City Council

and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, this development will provide a much-needed facility for the larger community"

The facility is scheduled for completion by December 2001.

## New \$12 million education precinct a boost for Gippsland youth

BY JUNE YU

A new \$12 million education precinct in Churchill will boost Monash University's ability to provide the best education and access to study for local students.

Monash's Gippsland campus is a key part of the precinct that will comprise an education centre for 750 senior secondary students as well as TAFE and university students.

Funded by the Victorian Government, the facility will offer programs including the VCE, vocational education training (VET) in schools, TAFE courses, apprenticeships and university units.

Secondary students in remote parts of Gippsland will also be able to link into these programs through a \$1.5 million information and communication technology (ICT) hub.

Due to open in 2003, the precinct will be built on Monash-owned land next to the Gippsland campus.

Gippsland pro vice-chancellor Professor Brian Mackenzie welcomed the initiative, saying it would broaden education opportunities for local youth.

"We will help develop a targeted range of services for secondary students, including a creative set of pathways into further education such as two-year diplomas and associate degrees," he said.

"Year 11 and 12 students will also have access to enhancement programs, which, along with articulation from TAFE courses, will provide Gippsland's youth with more choices in post-compulsory study."

He said Monash would also provide access to the university library and resources such as information technol-

ogy equipment and the science and nursing laboratories.

Other major players in the initiative include Kurnai Secondary College, Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE, and regional training companies and employers.

The Victorian Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Ms Lynne Kosky, who launched the precinct, said the project was a key initiative in improving education outcomes in the region.

She said this included improving retention rates of secondary students and providing more post-compulsory options for students.

"This exciting state-of-the art development is a great opportunity for young people across Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley," she said.

#### BRIEFS

### Launch for new forensic studies institute

High Court judge Justice Michael Kirby will launch Monash's new International Institute of Forensic Studies at law firm Mallesons Stephen Jaques in Melbourne this month.

An initiative of Monash's Law faculty, the institute will promote research and education relating to the functions and processes of courts and tribunals.

Its work will extend beyond legal practitioners and include the many groups that are involved in the forensic process such as professionals who provide expert evidence, the police and members of the public who act as witnesses or jurors.

Justice Kirby will be the institute's patron while Monash's Professor George Hampel will be its president.

#### Monash wins highprofile contract

Monash International has been awarded a prestigious regional technical assistance contract by the Asian Development Bank for a study on future economic cooperation between China and eastern parts of inner Mongolia.

The contract, won with the help of Monash's Department of Economics, involves undertaking the Strategic

Study on Development Options for Economic Cooperation between the two countries.

The study will include a socioeconomic analysis of the region covering the availability of basic social infrastructure, government services and facilities, financial services, and the scale and economic potential of resources.

The project is the first step in a series of ADB-funded studies to enhance regional cooperation between China and Mongolia.

#### A taxing conference

Monash University is hosting a conference on taxation and good governance in mid-July at its Caulfield campus.

Presenters will include senior politicians such as Democrats Senator Lyn Allison, prominent economist Mr Saul Eslake and Age journalist Mr Kenneth Davidson, as well as several Monash academics.

The program will cover topics including tax realities in Australia, an international comparison of tax levels and benefits, and disadvantages of higher tax rates.

The conference will be held from 9 am to 5 pm on 13 July at level 2, building B, Caulfield campus. For more information, contact Ms Vivien Gunn on 0407 300 521.

## Students suffered under school reforms: research

BY ALLISON HARDING

The former Victorian Liberal government's radical education reforms led to a culture of fear among teachers and hindered poorer students, according to new Monash research.

The research showed the Kennett government's controversial Schools of the Future program particularly targeted schools in working-class suburbs for funding cuts or closure.

Researcher Ms Jeanette Jennings says the overhaul of the education system began just weeks after the Liberal Party's 1992 election victory, with the closure or relocation of 55 schools and the loss of more than 2000 teaching jobs.

In her PhD thesis, 'Changes in Victorian government schools: Schools of the Future or Schools of the Fuhrer?', Ms Jennings, from the School of Political and Social Inquiry, said the government's program exacerbated social class-related inequalities.

"Children who were already disadvantaged were being further disadvantaged by the education system," she said

"Decreased funding and resource cuts impacted more on the 'workingclass' schools than the 'middle-class' schools ... and in some instances, money allocated for specific purposes, usually for special needs students, was diverted to other areas."

The lack of funds meant schools were forced into fundraising activities – not for extras but for essential school operations – which again exacerbated social class differences. Some of the wealthier schools could afford to employ professional fundraisers and obtained corporate sponsorships, she said.

Ms Jennings, who interviewed 88 teachers and principals from 15 schools, found overwhelming dissatisfaction and disillusionment with the



Former Victorian Premier Mr Jeff Kennett

reforms. She said the teachers' and principals' workloads increased to "absolutely horrendous levels".

"The role of the principal changed substantially – the role became more managerial and finance driven," she said. "Principals believed the Schools of the Future program lost sight of what its main objective should have been – educating students."

The title of her thesis came from a discussion with one principal who, when asked if she could interview him about the Schools of the Future, replied: "You mean Schools of the Fuhrer?"

Teachers, many of whom found themselves responsible for larger classes, were also expected to be more involved in the corporate aspects of the school, leading to low morale and a culture of fear.

"Teachers believed their classroom work was impaired by the corporate aspects of their jobs, but feared losing their jobs or missing out on promotions if they did not take on that work," Ms Jennings said. "They didn't have time to teach the kids as they wanted."

#### St Kilda, Monash in strategic alliance

Continued from page

"The deal demonstrates Monash's desire to be actively engaged with communities surrounding its campuses and to find partners in key areas," he said.

Mr Butters said the arrangement meant the club had acquired a full-time pre-season training venue and an alternative rehabilitation facility during the normal season, with access to the football oval, athletics track, swimming pools, gymnasium and fitness centre, and rehabilitation services.

