

GRADUATES' SPECIAL

Structure of the new university begins to emerge

A CLEAR picture of the academic structure of Monash University after 1 July 1990 has emerged from recent decisions of the councils of the university, the Chisholm Institute of Technology and the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education.

After that date, the university — an amalgamation of the three institutions — will consist of 10 faculties spread over campuses in Caulfield, Clayton and Frankston, together with a constituent university college in Gippsland which, among other things, will be responsible for distance education.

The enlarged Monash University will cater for more than 25,000 students and will have a budget approaching \$200 million a year.

The merger of Monash and Chisholm will lead to an institution structured around the existing seven Monash faculties with new faculties of Business, Computing and Information Technology, and Professional Studies.

The Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, Professor Mal Logan, said: "This will make Monash a much larger, a more complex and potentially more exciting organisation extending over four campuses.

"The enlarged institution will offer students access to a much wider range of courses, and allow transfer of students from one course to another. It will have greater diversity of courses and programs extending from PhD level programs to those relating more directly to business needs.

"In contrast to other mergers elsewhere in Australia, the Monash-Chisholm-Gippsland merger has been achieved with a great amount of goodwill and with an attention to detail that not only looks after the staff working in all three institutions but ensures that student views are taken into account," Professor Logan said.

The Director of Chisholm, Dr Geoff Vaughan said: "The new university presents great opportunities to meet the educational needs of Australia in a rapidly changing world."

But, he said, it was now up to government to help make a success of the merger. "It is imperative that the Federal Government provides the expanded Monash University immediate and continuing support through increased growth, capital, operating and research funds to ensure that it holds its pre-eminent position in higher education."

The 10 faculties of the enlarged Monash University will be Arts, Business, Computing and Information Technology, Economics and Management, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Professional Studies, and Science.

In some of these a new academic grouping, known as a "school", will be introduced. It is defined as an academic unit within a faculty that may include a number of departments, or other academic units, of similar or related disciplines.

The present faculty of Arts will gain the Chisholm department of Applied Sociology within Anthropology and Sociology, the Chisholm Literature Section within English and a new Politics Department resulting from a merger of the old Monash and Chisholm departments. It will lose Social Work and Librarianship to the new Faculty of Professional Studies.

Chisholm's David Syme School of Business will become a new Faculty of Business with departments of Accounting, Banking and Finance, Management, and Marketing.

The present Faculty of Economics and Politics will be renamed Economics and Management. It will lose the department of Information Systems to the new Faculty of Computing and Information Technology and the department of Politics to Arts.

Immediately after the merger a review body will be established to explore ways of setting up a single faculty within three years to cover the broad area of management related studies.

The Faculty of Computing and Information Technology will include a School of Computing and Information Systems comprising the Chisholm departments of Computer Technology, Information Systems and Software Development. There will also be independent departments of Computer Science, Robotics and Digital Technology, and Business Systems (the old Monash department of Information Systems).

Education will consist of a School of Graduate Studies at Clayton and a School of Early Childhood and Primary Education at Frankston.

Within Engineering three of the existing five Monash departments — Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical and Computer Systems — will have divisions on the Caulfield campus, and the Caulfield divisions will be grouped into a Caulfield School of Applied Engineering. A body will be set up to review this structure within three years.

Law and Medicine essentially will re-

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main the same, having no Chisholm counterparts.

The new Faculty of Professional Studies will include a School of Social and Behavioral Studies comprising the Graduate School of Librarianship, the Monash department of Social Work, and the Chisholm departments of Police Studies, Applied Psychology and Welfare Studies.

Professional Studies will also include a non-departmental School of Nursing at Frankston and a School of Art and Design made up of the Chisholm departments of Ceramic Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design and Industrial Design.

Science will retain its present departments with the exception of Computer Science. The need for establishing a broad unit in the area of environmental science will be examined.

Monash University College Gippsland will be administered by Monash University

but, to allow the college a measure of autonomy and to maintain its regional flavor, it will retain a college chief executive officer, council and academic board which will be responsible to and advise their Monash counterparts.

The college council will have delegated authority to allocate the operating budget, approve staffing and set up advisory committees. It will report to the university on policy and regulations, local issues, capital works, and proposed courses and student load.

The establishment of the college will assist the operations of the new Monash-Gippsland Distance Education Centre.

The Director of the Gippsland Institute, Dr Tom Kennedy said: "A sound educational and organisational base is now in place for the Monash Gippsland Distance Education Centre which will further advance the work of Monash University in its national and international roles."



• Although they bear the same air of harassed intensity, these are not in fact Monash students sitting for exams. Along with 1100 others, these two pupils from Essex Heights Primary School were taking part in a spelling competition sponsored by the Victorian Employers Federation during Education Week.

1989 The Year in Review

See pages 12-15

Greater Monash gives more options

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan talks about how amalgamations will affect the university.

AS most readers of *Monash Reporter* will know, the Council of Monash University has resolved to merge with Chisholm Institute of Technology and Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education as from 1 July 1990. This will make Monash a much larger, a more complex and potentially more exciting organisation extending over four campuses.

In contrast to other mergers elsewhere in Australia, the Monash-Chisholm-Gippsland merger has been achieved with a great amount of goodwill and with an attention to detail that not only looks after the staff working in all three institutions but ensures that student views are taken into account.

In explaining this most important decision, it is necessary to consider previous government decisions, notably those flowing from the recommendations of the Martin Committee in the early 1960s, as well as the policies set out by the current Federal Minister and his State counterparts.

The major decision to be implemented from the Martin report was the establishment of a binary system of higher education, consisting of a university sector, primarily engaged in teaching and fundamental research and funded more generously, and a college system with more emphasis on teaching and designed to meet the immediate needs of industry and funded less generously. It suited the views of the government of the day, but there was extremely little educational rationale given for the binary system.

Over time the binary divide became an extremely troubled one, with colleges moving into what was seen by some as the territory of the universities and vice versa.

It was inevitable that some colleges such as RMIT, QIT and NSWIT should move toward offering PhD programs in the same way as it was inevitable that universities should seek to develop the interface with business and industry. In short the system was fatally flawed and its continuation could not be justified.

The current Federal Government resolved the problem by establishing a Unified National System and by encouraging, with the states, the merging of colleges with universities.

Monash has worked closely and cooperatively with Chisholm and Gippsland toward a merger; in fact our discussions with Chisholm started before the publication of the Green Paper.

The enlarged institution will offer students access to a much wider range of courses and allow transfer of students from one course to another.

The continuation of courses offered in the former colleges will be essential because of the very high student demand and the support they receive from a large number of employers. Internally, then, Monash will have a greater diversity of courses and programs extending from PhD level programs to those relating more directly to business needs.

None of this can be achieved quickly or easily. We have to appreciate the greater variety of views inside the institution and

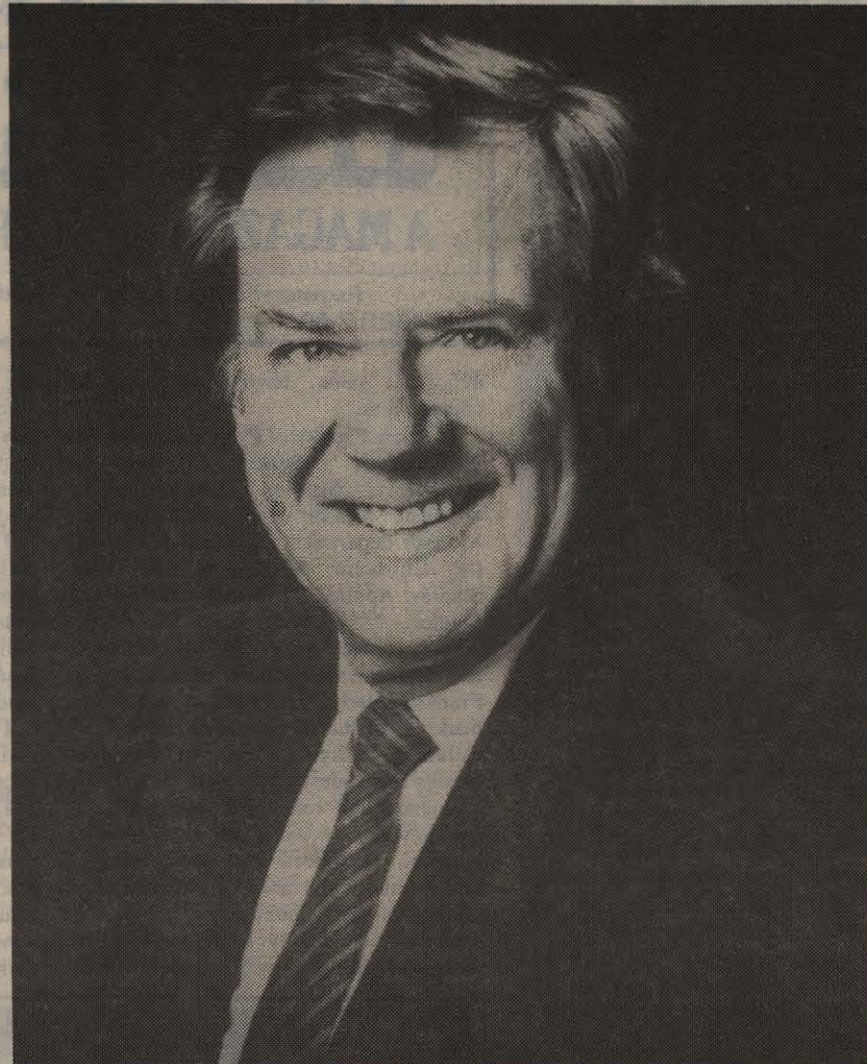
learn how to handle attitudes and approaches that come from a somewhat different cultural milieu. But the basic Monash academic structure will remain and we will have a more stimulating and exciting institution than existed previously.

It is far easier to provide an educational rationale for the future Monash than for the preservation of a binary system that funded

responsibility is to turn this to our advantage, maintaining all that Monash values so highly but allowing new developments in new areas of knowledge that will take us into our second great phase of expansion.

What then are some of the characteristics that will drive the new Monash? Briefly they are as follows:

- *greater attention to teaching.* Changes



engineering, technology and applied science on the cheap.

An area of major concern is research. Nowadays virtually all major research funding has to be obtained externally in a competitive process.

The Federal Government is taking money "off the top" of recurrent grants to institutions in order to support a research fund in the Australian Research Council, which then reallocates funds to individuals and research groups.

It is difficult to see this process leading anywhere other than some people being more heavily involved in research and others engaged more heavily in teaching.

The inescapable fact is that the resources available to the institution will not allow adequate research support for all members of staff. But Monash has to maintain and develop its excellent research tradition: this can only be achieved by improved research management, clearly identifying our research priorities and by seeking larger amounts of non-government funding.

The transformation of the Australian higher education system over the past 18 months has been remarkable. In New South Wales almost all colleges have been absorbed within existing universities or renamed as universities in their own right. In Victoria it is expected that the three larger universities each will have about 25,000 students. Amongst all Vice-Chancellors, there is a general view that the college system will completely disappear.

Whether we like it or not a new system of higher education has emerged; our

in patterns of student demand, worsening staff-student ratios in many disciplines and increased student expectations combine to present challenges and problems to innovative and imaginative teachers.