"It would be pointless for the club to try and replicate the outstanding facilities available at Monash," he said. "And initial activities, such as the hamstring research project, will have a positive impact on the team's performance over coming seasons."

The alliance will enable St Kilda to establish closer links with its supporter base in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs and allow both organisations to develop community-based initiatives.

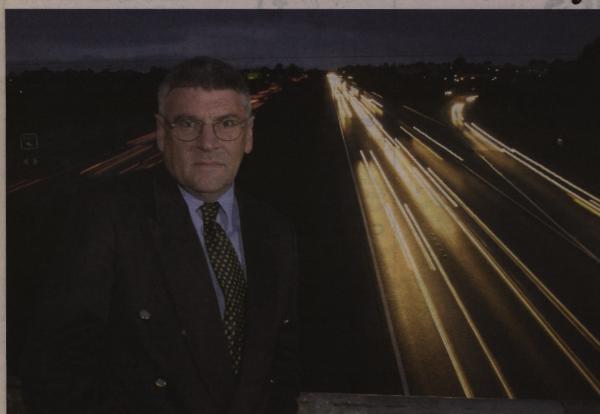
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### New MUARC director to make inroads into air and rail safety



MUARC will expand its research activities into the areas of aviation and rail safety and will build links with the Southeast Asian region, under new director Dr lan Johnston. Picture: GREG FORD

BY DAVID BRUCE

Dr Ian Johnston is about to spend a lot of time thinking about other people's safety

As the new director of the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC), Dr Johnston will lead the search for better ways to make Australians safer in cars, boats, planes and trains, in their homes and workplaces, and during recreation.

Since it formed in 1987, MUARC has worked with industry and government on more than 100 research projects that have led to major advances that help Australians go about their daily lives with a lower risk of injury.

As a former head of ARRB Transport Research and former director of road safety at Vicroads, Dr Johnston's specialty is in road safety. However, he sees his new role at MUARC as an opportunity to draw together the full range of expertise in injury prevention research.

"There are several safety research establishments around the country and internationally, but what makes MUARC unique is its ability to span a broad range of injury prevention strategies. There are enormous synergies across the disciplines and areas of application and each can learn from the other," he said.

Dr Johnston nominates aviation and rail safety as fields where MUARC can make a significant new impact, drawing upon its established expertise in road safety.

"There is very little basic research going on into air and rail safety. Australia has a very good accident investigation system but we don't have a systematic program of injury prevention research," he said.

The Safe Car project, where a prototype vehicle has been fitted with a range of high-tech safety measures, could be adapted for the aviation industry, Dr Johnston said.

"It is not difficult, for example, to conceive of a GPS (Global Positioning System)-based system in two dimensions, vertical as well as horizontal, which could be a warning system for an aircraft wandering into controlled aircraft."

MUARC's role as an industry leader and adviser both in Australia and internationally will also expand under Dr Johnston's leadership.

"I see us building very strong links with the Southeast Asian region. In safety terms, a lot of the developing countries from this region are where Australia was 30 years ago. Road safety is an obvious area where we can make a contribution, but it is equally true of our other areas of injury research – farm and workplace safety, for example."

Dr Johnston's position as president of the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia provides a springboard for these initiatives.

"I see a primary role for MUARC in training the next generation of safety professionals, in Australia and throughout Southeast Asia. This will entail partnerships with other organisations and collaborative research projects, so we are building up a broad base of expertise in injury prevention in our society."

## Interactive forum highlights work-life practices

BY JUNE YU

Squeezing work, family and community commitments into a finite number of hours is a challenge for many people.

A forum to be hosted this month by the Department of Management and the Work/Life Association (Vic) will give participants the chance to discuss these issues with the people who influence the policies that affect their working lives.

The half-day forum in early July, Work-life balance: whose job is it anyway?', will be opened by Victorian Industrial Relations Minister Ms Monica Gould.

The forum will cover topics ranging from the costs of balancing work and life to current Australian practices on helping employees with families and the government's approach to achieving work-life priorities.

The keynote speaker will be Penn State University Labor Studies and Women's Studies Professor Bob Drago, who will share his views about achieving successful work-life programs.

Other speakers will include ACTU industrial officer Mr Richard Watts, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry labour relations manager Mr Reg Hamilton, Federal Work and Family Unit head Ms Jenny Earle and consulting company Partern Publicis Group representative Mr Martin McKinnon.

The forum will be held from 8 am to 1.30 pm on Monday 2 July at the Park Hyatt, Parliament Square, Melbourne. For more information, contact Ms Kath Cooper on + 61 3 9903 2673.

### See a world in a 'Day'



The big 'Day' is not far away: Monash student guide coordinators Ms Louise Ellerton and Mr Daniel Robinson prepare for the biggest event on the university calendar – Monash Open Day. Held over two days in early August, Monash Open Day is the one weekend in the year when aspiring students and members of the public can visit each of Monash's six Victorian campuses and experience university life. Activities on offer will include demonstrations, campus tours, information stands, talks, exhibitions and performances by dance and musical groups. Staff and students will also be on hand to provide information and advice on courses, facilities and services. Day One will be held at the Gippsland, Parkville and Peninsula campuses on Saturday 4 August. The Berwick, Caulfield and Clayton campuses will be open on Day Two, Sunday 5 August, from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information, visit www.monash.edu.au/openday or contact + 61 3 9905 9541.

## History to come alive at new national educational centre

BY DAVID BRUCE

The humble history lesson is about to be a thing of the past with the establishment of the National Centre for History Education at Monash University.

The aim of the centre, funded by the Federal Government through the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, is to make history exciting and engaging for primary and secondary school teachers and students throughout Australia.

The centre is based at the university's Gippsland campus and involves staff from Melbourne and La Trobe universities, the Australian Heritage Commission, and teachers and other educators and historians.

Centre director Associate Professor Tony Taylor of the Faculty of Education said that while Federation celebrations had improved Australians' knowledge of their past, the centre planned to make Australians even better informed.

"Our aim is to make history more accessible and exciting to both teachers and learners of history. We want to awaken their interest in discovering more about our shared past, and to learn from it for the future," Dr Taylor said.

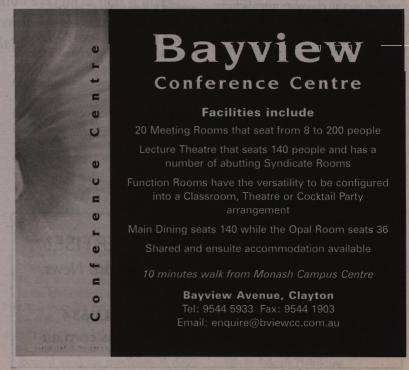
In 1999, the Federal Government appointed Dr Taylor to head an inquiry into the teaching of history. His report, The Future of the Past', highlighted the need to strengthen history in the school curriculum. He found many teachers were not trained in teaching history and that many also felt that other subjects were crowding history out of the classroom.

As a response, the government launched the \$2.3 million National History Project and, as part of this, directed \$1 million to establish the National Centre for History Education.

The centre will develop new primary and secondary school curriculum resources and form a national association for history education. Much of the material will be freely available on the web.

Two National History seminars were also planned, to consider the issues that were important for the teaching and learning of history.

The first seminar, held in Canberra recently, was attended by historians such as Stuart Macintyre, John Hirst and Henry Reynolds as well as by teachers of history, history educators and curriculum officials:



## Model to better predict freeway travel times

BY STUART HEATHER

Travel time information for motorists on congested freeways could be much improved, if a traffic prediction system developed by a Monash University researcher is adopted.

The dynamic system uses traffic volume and speed data, such as that currently collected on freeways throughout Melbourne, to better inform motorists of the time it will take them to reach their destinations.

It was devised by civil engineering researcher Dr Darryn Paterson, who graduated with a PhD in May.

"The travel time information displayed on Melbourne's freeways tells drivers about the situation ahead of them at that moment, but conditions will change as they proceed along the freeway," Dr Paterson said. "What is needed, and what this new model provides, is a prediction of the type of traffic conditions drivers will experience throughout their trip.

"During peak commuting periods, changes can occur quickly. Queues of vehicles form at some places, resulting in congestion, and not at others. Accurate prediction of travel times is extremely difficult."

For his thesis, Dr Paterson developed a model to predict journey dura-



Peak hour travel time information would be more accurate using a model developed by Dr Darryn Paterson.

tion based on a 'recursive algorithm' – a sequence of interdependent calculations which cumulatively assesses conditions along the freeway.

Using data collected three times a minute by sensors embedded every 500 metres in the road surface, the model considers both the speed and number of vehicles passing each point.

This information is collected on Melbourne's freeways now, but only speed measurements are used to calculate the travel times displayed on electronic message boards. "The existing method works reasonably well when traffic is flowing more or less evenly, but during peak commuter times – just when it is needed most – the predictions are less accurate. By adopting my model, the signs could give much more reliable information to motorists, because it takes account of the dynamics of the traffic between them and their destination."

Developing the model involved observation of freeway traffic and the use of traffic simulation software. Observers recorded the travel time of individual vehicles and the results were cross-checked with Dr Paterson's predictions. The simulation software provided further support for the model, enabling it to be checked under a variety of extreme circumstances, such as major accidents, which could not be replicated under normal conditions.

Dr Paterson's PhD supervisor, Associate Professor Geoffrey Rose, said the research was part of a series of research projects into intelligent transport systems conducted by Monash's Civil Engineering department. Previous research by the department has been applied by VicRoads to better detect and respond to incidents on freeways.

#### **Schools**



#### Year 10 and beyond

A brochure to help Year 10 students select VCE subjects based on course and career interest areas has been distributed to schools. For extra copies, contact Monash's Prospective Students Office on + 61 3 9905 1320.

#### **Careers** posters

A set of 17 colourful course and careers posters have been sent to secondary schools. The posters group courses and their associated careers into broad interest areas to help students understand the breadth of career options available to them.

If your school has not received copies or would like additional copies, contact the Prospective Students Office on + 61 3 9905 1320,

#### **Explore Monash**

This school holiday program is specifically designed for regional and interstate families. Students can choose a metro visit, which starts at the Clayton campus and includes an optional visit to Berwick, Peninsula,

Parkville or Caulfield in the afternoon, or they may wish to visit the Gippsland campus. Activities include an introduction to Monash, a tour of the campus, visits to academic areas of interest and a look at the student accommodation.

The Explore Monash sessions will be held on Thursday 12 July at Gippsland and on Friday 13 July for the metro session.

For more information, contact the Prospective Students Office on +61 3 9905 4164.

#### Australia on the Page

Booktalkers returns to Monash this month with an exciting two-hour program for students in Years 9, 10 and 11.

Australia on the Page will feature a panel discussion with authors Archie Fusillo, John Marsden, Doris Pilkington and Irini Savvides. Other activities include dramatised readings by Monash drama and theatre studies students, a student discussion panel and a general question and answer segment with the authors.

Australia on the Page will be held on Tuesday 31 July from 10 am to 12.30 pm at the George Jenkins Theatre at Monash's Peninsula campus. For bookings, contact + 61 3 9669 9796.



## Cadbury pitches in to give uni students a taste of the real world

Monash's Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering teamed up with chocolate manufacturer Cadbury recently to give students practical design experience.

Deputy head of the department Associate Professor Andy Russell said first and second-year electrical engineering design students were required to build a chocolate vending machine using specified parts and materials.