- *a continuation of the growth in graduate student numbers and in research.* Monash already has more graduate students than any other Australian university, but new structural arrangements may be necessary to devise strategies to fund and manage research.

- *greater internationalisation of the university.* Monash already has an enviable international reputation in both teaching and research, but this can no longer be taken for granted, and we must extend our efforts to recruit students not only from Asia and the Pacific but from North America and Europe.

The university needs greater understanding of the experience of Canadian universities, for example, and of the implications of Europe 1992 and of recent events in eastern Europe.

- *the development of strategic linkages.* These have to be built at a number of levels. Some departments have built strong alliances with departments in other institutions; examples include the link built by our Graduate School of Management with the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the link with Sunway College in Kuala Lumpur.

At the institutional level, Monash is now closely linked with the new University of Canberra. In a more competitive environment the winners will be those institutions which show a capacity to collaborate with others in achieving their objectives.

- *a continuation of the emphasis on enterprising activity.* This includes entrepreneurial activity but extends to creative ways of teaching and harnessing external support and to the introduction of innovative activities in the university.

Many of the centres already established have won excellent reputations and attracted substantial funding in a relatively short time. Our policy will be one of further developing a culture where it is possible for enterprising people to innovate; and to remove structures that prevent this from happening.

- *an increase in the amount of collaboration with the private sector.* Many of the most successful research and teaching activities in North American universities, notably in Canada, have developed through collaboration with business and government agencies. At Monash some of our best research groups are working in this way; and our policy is to assist this kind of collaboration in every way.

- *greater participation in distance education.* In 1989 Monash-Gippsland was designated as a national distance education provider. There are potentially enormous benefits to flow from this new arrangement — in the development of new courses and innovative ways of teaching, and through the application of new technologies.

- *greater flexibility and improved reward systems to enable both general and academic staff to have access to better career paths on the basis of the achievement.*

- *genuine efforts to open up career opportunities for younger, non-tenured members of staff.*

- *a willingness on the part of the university to consider fairly all proposals that come to it from diverse sources.*

Monash agrees to sponsor ACT university

MONASH has signed an agreement with the Canberra College of Advanced Education to act as a sponsor in the process whereby the college will become the University of Canberra.

The arrangements which will govern the relationship include Monash approval of all higher degree programs and senior academic staff appointments at the new university.

Monash would be represented on the Council and senior academic administrative committees. The two institutions will promote academic interaction, particularly in the area of distance education.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan said the university would have the right to withdraw from any agreement at a moment's notice, and that he had insisted that all costs be met by the University of Canberra or the Commonwealth.

To that end the Commonwealth already had promised support, he said.

Monash Reporter

The next issue will be published in February-March, 1990.

Contributions (letters, photos) and suggestions should be sent to the editor, Aileen Muldoon, Information Office, Gallery Building, or phone ext 2085.

Bruce awarded natural history medallion

A UNIQUE talent for photography and an enthusiasm for Australian plants has proved a winning combination for Monash University botanical photographer, Bruce Fuhrer.

Mr Fuhrer, a senior technical officer in the Department of Botany and Zoology, was awarded The Australian Natural History Medallion last month at a special meeting of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria.

The medallion is awarded annually in recognition of services to Australian natural history by increasing popular or scientific knowledge or by assisting in the protection or propagation of Australian flora or fauna.

Both in his work at Monash and outside, Bruce has always demonstrated a keen interest in natural history. Using his photographic skill, he has produced several publications on native flora, fungi, lichens, ferns, seaweeds and liverworts.

He also contributed a substantial number of photographs to the first comprehensive illustrated guide to the flora of Victoria, *Flowers and Plants of Victoria*.

Mr Fuhrer is perhaps best known, however, for his study and popularisation of the Australian fungi. Primarily from first hand experience in the bush, he has provided botanists with a wealth of information on what is widely regarded as the least well-known and taxonomically most difficult of plant groups.

He has discovered many species previously unrecorded in Australia and also many new species — most of which await formal description because there are few mycologists working in the country. He also has a fungus, *Calostoma fuhreri* and a liverwort, *Fossombronina fuhreri*, named after him.

Bruce became interested in non-flowering plants precisely because there was little known about them at the field naturalist level.

"There was no popular literature on liverworts, fungi and seaweeds and I realised if I was going to find out anything I had to do it on my own," he said.

A self taught photographer, Bruce began his career in Portland operating a commercial photographic studio. He gradually developed an interest in plants and plant photography.

After spending nine years in Portland, he moved to Melbourne where he obtained a position with a camera microscope importer. His work photographing Australian mosses attracted the eye of the Monash Botany Department and he was employed first on a contract basis and later as permanent staff photographer.

Mr Fuhrer's photographic work displays an outstanding mastery of technique which not only reflects a botanist's eye for detail but also captures the beauty of the subject.

For Bruce the unique quality of his photographs stems from the lack of any formal training and a genuine appreciation of the beauty, design and form of plants.

"If you haven't any pre-conceived ideas or training than you have to improvise as you go along. This I think tends to make your work more individual," he said.

"Photography is also my way of communication with natural history. I see the beauty in plants and I try to put that forward in my work."

Mr Fuhrer's enthusiasm for natural history has also made him a popular lecturer and leader of field excursions. In 1988, he conducted a Natural History Awareness Week in the Stirling Ranges in Western Australia and often leads field trips for junior and senior field naturalists and university undergraduates.

Apart from his work at Monash, Bruce has been instrumental in establishing several naturalist clubs in Victoria, particularly for children.

"I enjoy helping people to become aware of our natural heritage and who better to do that with than kids," he said.



● Award winning photographer, Bruce Fuhrer zooms in on some of the plant life around the university. Picture: RICHARD CROMPTON

"Our whole system is geared to training kids to become competitive and aggressive in a tough world, so I want to help kids to develop an appreciation of natural history."

Monash University awarded Bruce an Honorary MSc last year in recognition of his work in botany, natural history and photography.

Monash input into radical law reforms

THE most radical changes to maximum penalties in Victorian criminal law in more than a century is to be introduced by the State Government.

The reforms to Victoria's sentencing laws aim to bridge the gap between the prescribed penalty, the sentence imposed by the courts and the time actually served.

Monash University academics, Richard Fox and Arie Freiberg, both readers in the Law Faculty, made a significant research contribution towards the reforms.

In a report written for the Sentencing Task force headed by Mr Frank Costigan, QC, Fox and Freiberg recommended categories of maximum sentences for offences according to their seriousness.

The Task Force, of which Mr Freiberg was a member, submitted its 230 page report, "Review of Statutory Maximum Penalties in Victoria", in September this year.

Its recommendations, and those from a previous report of a committee chaired by retired Supreme Court judge, Sir John Starke, were approved by Cabinet last month.

The reforms involved a re-setting of all penalty provisions contained in the Crimes Act 1958 and the formulation of a new 13 penalty scale for all offences.

For the report, Fox and Freiberg closely

examined more than 500 provisions in 10 Acts.

According to Mr Freiberg, their research found a major discrepancy between the level of penalty set in legislation and the sentencing practices of the Victorian courts. (see table).

The existing penalty structure was also found to be "anachronistic, inconsistent, deceptive and unduly complex," he said.

The main features of the proposed legislation are a 13 level penalty scale, ranging from life imprisonment down to a fine of \$100.

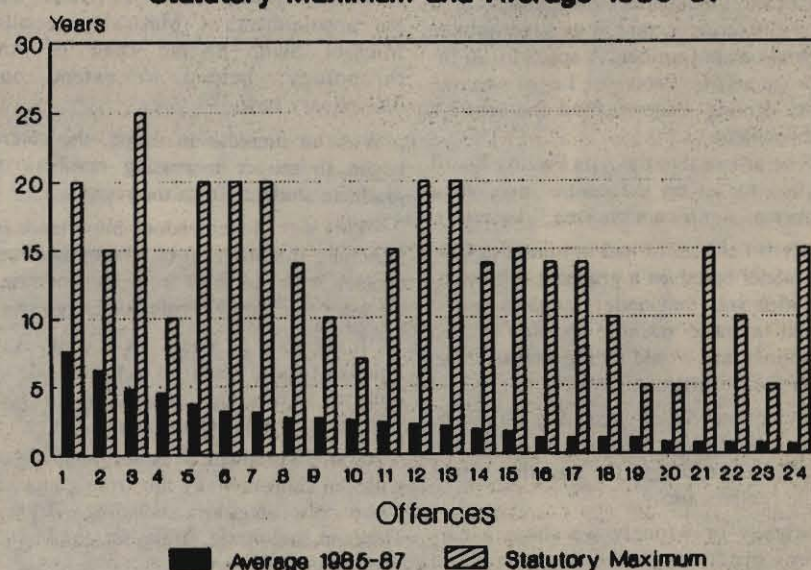
Life will remain the maximum sentence for murder and treason but the next highest maximum sentence is 15 years for manslaughter, armed robbery (presently 25 years), aggravated rape (presently 20 years), sexual penetration of a child under 10 and aggravated burglary.

With the reduction of remissions and the abolition of pre-release programs, the Government expects the actual time a prisoner spends in jail will be greater than it has been in the past.

Another significant reform is the standardisation of the relationship between penalties of imprisonment and fines.

The proposed maximum prison sentence after life is 180 months with a correlating fine of \$180,000. The minimum term of imprisonment is six months and the cor-

Statutory Maximum and Average 1985-87



1. Aggravated Rape
2. Manslaughter
3. Armed robbery
4. Rape
5. Sexual pentn. of child <10
6. Incest
7. Aggravated burglary
8. Using firearm to res arrest
9. Sexual pentn. 10-16
10. Culpable driving
11. Trafficking cannabis
12. Robbery
13. Arson
14. Blackmail
15. Int. caus. serious injury
16. Burglary
17. Handling stolen goods
18. Theft
19. Indecent Assault
20. Assault w. int. to res. arr
21. Forgery
22. Obt prop by deception
23. Obt fin adv by deception
24. Perjury

responding fine is \$6000, while the lowest fine is \$100.

The courts would still retain the power to order both fine and imprisonment for a single offence.

For lesser offences the report recommends an increase in the availability of the community based order instead of jail terms, which in some cases have only been

a few days.

The Task Force also recommended the establishment of a permanent body to complete the task of review of maximum sentences in the remaining legislation.

Fox and Freiberg are the authors of a leading text on sentencing and are recipients of a Monash Research Excellence grant for further research in this area.

Research centre reviews 25 years of Asian studies

HOW a Javanese cigarette industry affected local Indonesian culture in the early 1960s sounds an unlikely starting point for one of Monash University's oldest research centres.

But a work-in-progress seminar at Monash in 1962, based on a thesis by a Melbourne University student, sparked the idea for an interdisciplinary centre that would focus on Southeast Asia.

Two years later, the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies was established. This year it celebrated its 25th anniversary.

In 25 years, the centre has crossed almost as many national borders as it has academic boundaries. Staff and graduate students in anthropology, economics, education, geography, history, law, linguistics, literature, music, politics and sociology now conduct research into Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei, Singapore and Thailand.

Each year the centre presents weekly seminars, as well as two or three major conferences, for staff, students and the public. It also provides travel grants and research expense funds for about six students carrying out fieldwork in the region.