He said students were supplied with cardboard and plastic sheeting and a set number of parts and electrical components to design and build the machine. "It's an attempt to get our early-year students to think about how different areas of knowledge can be applied to one project," he said.

Cadbury electrical engineer Mr Robert Jorgensen judged the competition, with students (pictured from left to right) Mr Chong Chun Fai, Mr Fok Ka Ki and Mr Andrew Lawton declared the winners.

The vending machines were judged on presentation and innovation and whether they worked. Cadbury supplied the chocolate bars used in the machines and the boxes of chocolates awarded to the winners.

#### 34 years ago - 1967

#### Monash opens the Alexander Theatre

The best-equipped theatre outside the central business district of Melbourne was opened recently by Senator John Gorton.

Named after the great Australian philosopher Samuel Alexander, the Alexander Theatre has a fixed seating capacity of 508 and a foyer served by a fully licensed bar and buffet.

The Alexander Theatre will be available for public hire and use by the university for performances, film screenings, lectures, conferences and other official functions.

■ For more than 30 years, the venue has attracted many prestigious professional companies, including Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company and the Bell Shakespeare Company, and shown a variety of genres including dance, drama, comedy, multimedia and children's theatre.

#### 30 years ago - 1971

## Research shows alcohol link in most road accidents

Breathalyser tests and hospital blood readings of victims proved that alcohol caused most road accidents, Dr John Birrell told a medical students conference.

In a survey of 100 single-vehicle crashes in Victoria, 71 drivers had a blood-alcohol content higher than .05.

According to Dr Birrell, a police surgeon and part-time lecturer in pathology at Monash, drinking is important to most Australians because of their convict origins, the

## 40

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 look back through the years.

Ned Kelly image and the fear of being labelled a wowser.

He predicted that random breathalyser checks could be introduced in the future.

■ Researchers from Monash's Centre for Applied Drug and Alcohol Research are currently working with the Monash University Accident Research Centre and Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre on a major project to investigate the effects of cannabis on young drivers.

#### 20 years ago - 1981

#### Library introduces new microfiche catalogue

The Monash Library has introduced a new catalogue on microfiche rather than on cards, produced by a computer rather than by typewriter.

Catalogue copies will be available in all branch libraries and will include all material received from 1981 on

The University Librarian, Mr Brian Southwell, says there are a number of advantages to the microfiche catalogue and the computers that produce them.

"As well as the sheer size and rate of growth of the card catalogue, there is also the difficulty of making changes to it. An apparently simple alteration may mean changes to thousands of cards; the computer can make such global alterations, to thousands of records, in one operation," he said.

■ Now spread over 11 sites and subbranches, the Monash University Library collection includes 2.6 million items. Public computer catalogues were first introduced to Monash in 1989. The library currently uses the Voyager computer catalogue system and produces an additional catalogue on CD-ROM.



Acquisitions met Reader Services in a bone-jarring clash of Monash University librarians in October 1971.

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## Australia's refugees: their rights are our concern

The Australian government's detention of asylum-seekers contravenes international human rights conventions. Their treatment should concern all of us, argues refugee law expert DR SUSAN KNEEBONE





#### **OPINION**

A USTRALIA is unique among Western countries in having mandatory non-reviewable detention of asylum seekers and other persons who arrive on our shores without a valid visa.

In recent months this issue has aroused considerable controversy in the media. The Minister for Immigration, Philip Ruddock, maintains the practice is necessary to protect the "integrity of our shores", while human rights groups condemn it as a violation of basic rights and freedoms.

The conclusion of one writer to a local newspaper summarises the issue: "Thanks to asylum seekers, international human rights are now a domestic issue."

For this issue concerns a clash of cultures and legal systems. On the one hand international law in the form of the Refugees Convention of 1951, to which Australia is a party, guarantees the rights of asylum seekers, as do other international treaties.

Under international law a genuine asylum seeker has the status of a refugee. But the Minister for Immigration asserts the sovereign right of the Australian government to decide who shall enter our community under Australian laws. The minister insists that asylum seekers are "unauthorised arrivals" – not refugees.

The practice of immigration detention in Australia has a long history that is associated with early restrictive immigration laws and the White Australia policy. Immigration detention was provided for in the Migration Restriction Act 1901.

The current law of mandatory, nonreviewable detention of asylum-seekers came about through amendment to the Migration Act in 1992 after the Tiananmen Square incident in Beijing when the there was an upsurge of unauthorised arrivals in Australia. The then minister for immigration, Gerry Hand, justified it on a deterrence basis. He said: "The government is determined that a clear signal be sent that migration to Australia may not be achieved by simply arriving in this country and expecting to be allowed into the community."

However, almost 10 years later it is clear that this policy has not acted as a deterrent as persons flee from new areas of conflict and violence where there is no orderly queue from which the minister can select refugees for resettlement.

The government's treatment of detained asylum seekers is under the public spotlight. It can be seriously questioned whether the cost of maintaining the detention system in its current form is justified in the circumstances, having regard to the human cost involved.

kind of valid temporary visa, whilst 34 per cent arrive without a visa. This minority group, comprising mostly 'boat people' is subject to mandatory detention.

Recently, this minority group has comprised persons from the Middle East, 90 per cent or more of whom have been accepted as having genuine refugee claims. They have fled repressive regimes, often assisted by unscrupulous people smugglers. But do they deserve to be 'demonised' by the detention policy, for exercising their right of flight under the Refugees Convention?

The UNHCR stance is that "in view of the hardship which it involves, detention should normally be avoided". However, it recognises that temporary detention is justifiable in exceptional cases in order to: verify identity; determine the elements on which the claim to protection is based; and protect national security and public order.

It is also argued by human rights watchdogs that mandatory detention is arbitrary and in breach of Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which protects against arbitrary detention.

In its 1998 report, 'Those Who've Come Across the Seas: Detention of Unauthorised Arrivals', the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission argued for an alternative model of detention.