The centre has also assisted the university library in setting up an extensive Southeast Asian research collection. So far, it has published 96 of its own titles, including monographs, working papers and the proceedings of annual lecture series.

Since 1987, the centre has offered a visiting fellowship to academics who specialise in the Southeast Asian region.

Emeritus Professor John Legge chronicled the centre's beginnings in a commemorative lecture at its silver jubilee celebrations in October. A specialist in Indonesian affairs, Professor Legge was one of the driving forces behind the centre's establishment.

"The proposal to the Arts Faculty Board in 1964 to set up the centre involved a number of significant choices," he said.

"Herb Feith and I had in mind the Cornell model based on a graduate operation. The idea was that undergraduates would receive a basic training in one or two disciplines and would then go on to focus on an area at graduate level."

Having established a teaching approach, the two academics then had to define the geographical extent of the area that would be the centre's focus.

"Rightly or wrongly we chose a narrower scope (than other institutions). Since then the centre has resisted suggestions that we should take in India and Pakistan and become a Centre of Southern and Southeast Asian Studies.

"But then Southeast Asia was really beyond our initial resources. We would have to admit that, at first, we were only a Centre of Indonesian and Malayan Studies.

"That was where most of our expertise lay, with Herb Feith and myself to cover Indonesia, and Bill Roff and Cyril Skinner to look after Malaya. Ailsa Zainuddin (Education) was to join us a little later."

The centre's establishment coincided with confrontation between Indonesia and Malaya, and events were changing rapidly.

"It seemed that what was happening there posed urgent problems for Australia. We were strongly policy-oriented, with a sense of the importance of explaining Indonesia to a wider Australian public.

"And we were also concerned to engage in a dialogue with policy makers and shapers of opinion."

To that end, the centre held a number of seminars for senior members of the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Defence, members of Parliament, journalists and business people.

"We felt that we had established a relationship based on confidence with policy-makers and reporters. We hoped that they would feel that there was some advantage for them in getting an academic slant on the matters they had to handle on a day-to-day basis."

Professor Legge was quick to point out that a contemporary emphasis now appears a little old-fashioned. Although there was still a need for such an approach, he said, such an emphasis had to be part of a broader concern with history, culture and language.

Under the directorship of Professor Jamie Mackie, who was appointed in 1968, the centre began to focus on other cultures and disciplines.

"We moved confidently into Thailand, Vietnam, Kampuchea and Burma, and at the same time became less narrowly political in focus," Professor Legge said.

"The development of ethnomusicology under Margaret Kartomi, the growth of Southeast Asian interests in the department of Geography, with the aid of Basil Johnson, Mal Logan and Gale Dixon, and the appointment of Malaysia specialist Michael Swift to the chair of Anthropology, helped to extend our disciplinary base."

With an increase in scope, the centre began to attract increasing numbers of graduate students from the region.

"This was of tremendous importance in enriching the program by giving us direct contact with students from the countries we were studying," Professor Legge said.

"It also gave us a network of contacts in Southeast Asian countries as those students returned to take up academic or civil service or other positions at home."

About 50 graduate students are affiliated with the centre. Many are from countries within the region, including Brunei, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

In 1979, Professor Jamie Mackie was succeeded as Research Director by Dr David Chandler. Since taking over the role, Dr Chandler has concentrated on communication between members of the centre through regular newsletters, social gatherings and publications.

Projects planned for next year include a conference highlighting Melbourne's Indo-Chinese refugee community and a conference to be held in Thailand, sponsored jointly by the centre and the Siam Studies Institute.

The centre also will administer an exchange program recently established with Gadjahmada University in Yogyakarta.



• Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, research director, Dr David Chandler (left) and Emeritus Professor John Legge at the centre's 25th anniversary celebrations.

Kennedy to chair national distance education forum

THE director of the Monash-Gippsland Distance Education Centre and of the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, Dr Tom Kennedy has been elected the first chair of the National Distance Education Conference (NDEC).

Dr Kennedy was elected for a two-year term by representatives of the eight National Distance Education Centres and two specialist distance education providers which, together with the Commonwealth Government, make up the conference.

In the past year the Government has attempted to rationalise the provision of distance education by designating a limited number of institutions as Distance Education Centres. Two of these centres are in Victoria, the Monash-Gippsland centre and Deakin University.

The idea is that other institutions wanting to provide external courses should work with a Distance Education Centre to develop and produce the course material.

Dr Kennedy said the conference would provide a forum in which to discuss initiatives to support the national distance education effort.

"We are looking at co-operation between institutions to come up with the highest quality course materials as cost-effectively as possible."

He said the conference would have a planning role, so that resources were targeted effectively, and students who relied on distance learning would have access to the broadest possible range of course options.

The conference also will advise the Federal Government on education and technology issues, because of the overlap between distance education and the use of new technology.

The Federal Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr John Dawkins, welcomed Dr Kennedy's ap-

pointment. He said Dr Kennedy's broad background and expertise, including his work at the Gippsland Institute, which was a significant provider of distance education through its link with Monash University, would be particularly valuable to the development of distance education in Australia.

"There are already more than 50,000 external students throughout Australia, and distance education, under the umbrella of the national conference, is playing a major role by opening up new avenues of opportunity for many more Australians," Mr Dawkins said.



• Dr Tom Kennedy

Universities unite on resources

MANY of the important challenges for Australia are to do with the changing structure of the planet — the Greenhouse effect and global climatic change, the destruction of the ozone layer, the search for resources, erosion, salinity.

With help from the Victorian Education Foundation and the resources exploration industry, Melbourne's three universities — La Trobe, Melbourne and Monash — jointly have established the Victorian Institute of Earth and Planetary Sciences in order to face such challenges effectively.

The institute will have an initial fund of \$2.3 million. It will encompass people and departments that already are leaders in fields related to global change and resources mapping and management, for example, Professor Andrew Gleadow of Geology at La Trobe University on processes in the earth's crust; Professor Bill Budd of Geology at Melbourne University on Antarctica; and Professor Martin

Williams at Monash University on global climatic history.

The idea is to collaborate in teaching and research and to share expertise and expensive equipment between the eight groups involved, La Trobe's departments of Geology and Physics, Melbourne's departments of Geology and Meteorology, and the Monash centres for Dynamical Meteorology and Computational Mathematics and departments of Earth Sciences, Geography and Environmental Sciences.

The institute will be able to upgrade significantly undergraduate and post-graduate course offerings from next year. New courses, framed in response to strong industry demand, will be offered jointly by all three universities in the fields of petroleum and mineral geophysics, geomechanics and image processing.

There will also be five new full-time lecturing positions, extra part-time lecturers, new library acquisitions, new equipment, an administrative office, and even a fleet of

three mini-buses to move students between campuses.

The financial catalyst for the institute was a grant of \$375,000 from BHP Petroleum. To this the Victorian Education Foundation has added \$1.3 million, the universities themselves \$550,000 and Shell, \$50,000.

Already, Monash has been able to purchase the latest trace element analysis equipment with funds contributed jointly by the departments involved in the institute.

Professor Gordon Lister, the chairman of the Monash Earth Sciences department said: "The institute is one way of helping to overcome a chronic lack of funds for research in areas of great importance both to Victoria and Australia.

"We hope it will increase research opportunities and make us more attractive to both Government and industry, and to potential students. What we envisage is a research body of international standing

such as the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego or the Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory in New York."

Lister also spoke of plans for a hit team for environmental disasters, such as the oil spillage in Alaska or the salination of the Murray-Darling basin. "Such an environmental impact unit would be charged with collecting factual information and acting as a repository of knowledge."

The group would welcome close affiliation with CSIRO divisions in Victoria. Several joint research programs are underway already between the universities and with industry and the CSIRO.

The members of the institute see as necessary important strategic research in areas such as evaluation of mineral and fuel resources, remote sensing and land management, the long-term evolution of the Victorian landscape and the prediction of periods of floods and droughts.

Professor to support depressed mothers

A SPECIAL "infant stress unit" to assist mothers suffering severe post-natal depression and babies with early developmental problems could be established at Monash Medical Centre (MMC) if one of Professor Bruce Tonge's goals is realized.

Monash University's new professor of Developmental Psychiatry, Bruce Tonge has a particular interest in the problem of post-natal depression.

"It can interfere with that very crucial and important time, when mothers are laying down a relationship with a new baby," he said.

Professor Tonge said although post-natal depression was a common disorder suffered by many normal women, it tended to be a hidden problem.

"They don't tell people about it, they feel rotten and guilty and unhappy, they feel no-one understands them, their relationships with their husbands get distorted, and some of them become increasingly housebound — they won't go out at all."

Professor Tonge is critical of the fact that one public hospital residential unit for treating mothers with post-natal problem has closed this year.

"I was very concerned about that, because we're not talking here about five star hotels to give upper middle class women a break after they've had their babies, we're talking about essential services for women who are having genuine, very real difficulties relating to their babies, and their babies to them."

Professor Tonge sees a more sinister long-term effect of letting these problems go untreated.

"If we don't intervene at that point in time, we're creating difficulties that in the long run are going to be a drain on the health services... things like the development of psychiatric disorders in that child, family problems, marital breakdowns, and ongoing psychiatric illness for that woman."

Another of Professor Tonge's special interests is childhood autism, and he has been involved in producing a film on autism with the Victorian Health Promotions Unit.

"We hope to set up at MMC a special clinic for the assessment of children with very severe developmental disorders like autism, and encouraging research into that area," he said.



● The new professor of Developmental Psychiatry, Professor Bruce Tonge, displays the tools of his trade. Picture: KIM MINETT.

Professor Tonge will also be looking at the way family relationships and childhood illnesses interrelate.

"Take, for example, asthma — we know that sometimes very complex and disturbed family relationships can be set up in families where there's a child with severe asthma, and that family therapy is an intervention that offers really quite some promise in helping children with asthma, and their families, recover."

Professor Tonge has been interested in psychiatry since his days as a medical student.

"In my early years as a doctor, I saw a close link between family factors, life

pressures, psychological factors, personality issues and physical illness," he said.

"I spent a short period in general practice and discovered that a good number of people who came to see me had issues in their life of a psychological nature, so I wanted to learn more about that."

Professor Tonge feels that an important aspect of dealing with child patients is the ability to connect with the child in oneself.

"One of the things we aim to teach medical students is how to communicate effectively with children — you don't just do it with words but also with play and drawing.

"So patience is required, but perhaps more patience is required in dealing with bureaucracy and administration than clinically with the children with whom you're working!" he commented wryly.

Professor Tonge's interest in children is not confined to his professional life — he describes his own three children as "a great joy to me", and spends his spare time sailing with them, gardening with his wife and has an interest in choral singing.

The wheel has turned full circle for the university's engaging new professor — he graduated in Medicine from Monash in 1970.

Pioneer warden of Halls opts for active retirement

WHEN Monash University opened in 1961 the north-east corner of the campus was a bare patch of red clay which had been levelled to pour the concrete floor for a large factory. That same area now is home to more than 1000 members of the university in the five Halls of Residence.

The man who, as the first warden of Deakin Hall, pioneered that development is Dr Jack McDonell. At the end of the year he will retire from the university after 28 years of service.