It was suggested that detained asylum seekers should be released on bridging visas pending the completion of the processing of their claims. This is the practice in other countries.

The recent Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (18 June 2001) recommended that a time limit of 14 weeks' detention should be set for asylum seekers who receive security clearance.

The detention of children raises another human rights issue. The

tion centres. The ICCPR, Article 10, stipulates that everyone in detention is to be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.

Article 37 of CROC is similar, but adds that every child detainee is to be treated in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age. But there are many stories of children living in isolation without access to the outside world, toys or books.

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has received and investigated a number of complaints and expressed "serious concern" about the conditions, including the quality of health care in general, the quality of education provided to children, overcrowding and lack of privacy.

It observed a tightening of security and treatment of detainees, as if they are prisoners. It is critical of the separation or 'incommunicado' detention of new asylum seekers.

The recommendations and conclusions of the recent Report of the Joint Standing Committee endorse many of these concerns and observations. The report demonstrated "the Committee's belief that there are a number of concerns about the human rights of detainees in the centres".

As this report had bipartisan support, there may at last be some prospect of change. As the narratives and stories of suffering by asylum seekers become indented in our national culture and conscience, this will become a domestic issue.

■ Dr Susan Kneebone is a senior lecturer in Monash's Faculty of Law. She is a member of Monash's Castan Centre for Human Rights Law and recently organised a workshop at the Monash Centre under the title "The Refugees Convention 50" Years On: Globalisation and International Law'. The papers will be published in a book of essays under that title by Ashgate Publishing.

## The main complaint about Australia's mandatory detention system is that it goes beyond what is necessary; that it is a prolonged deprivation of liberty which is intended to act as a punitive regime.

It is important to put this issue in perspective. The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are 23 million persons "of concern" in the world today, of whom refugees comprise about 12 million and another seven million are internally displaced persons (IDPs) who do not meet the refugee definition. (The refugee definition requires a person to have a "well-founded fear of persecution" and to be outside their country of origin.)

Australia receives a miniscule 9000 ou-shore applications for refugee status from asylum seekers each year (in comparison to Germany, for example, which receives about 90,000).

The Australian government has a notional 'quota' of 2000 places for such applicants. Of these applicants, the majority (66 per cent) arrive on some

The main complaint about Australia's mandatory detention system is that it goes beyond what is necessary; that it is a prolonged deprivation of liberty which is intended to act as a punitive regime.

There are too many reports of asylum seekers being held in detention until all avenues of the unpredictable refugee status determination system have been exhausted.

In the case of A v Australia (Communication No 35/1988), the Human Rights Committee concluded that Australia's prolonged detention of A was arbitrary. The Australian government rejected its findings.

Prolonged detention is contrary to Article 31 of the Refugees Convention which states that parties shall not impose penalties upon asylum seekers because of their illegal presence in a country. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC) mirrors the ICCPR in prohibiting arbitrary detention.

Moreover, it requires that the child's best interests are a primary consideration in decision-making. CROC also acknowledges that a child, "for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment".

LEARLY a detention centre is not a "family environment". While the Migration Act provides that the minister can grant a bridging visa to a child under the age of 18, the dilemma is that it is clearly not in the child's best interests to be separated from its parents. Consequently, very few children are released from detention centres.

Considerable attention is being focused upon the conditions in deten-

## Close encounters with the extraordinary

BY FIONA PERRY

It's not often that you can say you've had a close encounter of the spatial

But a new exhibition commencing at the Monash University Gallery this month aims to give viewers an experience of extra-spatial dimensions.

Spacecraft 0701 brings together works from a diversity of practices including design, sculpture, architecture, photography, jewellery and art.

The one thing the works have in common is their effect on space, crafting it like a tangible material, says exhibition curator Suzie Attiwill.

"The conjunction between object, space and viewer produces an encounter with space in unexpected ways," she says.

In Spacecraft 0701, the focus is on space rather than the subject or the object, says Ms Attiwill. "The viewers comes upon the object in space. This is a creative moment produced through a close encounter with the extra-dimensions of space.

"Malte Wagenfeld's ceiling fan in full flight spins with its clear acrylic blades picking up light and throwing it against the walls.

"The oversized, polished mirror 'Super Uber Vase' by Greg Bonasera entices the viewer into another space. And on the wall, graphic lines of tim-ber made by Zjelko Markov become shelves the closer you get.'



'Model 172B' by Le Klint (designed by Poul Christiansen), 2000.

Others in the exhibition include Susan Cohn, Mari Funaki, Penny Gebhardt, Natasha Johns-Messenger, Le Klint (Poul Christiansen), Simone LeAmon, Andrea Mina, Vera Möller, Prue Pascoe, Shelley Penn, Arindam Sen, Tony Stuart, Jon Tarry, Danielle Thompson and Manon van Kouswijk.

One of the exhibition's works, 'Model 172B', a light designed by Danish artist Poul Christiansen for Le Klint in the 1960s, was hand-manufactured last year, explains Ms Attiwill.

"With its baroque folds, the light has the presence and aesthetics of a spacecraft, as well as making space

tangible through its folds and the casting of light," she says.

Spacecraft 0701 17 July to 25 August 2001 Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus

For more information, contact Ms Nicola Vance on + 61 3 9905 4217.

Floor talks will be held at the gallery on Wednesday 1 August at 1.30 pm. Speakers will include curator Suzie Attiwill and artists Vera Möller, Prue Pascoe and Natasha Johns-Messenger.

## Taking art out into the community

BY JUNE YU

Melbourne secondary school students are benefiting from the expertise of students from Monash's Faculty of Art and Design, under a new school residency program.

The program also gives Monash students a chance to obtain paid work and exhibition opportunities.

Monash third-year painting student Colin Hyett has been the first participant in the program at Melbourne girls' school Toorak College.

Mr Hyett was selected for a weeklong residency during Arts Festival Week at the school, where he built the installation 'Shrine of My Childhood Remembrance' using a variety of plastic items related to childhood.

"It was a great chance to go out into the community and work with students to produce and exhibit a piece of art," he said.

Housed in a plastic circus tent, the installation consisted of a shrine of plastic dinosaurs, a tin Volkswagen beetle and plastic Christmas tree branches.

Mr Hyett said introducing traditional boys' toys such as plastic dinosaurs into a girls' school environment was a way of reflecting on his own play experiences as a boy.

Toorak College visual arts head Mr Roger Wiggins said Colin's contribution to the arts festival was excellent.

"I feel sure the success of Colin as artist-in-residence will generate other activities and closer ties between Monash and Toorak College," he said.

Program director Mr Malcom Bywaters said other residencies included that of third-year design student Lee Picot, who is spending a day a week as designer-in-residence at Camberwell Grammar School for the rest of the year.

Other schools to take on Monash art students as residents include Scotch College, Yarra Valley Grammar School and Woodleigh School.

Mr Bywaters said the schools residency program was part of the professional practice course that was intended to help art students get a start in life after art school.

The professional practice course covers writing CVs and grant proposals, work presentation and how to work with government-funded galleries, commercial spaces and independent artist-run spaces.

For more information, contact Mr Malcom Bywaters on + 61 3



Monash third-year painting student Mr Colin Hyett works with students at Toorak College during his week-long residency at the school. Picture: JOE MANN

#### ARTS SCENE

#### Monash sponsors international arts festival

Monash University will again sponsor the Australian International Workshop Festival, to be held in Melbourne from 7 to 14 July.

The festival, which features internationally renowned performing arts professionals, will offer a rare opportunity for actors, writers, dancers, directors and arts educators to interact with inspirational performers and teachers from around the world.

This year's workshop leaders include Belgium's Jos Houben, founding member of Théâtre de Complicité; Argentinian Cristina Castrillo, founder of Theatro delle Radici, Switzerland; Wolfgang Stange, a British pioneer of theatre for people with disabilities; Mlanden Materic of Bosnia's Tattoo Theatre Company; and Min Tanaka, master of Japanese contemporary dance and the tradition of Butoh.

The festival includes a supporting program of evening forums, led by the visiting artists and open to the public as well as workshop participants. For more information, contact + 61 3 9905 1674 or email AIWF@general. monash.edu.au

#### **Actors in Edinburgh** Fringe Festival

A group of Monash performing arts graduates will perform an original work at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival

The Monash Graduate Players, formed this year by graduates Ms Natalia Pizzey, Ms Sally Faraday and Mr Nicholas Pollock, will present Pandora's Box at the festival in August.

The play, written by Ms Faraday, is an unashamedly bawdy look at the licentious world of 17th century Restoration theatre and the dark consequences of its passions and freedoms.

The Monash Graduate Players will perform Pandora's Box at the Drama Theatre at Monash's Clayton campus on 25, 27 and 28 July. For more information and bookings, contact + 61 3

#### Japanese music concerts

The Japanese narrative arts of Heike and Rookyoku will be heard for the first time in Australia at two concerts supported by Monash's Japanese Studies Centre. Both styles form part of Japan's long and rich tradition of story-telling with musical accompaniment.

Heike recounts tales of the epic battles between rival clans in 12th century Japan. Handed down by blind musicians from medieval times, it is recited by the last musician of this tradition, Mr Imai Tsutomu, accompanied by a musical instrument called a biwa.

Rookyoku is a story-telling genre that evolved during Japan's modernisation period. Combining dramatic narration and sung narrative, it is accompanied by the shamisen. Performers Ms Sachiko Miyahara and Ms Kaname Nakagawa are among the foremost practitioners of the art.

A free lunchtime concert will be held at the Performing Arts Complex at Monash's Clayton campus at 1.10 pm on Tuesday 17 July. An evening concert will be performed at 8 pm on Thursday 19 July in Melbourne University's Melba Hall.

For more information, contact the Japanese Studies Centre on + 61 3 9905 2260 or email japanese.studies. centre@arts.monash.edu.au

### Getting back to basics with the art of drawing

Drawing was for centuries universally considered the backbone of all the visual arts, but from the early years of the 20th century, this view came under serious question, as the proliferation of new ideas, expectations and technologies found their place in the making of

Today, a bewildering range of expressive mediums and technologies are available to artists, all within the context of a highly pluralistic culture.

But against this background a renewed interest in drawing has emerged, captured in a new exhibition starting at Monash University's Faculty of Art and Design Gallery this

The exhibition, simply titled Drawing, will feature the work of many current students from different disciplines within the faculty, and of selected graduates such as artists Maria Zeiss and Peter Bonner, for whom drawing remains an important part of their professional practice.

Drawing will include works made with graphite and coloured pencils, charcoal, watercolours and a range of collage and photo media materials.

Exhibition organisers and coordinators of Monash's drawing department Mr Geoff Dupree and Mr Ken Smith said artists and students were again attracted to drawing for "its simple technology and its ability to directly and selectively encompass a wide range of ideas and experiences".

"We are fostering this renewed interest in drawing by developing programs that combine the liveliest elements of tradition with contemporary thought," they said.

"In the development of our drawing programs, and reflected in this exhibition, is our aim of helping students see and think, making drawing an essential component of all art and design

Drawing . What:

Who:

When: 20 July to 18 August

Faculty of Art and Design Where: Gallery, Caulfield campus

> For more information, contact gallery manager Mr Malcom Bywaters on

+ 61 3 9903 2882.

## New exhibition unveils Australia's recent past

BY DEREK BROWN

A Monash librarian has used magazines, posters and brochures – often considered the junk material of popular culture – to create a comprehensive record of Australian culture and identity over the past 100 years.