When Deakin Hall opened in 1962, it was only the second co-educational residence in an Australian university. Bruce Hall at ANU had opened in 1961 with separate buildings for men and women. But Deakin was the first to house male and female students in the same building, and it set the pattern for all the future halls.

Almost every year during the 60s a new building was added to the complex. When the Central Dining Halls completed the group, Jack McDonell became the Executive Warden.

In this position he not only consolidated a pattern of life for student residences which was different from the more traditional colleges at older universities, but he also developed a management structure which included student representation, and was flexible enough to respond to the rapid changes of the late 60s.

By the end of 1972 when he left the Halls, the red clay patch had been turned into the pleasantly landscaped site we see today. The complex stands as a tribute to 11 years of pioneering work led by Jack McDonell.

Although life as Warden of Deakin Hall was often a 24-hour a day, seven days a week responsibility, it was not the only position Jack held during these early years. He became a part-time lecturer in Physics, having come to Monash from the Physics Department of Melbourne.

The First Year Physics Laboratories had to be designed well before the appointment of Bob Street as Professor. Jack, with his obvious knowledge and experience in laboratory teaching, was on hand to advise the architects. It is obvious his advice was good. The layout has changed only minimally over the subsequent 28 years.

He was always concerned to bring about improvements in teaching, laboratory work and student assessment — all aimed at making learning a richer experience for his students. And he took a great interest in curriculum development at the senior level in secondary schools, supporting the introduction of more objective methods of assessment in Year 12 Physics, which in turn influenced the assessment of other subjects.

In 1973, he took study leave at the relatively new Open University in the UK. This led to him taking a whole new direction in his professional career. Later that year, he returned to pioneer a new Monash venture; he became director of the newly established Centre for Continuing Education.

Over the past 16 years, this centre has become well-known for organising and running conferences, seminars and short courses which bring together members of the university with people from outside bodies.

Because this work has involved people in many university departments, Jack

McDonell has become more widely known. And in recent years, the management of Normanby House has brought him back into contact with those university administrators with whom he worked so closely at the Halls.

There are those who have known Jack well in other spheres of university life. He played a leading role, for instance, in the early year of the academic staff association (SAMU).

He also contributed to the establishment of sport at Monash as the founding president of the Monash Baseball Club, even coming out of retirement to play for the club early on. (Jack was awarded a Full Blue for baseball at Melbourne University, and still remembers with relish playing before a crowd of about 20,000 at Princes Park in the days when baseball was used as a curtain raiser to VFL matches.)

Jack often participated in student/staff and interdepartmental cricket matches. His

theories about off-breaks delivered outside the leg stump were contrary to his knowledge of physics and a definite danger to those fielding close to the bat.

He was an active member of the Staff Drama Group which provided some of the earliest theatre on the campus, including several of the initial productions at the Alexander Theatre when it opened in 1967.

In his retirement Jack hopes to spend more time helping to develop another pioneering venture in education. In the early 80s, he and three other Victorians picked up news of a new movement in Europe — the University of the Third Age (U3A), the age of active retirement.

They set up the first U3A group in 1985, and in four years this has grown to 25 groups in Victoria with total membership of about 4000. U3A groups also have been established in all other states. Jack is president both of the Monash group and the Victorian network.



• Dr Jack McDonell

Jack's retirement from the university will bring to an end another chapter of the McDonell family association with Monash. His father, Alex McDonell, then Director General of Education, was a member both of the Interim Council and the First Council of Monash. His wife, Win, is a present member of Council.

Doug Ellis
Sports and Recreation Association

First lunch for law foundation

A MONASH University Law School Foundation is being established to promote teaching and research within the Faculty of Law.

Three major banks have already agreed to become members of the Foundation. The State Bank and Westpac have both pledged \$100,000 over five years and the National Bank has agreed to donate \$45,000 over three years. In addition, the Victorian Bar Council is considering contributing \$25,000 to the Foundation.

According to the Dean of Law, Professor Bob Williams, although Monash already has a University Foundation, it is vital for the Law School to be able to attract its own funds.

"The government is not prepared to give universities enough money to do their job properly. Bodies within the university, therefore, are either going to have to attract funding from outside sources or they are going to drift into becoming second rate organisations which don't have funds available to do the research they are supposed to be doing," he said.

Professor Williams said a law foundation would be able to attract funding from sources that would not necessarily contribute to a general university foundation.

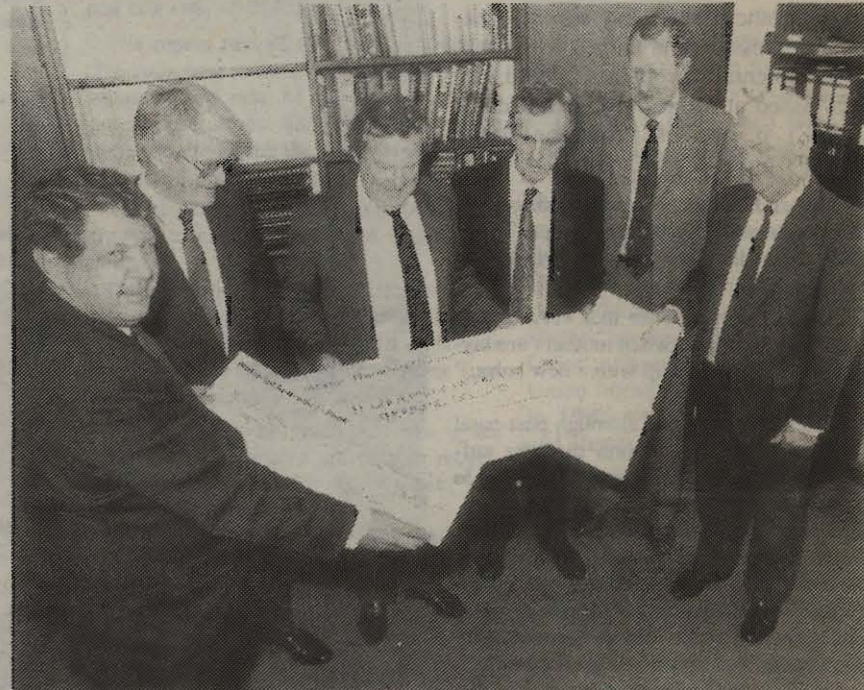
"Anyone who puts in money to the Foundation will know it is being used specifically for the benefit of the Law School," he said.

According to Professor Williams, a priority for the law school at the moment is the ability to attract and retain middle ranking and senior staff in the areas of commercial and business law.

"It is my wish to establish with outside funding, two specialist chairs in the area of commercial law," he said.

"A primary purpose of the Foundation therefore would be to gather together contributions to help achieve this aim."

A first foundation lunch was held on 20 November to thank the three banks who agreed to become members of the Foundation. Representing the banks were Mr Ross Barnett, Community Affairs Manager Marketing, State Bank of Victoria, Mr John Carydias, Manager, State Bank, Monash University, Mr David Bruce, Assistant General Manager, National



• The Monash Law Foundation receives three 'big' cheques. Pictured from left to right are: David Bruce (National Bank), Geoff Kimpton (Westpac), the Vice-Chancellor, Mal Logan, Dean of the Law School, Professor Bob Williams, Geoff Mumford (Westpac) and Peter Shepard (State Bank).

Australia Bank Ltd, Mr Frank Cicutto, General Manager Credit Bureau, National Australia Bank, Mr Geoff Mumford, Manager, Westpac Banking Corporation, Monash Branch, Mr Geoffrey Kimpton, General Manager for Victoria, Westpac Banking Corporation, Mr Ian Buchanan, Regional Manager, Westpac Banking Corporation, and Mr Peter Shephard, General Manager Personal Banking, State Bank.

Present at the luncheon were the Chancellor, Sir George Lush, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, the

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor John Hay, and the Registrar, Mr Tony Pritchard, together with many of the senior members of the Law Faculty.

Speaking at the luncheon, Professor Williams said: "The value of a legal education is becoming more and more recognised as a sound preparation for careers in all areas of business, including banking. Banking Law is an area we are seeking to develop, and the active support of three of Australia's leading banks is particularly gratifying."

English journal on sale

THE latest edition of the English Department's journal, *Margin*, is now available.

Margin, No. 21, 1989 features Marcus Clarke's first Australian publication, discovered by Monash English Ph.D student, Nan Bowman Albinski.

Other articles include "The Kowalski

Archives: A Lucky Discovery" by Marie-Claire Le Moigne-Mussat and a review of Edward G. Dyson's "The Authentic Early Depiction of Donahs and Larikins", by J.S. Ryan.

Margin is edited by Dennis Davison and published three times a year. Subscription costs \$5, post free.



• Max Teichmann at his farewell party.

Hail and farewell, Max

WHEN I joined Classical Studies way back in 1966, one of the first people I met outside the circle of departmental colleagues was a raffish, actually rather scruffy, but very friendly fellow in Politics — Max Teichmann.

Max was known for the intensity — that's the best word for it — of his parties (we were all younger then!), the rapier-like quality of his wit and the integrity of his views. The last two are still just the same. Age will neither mellow nor moderate them.

Though he's certainly not misanthropic, some may think that Max is cynical. I don't. It's rather that he doesn't hold with pretence, lies, self-seeking and all the paraphernalia associated with those in public life.

To hear Max in the Faculty Club, a small cigar in one hand, a glass in the other, was always an experience. Though his habits may be more moderate now, the way he can cut through deceit and propaganda — be it that of the Liberals or of the ALP, that of the US or of the Soviet Union, or even that of elements in the university, still remains a delight.

Max knows and is known by hundreds at Monash, if not personally, then by his radio voice. He is scholarly without being pedantic, approachable without being condescending, and affable without being familiar. I'll miss seeing him around Monash. We need people like him here.

Saul Bastomsky
Classical Studies

MAX Teichmann was one of the first appointees to the Politics Department at Monash University.

In the last few years he and Herb Feith have been joint Fathers of the department, the last remaining members of the early 1960s cohort which also included Rufus Davis (the foundation professor), Ross Martin, Graeme Duncan, Robert Orr and Colin Tatz.

Max came to Monash from the unusually varied background: not only the Philosophy Department at the University of Melbourne, but also the AIF; not only postgraduate study at Oxford, but also Montsalvat.

Richly experienced, he has always been a man of words — fluent, entertaining, trenchant, freewheeling; the best talker in the department, and perhaps in the university.

Over the years he wrote a good deal on issues of the day, especially in matters of Australian foreign and defence policies. He became widely known as a commentator and controversialist, and will be well remembered by a great many people in these roles.

Underlying this work in the public domain, however, was a solid base of scholarships of a very traditional kind — scholarship which showed in his many years' teaching of subjects as diverse as classical political theory and 20th century European politics.

Vale Max: Monash will be a poorer place without you.

David Goldsworthy
Politics Department

Centre open for business

ALTHOUGH the Sir John Monash Business Centre was only opened last month it is already proving to be an educational and financial success.

Situated adjacent to the CAE, on the fifth floor, 252 Flinders Lane, the centre is strategically placed in the heart of Melbourne's central business district.

The centre has the flexibility to provide a full range of business and management training; from basic programs in computer and office skills to advanced work at post-graduate level, including the first year of the Monash Master of Business Administration (MBA) course.

The centre also has a complete range of consulting and conference services including a lecture theatre, three conference suites, a board room and catering facilities.

The initial response from the business community to the conference training facilities available at the centre has been extremely positive.

The centre is already functioning close to capacity as a conference venue, justifying its value as an inner city project and assuring its financial success.

According to Professor Allan Fels, director of the Graduate School of

Management, the centre should prove to be a very successful joint undertaking.

"It is an innovative joint venture, offering high class educational, training and conference facilities in the central business district," he said.

"It means we are able to provide the programs in the city for our students but we can also run seminars and conferences in facilities of which we are part owners.

"And we develop a presence for Monash close to the organisational headquarters of many business corporations and government bodies."

The centre is being established as a company with Monash and the CAE as equal shareholders. It is expected the centre will provide significant financial benefits to the joint partners.

The board of management of the new centre includes experienced and successful people from industry and education. The chairman is John Haddad, the managing director of Federal Pacific Hotels and chairman of the Australian Tourist Commission.

Monash University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan and Professor Fels are also directors on the board.

Recycling craze bypasses Monash

WHILE the color green pulses through the veins of most environmentally-aware Australians, Monash appears to have undergone bypass surgery.

Of the 170 tonnes of paper, 300 tonnes of bottles, 42 tonnes of aluminium cans and half a million polystyrene cups used by the university each year, only paper is being recycled in any quantity, and even this scheme is facing severe problems.

As for the other used but reusable material, the tips are getting bigger: only three per cent of glass and two per cent of aluminium is recovered from the Monash waste stream. (This compares with a recovery rate of about 33 per cent for glass and 54 per cent for aluminium in municipal schemes. The \$600 worth of polystyrene cups discarded each week by the Union cannot be recycled at present.)

According to a report by a research team in the Graduate School of Environmental Science, each year about 3,800 cubic metres of waste is removed from the campus at a cost of \$61,000.

The report reveals that if a comprehensive recycling scheme were introduced at Monash, the sale of recoverable waste would raise almost \$22,000 a year, at the same time reducing the waste removal bill by some \$3,500.

The report was compiled in response to a growing concern about waste disposal on campus.

Dr Constant Mews, a lecturer in medieval history and a member of the Monash Conservation Group, believes Monash could become an important supplier of recyclable materials.

"In the long-term we would like to see the university engaged not only in recycling but in recycling for its own use," he said.

It is an achievable aim in a state that leads the world in the industrial development of recycled material, but one which may never be realised under the present system at Monash.

To the minuscule collection rates of recyclable materials can be added the possibility that a 12 month old agreement with Australian Paper Manufacturers (APM) to recycle high-grade office paper may be on the verge of collapse.

The problem appears to be one of lethargy — the 60 green bins supplied by APM are certainly filling up, but with the wrong material.

APM representative, Mr Will Tomadin, said: "The service provided at Monash is supposed to be for quality waste paper, such as photocopy paper, but we seem to be getting a mixture of newspapers, textbooks, magazines and other low-grade material.

"From the start of the financial year to

the end of September we collected 20 tonnes of waste paper from Monash, not a huge amount.

"The university should be generating a lot more, but it still has a lot of recyclable material going out in the waste stream."

With its high percentage of low-grade material, the paper from Monash has to be painstakingly hand-sorted, a process that is both time-consuming and expensive.

The economic reality is that recycling must be commercially viable, Mr Tomadin said.

"Recycling exists to the extent that it's profitable. It's as simple as that. A side benefit is that recycling aids the environment — it's cheaper to recycle than to cut down trees. But we wouldn't like to see the service cease, so we hope to educate people as to our requirements."

Education on such a scale requires co-ordination, Dr Mews said. At present, however, the arrangement is purely ad hoc — a possible explanation for the poor response from staff and students to the recycling strategy.

The report recommends the establishment of a committee to advise the Vice-Chancellor on issues concerned with the environment, particularly recycling.

It has also advocated the appointment of a Recycling and Environment Officer to develop and co-ordinate a comprehensive recycling scheme. The position would, in time, become self-funding through recycling activities.

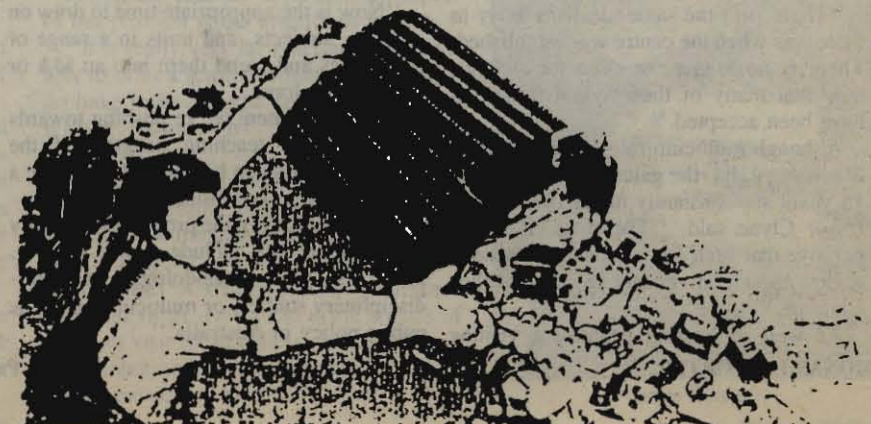
The Union has decided to take recycling matters into its own hands. Warden of the Union, Graeme Sweeney, said: "The Union intends to enter the recycling field in 1990, with particular accent on glass and aluminium, as well as paper.

"It is investigating the purchase of self-sorting bins that will automatically sort out aluminium from glass. It also intends to employ a part-time co-ordinator to facilitate the whole recycling exercise, through organising the collection, storage and despatch of reusable waste, and encouraging people and groups within the Union to participate."

Like waste paper, there is no official collection of glass and aluminium from Monash, so the introduction of self-sorting bins in the Union is timely.

The Envirobin is a Monash-designed device that sorts both glass and aluminium at source. Co-invented by Environmental Science student, Ms Elyne Hogan, it is designed to make the disposal of glass and metal both clean and efficient.

But interest in this home-grown invention is not limited to the campus, nor to Australia. Organisations in the United States are looking at the possibility of selling the Envirobin there as part of efforts to solve a world-wide problem.



Mapping the gains of multiculturalism

IF a stranger to this country were to scan the contents page of an issue of the *Journal of Intercultural Studies* they would soon grasp the meaning of Australian multiculturalism.

Take the first issue of Volume 10, published earlier this year: it includes a story on the treatment of German nationals in Australia between 1939 and 1947; one on Chinese communities here; and a description of the problems faced by second-generation Italian women in Australia seeking their own identity.

The journal is one of the more visible results of the work of the university's Centre for Migrant and Intercultural Studies.

For 15 years (it celebrated an anniversary in October) the centre has been investigating the progress of Australian multiculturalism, from the services provided to newly-arrived migrants to the benefits of SBS Television.

One of the oldest research organisations at Monash, the centre has always relied on a fraying shoestring for its operation and the goodwill of a core of committed academics for its survival.

When Professor Michael Clyne was appointed its first chairman in 1974 the centre's annual budget was \$400, which was used to cover the costs of visiting speakers. By 1987 the budget had "ballooned" to \$2650 — and there it remains.

Multiculturalism itself may not be quite so static, but it seems unlikely the issue will ever capture the public's imagination as it did at the height of the Whitlam era, when the term was first coined.

"People at the time were conscious of a changing and maturing national identity," Professor Clyne said.

"It was a time of pressure groups and lobby groups. We used to get up to 120 people attending our regular Monday night seminars.

"These forums were a catalyst for a great deal of social change at a time when there was a policy shift from assimilation to multiculturalism.

"The seminars produced some interesting interaction between researchers, practitioners and ethnic politicians, who were just beginning to make their presence felt.

"This all happened within two years of the election of the Whitlam Government."

Policy-makers met those who were putting policy into action. And when new initiatives were introduced the centre evaluated them.

Some of the issues it looked at in those heady days were migrants in the workplace, the teaching of English as a second language, the ethnic press, ethnic music, and the ethnic aged.

Today multiculturalism only comes to the fore when people feel threatened, such as by cuts to migrant education or the proposed merger of SBS and ABC Television, Professor Clyne said.

"People nowadays are more secure with changed attitudes and new policies, and there are more forums in which they can discuss ideas.

"There isn't the same idealism today as there was when the centre was established. There is no longer the need for struggle now that many of the original initiatives have been accepted."

Although multiculturalism was a fact of life in Australia, the gains made in the past 15 years are constantly under threat, Professor Clyne said. "Therefore, it is imperative that such an organisation exists to review the initiatives and ensure that they continue."

As well as hosting prominent visiting

scholars, the Centre for Migrant and Intercultural Studies also publishes the influential *Journal of Intercultural Studies*.

First published in 1977, it provides an international forum on ethnicity, multiculturalism, multilingualism and migration, by drawing on disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, linguistics, politics, education and social work.

As the scope of its journal suggests, the centre is truly interdisciplinary in nature, even its budget. Each of the five participating faculties — Arts, Education, Economics and Politics, Medicine and Law — contributes to its upkeep. (The Faculty of Arts provides the centre with a room, equipment and a part-time administrator.)

Professor Clyne said an interdisciplinary approach has given people attached to the centre an opportunity to broaden their focus, with plenty of cross-fertilisation from different disciplines and perspectives.

One of its most important and enduring roles has been to provide a link between academia and the ethnic communities.

The present chairman, Associate Professor Peter Hanks of Law, said: "There is a high level of support in the community for the centre's work, providing as it does both speakers and academic advice.



● Associate Professor Peter Hanks

"Its good profile was built up originally through working with bodies like the Ethnic Affairs Commission, the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, as well as with individual ethnic groups."

The centre was one of the first in Australia to establish its own graduate diploma, although it has not been offered since 1986. (A noted graduate is the chairman of the Australian Advisory Committee on Languages and Multicultural Education, Joe Lo Bianco.)

While its resources may be minimal, there is a need to reintroduce postgraduate teaching in the area of crosscultural studies, Associate Professor Hanks said.

"Now is the appropriate time to draw on courses, subjects, and units in a range of disciplines and blend them into an MA or graduate diploma.

"At the moment we're pushing towards establishing a teaching program if the Faculty of Arts can be persuaded to give a commitment to co-ordinate teaching.

"In order to give the program legitimacy it would need to include a core subject, such as the methodology of interdisciplinary studies, or multiculturalism as public policy in Australia."



Monash needs more dialogue

DECISION making and communications at Monash is not all fine and dandy.

If we stroll down memory lane a bit, the staff at Monash used to feel that we formed a "community of scholars". Problems were discussed widely and decisions were made collectively.

Typically, a proposal of general interest would originate at some level in the system, it would be referred to faculties and departments, and decisions would be based on the flow of opinions from departments to faculties to Professorial Board to Council.

No longer is that the case. Now, important decisions are made at the levels of the Vice-Chancellor, Deans, and/or Professorial Board and are then transmitted to Council. The decisions are then announced (often first) in the *Age* and then confirmed or contradicted in *SOUND*.