In 'Twentieth Century Australia', an exhibition currently showing at the Clayton campus, Rare Books librarian Mr Richard Overell has drawn together a wide variety of printed material from early documents on Federation to posters from the recent S11 protests.

Mr Overell said it was the throwaway nature of items on display that made the exhibition unique.

"Often ephemeral material is created for a particular purpose or need, such as wartime coupon books or brochures and pamphlets created during a political campaign. Once the need has passed, people often throw the material away, making it difficult to find," he said.

Mr Overell said he hoped the exhibition would recapture Australia during the 20th century by presenting a snapshot of the past 10 decades.

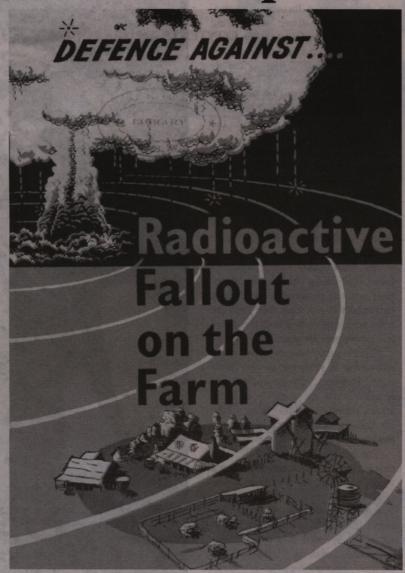
The exhibition includes a 1902 edition of *The New Idea: A Women's Home Journal for Australasia* which, along with fiction and beauty hints, features an interview with Miss Vida Goldstein, one of Australia's first suffragettes.

One of the more unusual items on display is a set of original watercolour sketches of life in Melbourne in the 1950s. The sketches show details of the daily life of a family in Kew and were sent to relatives in England attached to letters.

Also on show is a collection of press clippings from the *Herald* library from the 1940s and 1950s relating to the Communist Party Dissolution Bill and the Petrov Spy Affair.

Pamphlets from the same era tell worried Australians what to do to protect against radioactive fallout.

In 1950s Australia there was a fear of Communism and the outbreak of a third world war, according to Mr Overell



This Australian civil defence publication from the 1950s illustrates the fear of war that existed at the time.

"A build-up of tensions and hostilities between Western and Communist nations made open warfare a distinct possibility. The fear of war was even more acute because of a focus on the atomic bomb," he said.

"Various civil defence publications attempted to allay these fears by setting out clear steps to be taken in the event of the bomb being dropped on Australia."

What: Twentieth-Century
Australia

Where: Rare Books Section, Main Library,

Monash University,
Clayton campus

When: Until October 2001
Who: For more information,
contact Mr Richard Overs

contact Mr Richard Overell on + 61 3 9905 2689.

### Storm clouds gather at Monash



The Bell Shakespeare Company, including actors Belinda Scalley and Peter Sumner (above), will return to Monash University's Alexander Theatre this month to perform Shakespeare's most mystical play, *The Tempest*.

Using large-scale objects, masks, illusion and a choir of voices creating a

live soundscape, the magical and supernatural elements of the play will be explored to dramatic effect.

A story of sensual awakening and the stirring passions of young love, *The Tempest* is also about the tensions between the instinct to seek revenge when vyronged and the much more difficult and salutary act of forgiveness. The Tempest will be performed on Tuesday 31 July at 10.30 am and 7.30 pm at the Alexander Theatre, Clayton campus. The 7.30 pm show will be preceded by a free forum exploring the themes of the play, to be held from 6.30 pm at the Alexander Theatre.

For more information and bookings, contact + 61 3 9905 1111.





#### **Cultures of Devotion**

Edited by Peter Howard and Cynthia Troup Monash Publications in History RRP: \$14.30 plus postage and handling

From cults of prophetic saints to charismatic preachers, religion permeated the social, political and spiritual lives of those who lived in medieval and Renaissance Florence.

A new book, which brings together papers by the most recent generation of young historians, delves into the devotional landscape of Florence and its impact on the day-to-day life of the city.

Including essays on the cult of Francesca Romana, the use of devotional images and the social world of nuns, *Cultures of Devotion* shows the sacred was always central to the secular in Renaissance Italy.

Dr Peter Howard teaches early modern European religious and social history in the School of Historical Studies at Monash University and has published papers on medieval sermon studies. Ms Cynthia Troup is undertaking doctoral studies in the school and has had work published on Florentine devotional images. Books published by Monash Publications in History can be purchased by contacting + 61 3 9905 2164.



#### **Compassionate Beasts:**

The Quest for Animal Rights

Edited by Lyle Munro Praeger Publishers RRP: \$140

A historical study of the animal rights movement in the US, UK and Australia reveals a fascinating mix of grassroots activism, ethical vegetarianism and government lobby groups.

Compassionate Beasts provides a detailed analysis of the people behind the movement – their motivations, challenges and successes. From activists freeing battery hens to large advocacy groups campaigning for changes to law and legislation, the text explores a wide spectrum of animal rights activity.

Mr Lyle Munro is a lecturer in the School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences at Monash University and has published a number of articles on the animal rights movement.



#### **Agency and Responsibility:**

A Common-Sense Moral Psychology

By Jeanette Kennett
Published by Oxford University Press
RRP: \$94.50

In the search for a psychology that upholds the notion of self-control while still accepting limits to that control, the author of *Agency and Responsibility*, Jeanette Kennett,

has paid close attention to our common-sense understanding of recklessness, weakness of will and compulsion.

In the text, she takes weakness of will as her starting point and from it builds a comprehensive account of moral agency, which gives central place to the capacity for self-control, confirming our attitudes toward moral responsibility.

Dr Jeanette Kennett is a lecturer in the School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Bioeflics at Monash University.

#### **POST**SCript

Monash graduate Ms Renata Singer (BEdSt 1990) has recently launched her books. The Front of the Family: A Tale of Two Sisters, a movel about love, war, family, fidelity and intim acy. Front of the Family is published by Bruce Sims Books.