Departments and faculties have had no say in such important matters as whether Monash should amalgamate with some or all of Gippsland, Chisholm, Victoria College, Canberra CAE, Melbourne or LaTrobe Universities, the Police Academy, or Playbox Theatre. And if departments have no say, that means the sub-professorial staff have no say.

There was a special Science Faculty Board meeting on 19 October called to discuss the merger with Chisholm. Recommendations for the meeting were formulated by a working group, on the morning of the meeting, and tabled for discussion at the meeting. So much for careful consideration!

The dean ruled out of order any discussion of whether the merger should take place, on the grounds that the matter had already been decided by the Professorial Board. This, in spite of the fact that of six Science Faculty departments which had previously voted on the matter, all six were overwhelmingly against the merger because of its lack of any educational basis.

At a meeting on 12 September with some Arts and Mathematics staff, the Vice-Chancellor was challenged with the complaint that communications with both the academic and general staff were bad. His reply was to the effect that the output of *SOUND* had been doubled, and that on the two occasions the main committee on the Chisholm merger had met, it immediately produced a newsletter.

He also asked for a majority of staff to support him on the Chisholm merger, and in his plan to turn Monash away from a British model towards an American model of a university. (If there is an American model for what has been decided for Monash, I have yet to hear of it!)

What is now missing at Monash is a two-way flow of information. The administration cannot expect a majority of academics to support a policy about which they have not been consulted and for which no rationale has been produced. And the problems are not confined to the academics only. The administration has not

negotiated seriously with the general staff about their two-year career freeze. It is high time it did.

Alienation of sub-professorial and general staff is hardly in the best interests of the university.

Geoff Watterson
Mathematics Department

Former warden recalls prank

A FORMER colleague and Farrer Hall denizen has just drawn my attention to the photograph atop page 7 of the September 18th issue of the *Reporter* with the caption "Antediluvian innocence" and your request for information concerning the "prank".

As the then warden of Farrer Hall (front row, semi-reclining; a position only slightly more dignified than the previous year's, which saw me astride a great white horse and dressed Nareen style, tweed hunting and fishing hat, hacking jacket, and carrying a white lily — symbolising innocence and purity, I have always assumed), the photograph revived vivid recollections of the deluge and my subsequent race up the stairs in an attempt (unsuccessful, as I recall) to identify the miscreants.

At risk of appearing ever so slightly prejudiced the explanation that I have always preferred as most likely — and least erosive of wardenly illusions — is that which attributes the "bucketing" act to our close neighbors and friendly(?) rivals, the residents of Howitt Hall. But I could be wrong on this. Certainly such an explanation was fully in keeping with other periodic activities such as the dropping of water bombs (from great heights) and fireworks into the Hall quadrangle and other such prohibited behavior!

Whatever the explanation for the dampening experience I and several others underwent, the photograph brings back many happy memories of people and occasions.

For my wife, as well as myself, the several years at Farrer were among the best we have had, not merely because of the opportunities we had to become more closely involved with students than most academics could ever do but also because, from the position of Warden, it was so much easier to get to know people in all parts and at all levels of the university community — from Vice Chancellor to maintenance and cleaning staff — than would normally have been possible even in the relatively small community that it was then.

Much thanks for all this, of course, must be given to the Halls' first Executive Warden (and Warden of Deakin Hall), Dr Jack McDonnell, for it was he who established the basic ethos of the Halls and by his own administrative activities made it possible for full-time academics simultaneously to assume wardenly responsibilities in the other Halls of the complex.

Professor Murray Wilson
Geography Department
University of Wollongong

The law targets nuclear arms

IF the seeds planted at a recent meeting of international lawyers bear fruit, Professor Christie Weeramantry's world vision of a future free of nuclear weapons may come closer to reality.

Professor Weeramantry, the Sir Hayden Starke chair of law at Monash, has just returned from the inaugural world congress at The Hague of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, IALANA.

As IALANA vice-president, Professor Weeramantry is hopeful that a case being prepared by the organisation will lead to the outlawing of nuclear weapons.

Through the agency of the United Nations, IALANA is hoping to push for an official judgement from the International Court of Justice.

Professor Weeramantry describes the current attitude of countries suspected of possessing nuclear weapons as "you say it is illegal — you prove it."

"There is no comprehensive treaty that makes them illegal . . . there is no document having the force of law which says that nuclear weapons are illegal," Professor Weeramantry said.

"We extract these principles from customary international law but we don't have a treaty or a judgement which says that one of the sources of international law is treaties, and another is judgements."

The congress resolved to work for the declaration of the illegality of nuclear weapons.

According to Professor Weeramantry there are several grounds on which the organization can make a strong case to the International Court of Justice.

"Under the principle of proportionality, you cannot use weapons that cause damage which goes far beyond the purposes of war, so weapons that cause a disproportionate amount of damage would therefore stand outlawed by that principle," he said.

The principle which forbids causing damage to neutral states who are not in the war would also prohibit nuclear weapons, as their use would result in devastation to countries other than those at war with each other.

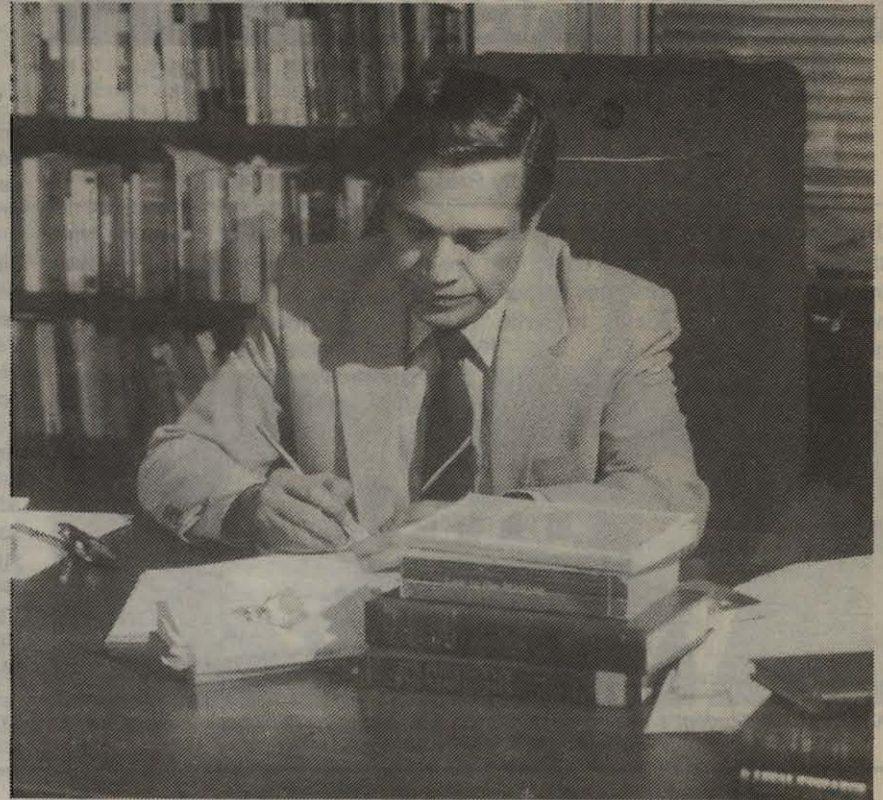
A third principle is the prohibition of any action or weapon which causes unnecessary damage and suffering.

"This principle outlaws any weapons which would cause more destruction than is necessary in a war (as nuclear weapons would)," Professor Weeramantry said.

Professor Weeramantry's case would also argue for the outlawing of storing nuclear weapons for use as a permanent deterrent.

He said there was a growing view that we need to conserve the ecosystem of our planet, and the use of nuclear weapons would destroy the life support systems of the earth and constitute a crime against humanity — another argument for IALANA's proposed case for the International Court of Justice.

Professor Weeramantry has long been interested in the responsibilities of scientists in regard to the development of nuclear weapons. He is the author of a book entitled *Nuclear Weapons and Scientific Responsibilities*, which has sparked off a debate in the United States drawing in scientists who advise the Pentagon on nuclear weapons.



• The Sir Hayden Starke professor of law, Professor Christie Weeramantry.

IALANA has been developed as a result of several recent writings on the illegality of nuclear weapons, including Professor Weeramantry's book.

The association receives strong support from the American Lawyer's Committee on Nuclear Policy, the Procurator General of the Soviet Union (who is also president of the Soviet Lawyers' Association), and

influential members of the Swedish Parliament. The first world congress attracted 200 lawyers from 30 countries.

With this committed global membership, Professor Weeramantry is confident that the organization's long-term goal of completely outlawing the development, storage or use of nuclear weapons will be achieved.

Albert Langer's chem partner makes news

THE name Albert Langer is one most people associate with Monash's turbulent past — but these days it's his chemistry prac partner from those early university days who makes news.

Carol Austin is the director of Public Affairs for BHP, one of Australia's biggest companies, and enjoyed her laboratory work with Mr Langer during her science course in the 1960s.

"Albert had a brilliant mind and was a very interesting fellow student. Those were the days of the Vietnam war demonstrations so there was a lot going on around me at university that added color and interest to my student days," she said.

But was Ms Austin a radical student?

"I was only involved on the periphery — I wasn't one of the student radicals or heavily involved in the SRC.

"I listened to the lunchtime discussion as we all did and participated in the debates in the interminable coffee breaks we had, but I was by no means a student radical!"

Ms Austin's extra-curricular interests lay more in the fine arts area, and she was involved in getting a pottery studio on campus.

Following her graduation in science in 1969, she set off with her new husband for Papua New Guinea, where she worked for the local Bureau of Statistics.

She then became involved in trade and economic policy, which was what sparked her interest in economics, leading to a degree in the field from Australian National University.

While her husband studied for his Master's degree at London University, Ms Austin worked with the British Department of Trade and Industry.

Following her economics degree at Australian National University on her return to Australia from Papua New Guinea in 1978, Ms Austin worked as a research economist for the Reserve Bank, and then with the Australian Industry Development Corporation.

If Ms Austin's face looks familiar, it's probably from her role as an economic commentator on the now defunct Carleton-Walsh Report on ABC television.

She was approached by head hunters looking for a suitable Director of Public Affairs for BHP.

"It was an opportunity to draw on the experience I'd had in Papua New Guinea, to utilise my training and background, and to diversify out of a narrow specialist role as an economist, so there were a lot of aspects of it that were attractive."

Ms Austin sees the role of Director of Public Affairs as combining issues of management and communication.

"The area I find most rewarding and challenging is issues management. It requires you to make judgements about what are the important external developments which are likely to have an impact on our operations, and to be able to read those signs early in the process," she said.

Ms Austin feels it is important to be able to interpret what these signs mean for the company, and to encourage BHP to respond appropriately.



• Carol Austin

On the communications side, she says business does not always understand the difference between providing information and communicating — something that her work in television brought home to her.

"The real challenge there was not to work out what the right answer was, but to know how to respond in a way that you could communicate with a very diverse audience," she said.

"It's a real challenge to reduce complex proposals to simple terms without trivialising them."

Ms Austin finds the most difficult aspect of her position is the breadth of the job.

"It is really very far reaching, and to be able to offer a sensible comment you really do have to have some appreciation of the whole range of the company's operations."

Away from her high profile job, Ms Austin has definite ideas on the best way of coping with the demands of her role as BHP's Director of Public Affairs.

"My idea of relaxing is to call friends over and sit by a pool and drink a glass of wine, or visit an art gallery, go to a concert — but not to have to talk economics to people outside of work!"

Monash honors fire heroine

FIRST year engineering student, Tanya Redfern, received a copy of *John Monash: A Biography*, recently for a courageous act.

Tanya saved 20 elderly people from a fire which extensively damaged an aged people's home at Murrumbena in September. She was working as a relieving night supervisor at the home and was the only employee on duty when the fire started.

The book was presented to her by University Council member, Win McDonnell on behalf of Monash University.



• Tanya Redfern

Plain and practical advice on writing

IN REVIEW

The Student's Writing Guide for the Arts and Social Sciences

by Gordon Taylor

Cambridge University Press, 1989, price \$14.95

GORDON Taylor, a member of the Language and Learning Unit of Monash's Faculty of Arts, has helped generations of our students to write better.

My own department, History, with which Taylor has worked closely, owes him a particular debt for his teaching and advice — generously given not just to beginning students with serious writing



● Author of *The Student's Writing Guide for the Arts and Social Sciences*, Gordon Taylor (left) with Bill Kent at the recent book launch.

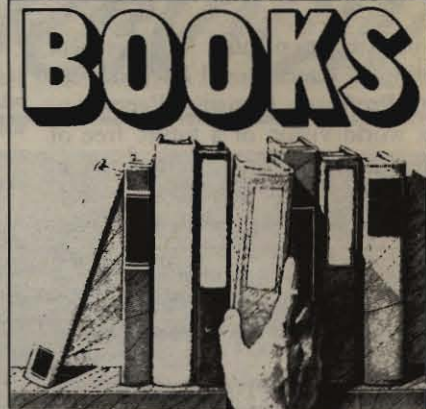
difficulties, but also to more advanced students (and staff) seeking to express themselves with the utmost clarity and precision.

The Monash community should be glad — proud indeed — that Taylor's experience and expertise in these vital matters are now available to an international student audience in this handsome and reasonably priced paperback.

There is all the plain and practical advice one would want here on questions ranging from when to use "I" and "we" in academic prose to how to avoid the dread "dangling modifier", and all of it conveyed in clear, almost conversational, prose.

This is — let me hasten to add — a sophisticated and stylish book which post-graduates and others will read with advantage, but it is also one that should be accessible to senior secondary school students. Among practical writing manuals, which are twopence a dozen and frequently off-putting in the extreme to students, Taylor's book is a very superior example.

The Student's Writing Guide is, however, much more than a manual of grammatical do's and don'ts, hardly sur-



prisingly because Gordon Taylor is not so much a grammarian as a *rhetor*. That is to say, his book is about rhetoric in the medieval, renaissance and ultimately classical sense of spoken and written eloquence.

In a medieval Italian university, Taylor would have taught the *ars dictaminis*, the practical art of good writing. For Taylor, language cannot be divorced from thought, "writing is not merely a skill we employ to record our knowledge, but the very moment at which we confront what learning and understanding are all about" (page xi).

Students often complain when we history teachers correct their grammar, or comment that an essay would have received a higher mark had it been written better. What right have historians got, they sometimes say outright, to "mark their English", as if to imply that good style is merely the cream on the cake, or just rhetoric in the pejorative sense of the word.

Gordon Taylor has heard all of this, and will have none of it. Badly written history (or whatever) is bad history. Good history is all the better for being written in clear and expressive prose.

This excellent book is, then, as much about clear thinking and constructive reading in the Arts and Social Sciences as it is about writing them well, and from this classical humanistic concern with the essential unity of language and thought comes much of its power and importance.

Now, when academic prose is often jargon-ridden and university administrations frequently write godddledgook, we desperately need Taylor's modest defence of plain eloquence.

There is yet another bonus in store for the reader. Taylor is not only a *rhetor* but an anthropologist whose field of specialisation has been the natives who flit in and out of the groves of academe.

This book is as good a place as any to look if you want to understand the implicit values held by Australian teachers of the liberal arts in the last part of this millennium. (I knew Gordon to be a good listener — and occasionally a speaker of measured eloquence — over a lunch-time beer, but I hadn't realised quite how good a listener he was!) His definition, en passant, of "academic culture" will be immensely useful to students who, when they first arrive at university, are understandably puzzled about what "they are really after", about what "they really want".

I might conclude that Gordon Taylor's is an essentially generous definition of academic culture — although we don't escape scot-free from this gentle probing of our mores — and I for one am grateful to him for it at this time of external attack upon universities and internal low morale. I do wish, however, that Taylor had not told students that J.M. Keynes "worked in bed until lunch-time". That is hardly the way to academic success in the hard new world of Mr Dawkins.

Bill Kent

History Department

DECEMBER 1989

Biography of a Victorian Virtuoso

IN REVIEW

James Edward Neild

By Harold Love

Melbourne University Press, 1989, price \$39.95

THE idea of one person in today's society combining the roles of theatre critic, doctor and coroner would seem unlikely, if not impossible.

Yet during the last century's "Marvellous Melbourne" era there was such an individual — James Edward Neild. Neild is the subject of reader in English, Dr Harold Love's recent biography, *James Edward Neild, Victorian Virtuoso*.

Born in England in 1824, Neild grew up in Yorkshire and practised as a doctor until he felt the lure of Antipodean gold in 1853.

Securing himself a free passage as ship's doctor on the clipper "Star of the East", Neild arrived in Melbourne in October 1853.

But having tired of the backbreaking work of gold mining he took up employment as a "consulting chemist" with David Rutter Long's bustling city business.

His role was to diagnose ailments as well as prepare prescriptions — a combination of professions now illegal, but greatly valued by the Melbourne populace of the 1850s.

However, Neild's great love in England had been theatre. He had been a professional contributor of verse to various newspapers from the age of 13 so it is hardly surprising that he left the chemist shop in 1855 to become a full-time journalist.

Neild quickly became an influence on the growing theatrical industry of 19th century Melbourne, and perhaps the first reviewer to throw off the "colonial cringe" mentality.

He objected to "the belief that anything produced or written in the colonies must be inferior to anything produced or written in England."

Neild saw himself as "a plain spoken man of sense and a mortal enemy of cant and humbug".

Other writers described Neild as cantankerous, condescending, malicious, or wittily extravagant; indeed, depending on one's point of view, he seems to have been all those.

Neild's aim as a reviewer — "to explain to actors how they might do better next time" — did not make him the most popular of critics.

To understand this, one must realise that in those days there was a far more symbiotic relationship between theatre proprietors and critics than there is today.

Tickets for any number of people nominated by the newspaper were made available each night and the paper was expected to provide sympathetic advertising and reviews.

Neild threatened this cosy relationship with his idea of the role of the critic.

Describing the expression of an opera singer reaching for high notes as displaying "the agonies of death from strychnine" was unlikely to endear Neild to one and all.

Another of Neild's pet hates reveals him as a reviewer ahead of his time; he particularly loathed the stylised 18th century method of frequently addressing the audience.

Neild wanted actors to make the audience forget they were in a theatre: "I have come to regard dramatic performances very much as I regard pictures which are painted, and to approve or condemn in proportion as they approach to the real or recede from it".

Neild felt having wizards perform led to the theatre "being perverted from its legitimate uses", and in his review claimed that the wizard's tricks relied heavily on "a concealed assistant and the compliant stooge".

This review spawned a number of unflattering descriptions of Neild, from "malapert apothecary" to "pill-peddling dilettante who poses as a journalist in order

to obtain free admissions and dinner invitations".

But there were also many performers who admired Neild. Foremost among them was Dame Nellie Melba, of whom Neild said: "Everybody who heard her will desire to hear her again, and everybody who did not hear her is at the moment consumed with regrets at not having been present".

According to Dr Love it was this tribute that convinced Melba "to embrace singing as a career and seek her fortune overseas".

Although his theatrical criticism was a large part of his life, Neild also maintained his medical career, lecturing at Melbourne University in forensic medicine and editing the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

He was an early advocate of sanitation, a topic on which he wrote extensively, and was the unofficial (and unpaid) medical adviser to the theatrical profession — a neat way of wearing both hats at once.

Dr Love said Neild was considered to be the most influential of the Australian Medical Association's founding fathers. Neild also spent a long period as the preferred Government pathologist, a role which culminated in a stint as acting coroner in 1891.

Aside from his professional interests, Neild found time for a wife and several children, as well as some extra-marital activities, amusingly documented by Dr Love.

The biography depicts Edward James Neild as a fully rounded character, a man of temper and passion, but also with a strong streak of sympathy. One gains some idea of the respect he commanded from mention of a special benefit performance organised for Neild by the theatrical profession at the end of his career.

The occasion raised more than a year's salary as a doctor for this man who cared passionately about the theatre and medicine: a Victorian Virtuoso indeed.

Dr Love has written a fine biography of this fascinating man. His style is never dry or condescending to the reader, yet his documentation is extensive.

It is an absorbing book which I warmly recommend for anyone with an interest in a character who helped fashion "Marvellous Melbourne".

Julie Houghton

A tradition of Buddhism in Australia

IN REVIEW

A History of Buddhism in Australia 1848-1988

By Paul Croucher

New South Wales University Press, 1989, with the assistance of the Monash University Publications Committee.

PAUL Croucher is a young Australian Buddhist who studied Asian history and Japanese at Monash.

He had just spent a year in Japan, Thailand and North India, when in 1984, while doing an Introduction to Japanese Studies, it happened that he was taught by Les Oates, who was to figure prominently in his later study which became this book.

Croucher writes in part for himself, to formulate a tradition of Buddhism in Australia as part of his own cultural heritage, and also for other Buddhists to give them a perspective of various branches of Buddhism in Australia.

The book is also no doubt aimed at a non-Buddhist readership, to serve as an apology for Buddhism. However, key Buddhist concepts are not explained in detail for the uninitiated, although a concise (even too brief?) glossary is included.

Despite this insider's perspective, the book is not narrowly sectarian. Neither does it clearly espouse one branch of Buddhism at the expense of others. The author favours an eclectic approach to religion, or a "peaceful and dynamic Buddhist anarchism".

The history of Buddhism is hardly a major current in Australian history. One might imagine that there would not be enough to fill a book, and that before the counter culture of the late sixties and early seventies only a few crackpots and eccentrics were attracted to Buddhism.

Croucher provides an amazing array of evidence for a longstanding, constant though small stream of Buddhist activity of one kind or another in Australia, and a fascinating cross-section of Australian cultural history.

He projects the possibility of Buddhist presence in Australia long before white settlement through Asian traders in Arnhem Land. The first verifiable instance he presents is of Chinese Coolie labourers in 1848.

He aims to document comprehensively every single instance of Buddhist activity, which he demonstrates to be part of a worldwide phenomenon, involving Burma, Sri Lanka, England, Germany and, to a lesser extent, America and Japan. That is, it is related to the geo-political reality of the British Empire, with English-speaking monks who could teach and

ordain westerners in their own country or elsewhere, and the possibility of English and Germans being ordained in these countries.