If you are a member of the Monash community and have a forthcoming book, contact monashnews@adm.mo.nash.edu.au

Books featured in 'Inprint' are available or can be ordered at Monash's four on-campus bookshops.

- CITSU (Caulfield) + 61 3 9571 3277 Clayton + 61 3 9905 3111
- Gippsland + 61 3 5122 1771 Peninsula + 61 3 9783 6932 www.monash.edu.au

### Passengers play a key role in driver behaviour: research

BY SUE MCALISTER

Research by the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) has confirmed that passengers have significant effects on driver behaviour.

It also found that these effects were sometimes poorly understood, especially by passengers and drivers, whose perceptions of the interactions were contradictory.

Dr Michael Regan, senior research fellow at MUARC, said these and other findings would help road safety authorities enhance the positive and minimise the negative effects of passengers on driver behaviour.

This should involve a public awareness campaign targeting both drivers and passengers, he said.

passengers comprise 35 to 50 per cent of people killed in road accidents, yet traditionally only drivers have been the focus of road safety research and pro-

The NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust commissioned Dr Regan and MUARC research assistant Ms Eve Mitsopoulos to undertake the study, believed to be unique. It involved a literature review, an analysis of ACT crash data, a telephone survey and focus groups, Dr Regan said.

"Passengers were found to play a variety of roles affecting driver behaviour, such as deterring or encouraging risky driving by saying something or simply by being in the car. They could

the driver awake through conversation, or assist the driver by navigating or adjusting the radio and other dials."

Ms Mitsopoulos said that from the driver's perspective, the extent to which particular role types were played was determined by passenger age, driver-passenger relationship, and the driver's sex in relation to the passenger's.

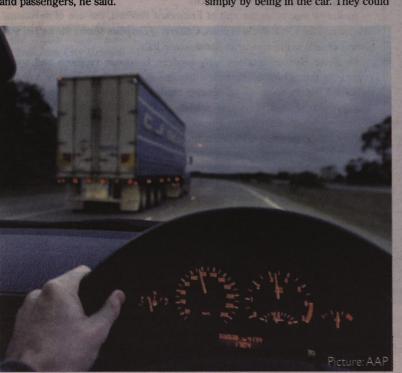
However, from the passenger's perspective, the extent to which particular role types were played was determined by driver age only.

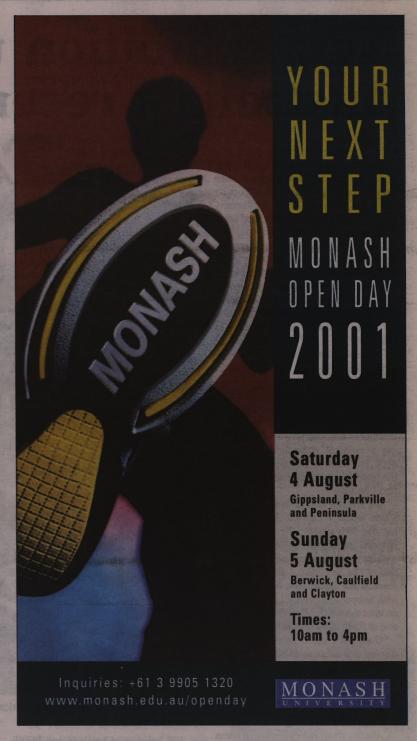
"This is important - it suggests passengers are unaware that they affect drivers in the ways drivers perceive that they do," she said.

Ms Mitsopoulos said it was also found that young drivers who carry their peers as passengers are a group particularly at risk from their negative influences, especially if both the driver and passengers are male.

"This is partly because of increased risk-taking in response to peer pressure. However, young males and females drive more safely if older adults, parents or children are in the car because of an increased sense of responsibility," she said.

The study recommended the ACT develop countermeasures, including a media campaign to encourage awareness of the positive and negative effects of passengers, education and driver training, passenger restrictions for newly licensed drivers and strict enforcement of these restrictions - for example, probationary drivers could incur double demerits for traffic offences committed while carrying passengers.





### Sexism alive and well in bank management: research

BY SANDRA BUCOVAZ

Sexual discrimination against women is alive and well within the Australian banking industry, according to a Monash University study.

And in the few cases where women make the necessary sacrifices and achieve senior status, further advancements are hindered by an increasing number of obstacles beyond their control, the study found.

Faculty of Business and Economics researcher Ms Isabel Metz recently completed her doctorate on why so few women reach top positions in banks. She said that while women dominated the banking workforce in Australia, they accounted for less than a quarter of the middle managers and less than six per cent of the senior managers.

Her research revealed that despite the Affirmative Action Act of 1986, gender discrimination was one of the main barriers to women's managerial advancement in banks.

And at middle to senior levels, women appear to come up against other barriers beyond their control in terms of male-dominated networks and lack of mentoring and encouragement,

Ms Metz has called upon the Federal Government and banking organisations to investigate how these obstacles can be removed to stop the drain of female talent.

She noted that family responsibilities were cited as an obstacle to career achievement more often by women at supervisory level than at higher levels, which supports women's strategy to delay having a family until after they reach management positions.

In order to advance in management in banks in the current environment, Ms Metz's research showed that women had to follow the traditional male model of work.

She said the number of years of continuous work experience, training and development, work hours and switching between companies to circumvent barriers all played a significant role in advancement.

It was Ms Metz's own experiences as a senior manager in banking that prompted her to research the area "to find out what was going on". The mother of three said she had risen to senior management levels in just over a decade but had reached an "impenetrable ceiling".

"If I had known then a third of what I know today, it would have given me the strength to persevere," Ms Metz said.

The research covered the four major banks - Commonwealth, ANZ, Westpac and the National Australia Bank, as well as six smaller competitors, with only two of the banks agreeing to distribute the questionnaires

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