One of the surprising features of this history was not so much the compartmentalisation of different pockets in places like Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and the schisms which arose easily within each pocket, but the lack of awareness of Australian Buddhists in each phase of what had gone before them. This is a sign that it has not been a strong movement, but to a degree haphazard and sporadic, though never with the same lack of continuity as between the Arnhem Land traders and later settlers.

Australians have been attracted to Buddhism at various times because it was seen as a rational alternative to Christianity which was more compatible with science; because it was pacifist; because it was ecologically appealing; because it espoused vegetarianism. It has consistently attracted the educated, and originally the upper middle class, but since the seventies has had a broader class base.

White Australian Buddhism was fed by literature — such as the translations of the Pali canon by E.F. Woodward — and by visiting European speakers, many of whom had spent time in Buddhist countries, and by qualified native teachers from Sri Lanka, Burma etc. who were professional world tourers of English-speaking countries.

It is remarkable that there was no strong foundation in the form of links with an established mother church in a Buddhist country. This is no doubt partly to do with the fact that Buddhism is sometimes seen as not being a religion so much as a philosophy.

The book is studded with mini-biographies of people significant in the development of Buddhism in Australia. People like Marie Byles and Leo Berkeley who stressed meditation and were among the founders of organised Buddhism in Sydney, were thwarted by Natasha Jackson who is portrayed as having had a destructive, schismatic influence, with her idolisation of the American Buddhist nun Sister Dhammadina. The discreditation of the latter as a charlatan is one of Croucher's major tasks.

In Melbourne around the same period of the fifties, the atmosphere was more eclectic and tolerant, under the influence of Les Oates. The Buddhist Society of Victoria, founded in 1953, had close ties with Sri Lanka and Burma, that is, with Theravada Buddhism. The influence of the Mahayana faith of Japan and America was to come later.

The major criticism to be brought against the book is the system card type flipping over of a myriad of apparently insignificant characters who do not have any clearly drawn personality or salient characteristics. In later chapters the detail is sometimes overwhelming, like a compendium of every Buddhist in Australian history, so that no one might feel left out.

However, there are also some vivid portraits of fascinating characters. The system cards bring before us an array of personages who have had contact — fleeting or lasting — with Buddhism: people like the actor Peter Finch, the novelist George Johnston, politicians Alfred Deakin, R.J.

Hawke, Ken Wriedt, poets Bernard O'Dowd, Max Dunn and Harold Stewart, artist Margaret Preston, Aboriginal novelist Colin Johnson, all illustrating points of contact with mainstream Australian culture and history.

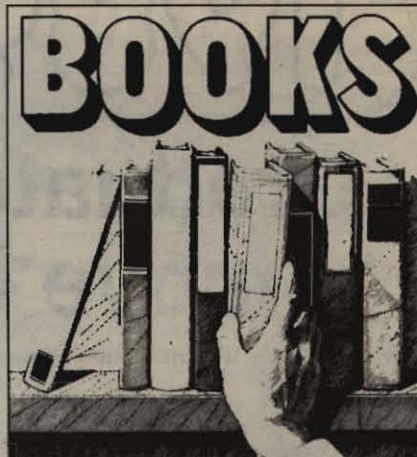
Croucher shows he has the foundations of an excellent history writing technique; he handles a broad sweep of events, incorporating particular characters and themes with considerable assurance and narrative skill.

He has an ability to bring out broad themes within a plethora of detail, yet without using sweeping generalisations. He manages to surprise the reader, by carefully withholding developments till the right moment.

His use of quotation of primary sources — diaries, letters, newspaper reports, Buddhist newsletters and journals — is always vivid. He traces the establishment of bookshops such as Theosophical Bookshops, as well as Buddhist societies, showing the kinds of reading matter material that was available to people in an era when this was the main access to Buddhism. He also details the contacts with qualified teachers. This solid methodology is supplemented by extensive use of oral histories and interviews.

One of the major themes which emerges in the book is that of acculturation. "Buddhism is a universal religion and thus essentially transcultural, but . . . Australian Buddhism will only have found its own identity when it gives rise to a larger number of authentic, home-grown teachers".

It needs to adapt its practices to some degree for its new environment. An exces-



sive degree of compromise was responsible for many years of stagnation, as when Jackson and Knight in Sydney played down ritual and meditative practices, but obviously some adaptation is necessary. He is optimistic that Buddhism will acquire a secure place in Australian life, and that a "synthesis between Buddhism and western humanism" will emerge.

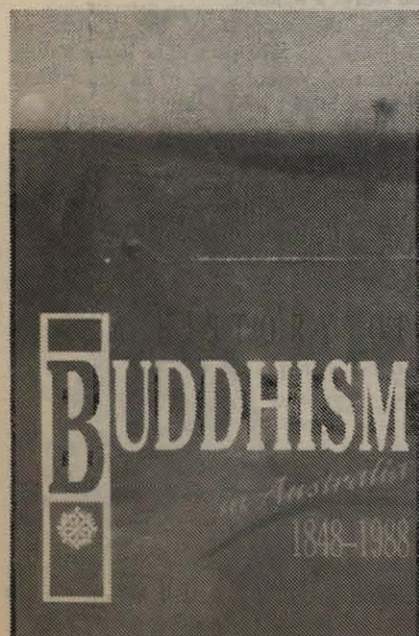
Croucher emphasises the dangers or organisations and committees, and favors anarchism. This is a danger common to all religions. How can Buddhism alone avoid this?

This more readable and compelling history is also an essay on the nature of Buddhism in an Australian context, and will be of interest to Buddhist and non-Buddhist Australians alike, for revealing a new aspect of Australian history and culture.

Alison Tokita
Japanese Studies Department



• Making way for the past . . . the museum in the Classical Studies Department had to be rearranged following the recent arrival of several valuable pieces of ancient pottery, on loan from a Melbourne collector. The pieces date between the fifth century BC and third century AD and include Attic vases, south Italian pots, Etruscan heads, a Hellenist statuette and two sarcophagi. And more pieces will follow after new display cases have been installed. Surveying the recent additions to the collection — and wondering where the extra furniture is going to fit — is senior lecturer in Classical Studies, Dr Saul Bastomsky. The museum, on the sixth floor of the Menzies Building (South Wing), is open every Wednesday between 12.30 and 2 pm.



1989 The Year in Review

Graduates on the move in 1989

SOME graduates who made news this year:

Meredith Allan — BA 1983. Appointed policy vice-president of the Victorian Young Liberals.

Brian Corbitt — MEd.St 1987. Principal of Ardoch-Windsor Secondary College.

Eve Fesl — BAHons. 1978, M.A. 1986, Ph.D. 1989. First Koorie to complete a doctorate of philosophy. Eve is the director of Monash University's Koorie Research Centre.

John Harvey — B.Juris 1967, LL.B. 1969. Appointed managing partner at Melbourne chartered accountant Price Waterhouse.

Margaret Jackson — BEc. 1973. First woman elected chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Dr Erin Jancauskas — BEHons. 1976, M.Eng.Sci. 1981. First Australian to study space engineering at the International Space University in France.

Sr Rosemary Joyce — BA 1979, B.Ed. 1981. New principal of St Brigid's College, Horsham.

Chris Keogh — BA 1979. TV personality on The Comedy Company.

Geoff Kimpton — B.A. 1970. Appointed general manager of Westpac Banking Corporation, Victoria.

Malcolm Kinloch — MBA 1988. Appointed executive director of St George's Hospital in Kew.

Jon Linehan — BEcHons. 1983. The Australian Labor Party candidate for the Federal seat of Casey.

Dr Rick Lowen — MB, BS 1974. Appointed director of The Accident and Emergency Department at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

Bruce McConchie — BEc 1968. Appointed director of Planning and Environment at Wodonga Council.

Michael Marasco — BEc 1972. New Chief Executive Officer at Fitzroy Council.

Dr Vin Massaro — BA 1971, Ph.D. 1980. Appointed director of Administration and Registrar at The Flinders University of South Australia, Bedford Park.

David Melvin — BA 1978. New manager of leisure services at Doncaster and Templestowe Council.

Dr Barry Perry — LL.BHons 1969. New deputy Ombudsman to investigate complaints against police.

Peter Reith — BEc 1972, LL.B. 1974. The new Liberal Party spokesman on education.

Bruce Rosengarten — BEc 1979. Manager of the new Myer department store in Rundle Mall, Adelaide.

Dr Pam Rosengarten — MB, BS 1979. New director of accident and emergency services at Frankston Hospital.

Barry Rowe — BEc 1975. Appointed State Agriculture and Rural Affairs Minister.

Geoffery Ryan — BEd 1973. New principal of the Westbourne and Williamstown Grammar Schools.

Daniel Salvador — BA 1987. Ordained to the priesthood at the St Bernard's Catholic Church in Belmont.

Stuart Schneider — BSc 1974, B.Ed. 1979. New Chief Executive Officer at the Mt Alexander Hospital.

Meryl Sexton — BEc 1983, LL.B. 1983. Named the Victorian Career Woman of the Year.

Simon Smith — B.Juris 1972, LL.B. 1974, LLM 1988. Appointed Australia's first private insurance Ombudsman.

Richard Southby — PhDMed 1973. Named Friesen Professor of the Health Service Administration at The George Washington University.

Terence Speed — PhDSci 1969. Professor of the Department of Statistics at the University of California, Berkeley. Recently named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Malcolm Spry — BEc 1967. Appointed joint chairman of HDM Mattingly advertising company.

Alan Young — BA 1971. Appointed secretary of The Charles Sturt University's Murray Campus.



• Using the MARWIN portable weather balloon system for research in the Antarctic.

Grant helps weather research take off

VAISALA Pty Ltd, the Australian subsidiary of the Finnish company Vaisala Oy, has given Monash University a high tech atmospheric measurement system worth nearly \$400,000 to support a continuing program of research into fronts and storms.

The portable radiosonde (weather balloon) system, known as MARWIN, will add to the capacity of the Centre for Dynamical Meteorology to mount sophisticated experiments to investigate and model storm activity in Australia.

The system includes weather balloon launching equipment, instruments to measure and transmit upper air temperature, pressure, humidity and wind data, as well as portable data storage and processing equipment. There is also a personal computer and software to analyse the data further.

It already is in use near Darwin in a joint research project with the Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Wisconsin.

The Monash team and the group from the research centre are interested in squall lines, lines of continuously generating thunderstorms which march southeast across the Top End.

The researchers from MIT will be bringing another MARWIN radiosonde system with them. Together with the Darwin airport radar, the three measurement systems will be stationed at three vertices of a triangle, and used to track weather systems across the escarpment country to the east of Darwin.

Vaisala recently won a substantial contract to update and supply measurement packages for the Bureau of Meteorology's radiosonde network. It has given the equipment in part to fulfil offset obligations, but it also is a company with a long tradition of supporting meteorological research.

The Centre of Dynamical Meteorology, in collaboration with the Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre and NASA Goddard's Laboratory of Atmospheres, has been at the forefront of research into the workings of cold fronts, trapped fronts, island thunderstorms, squall lines and monsoonal activity.

Professor Bruce Morton of Mathematics said: "Vaisala's generous gift greatly increases our capacity for field investigation of the fundamental processes which drive the world's weather."

With the support of the Bureau of Meteorology, Monash will be inaugurating a Chair of Meteorology in its department of Mathematics next year.



• The managing director of Vaisala Pty Ltd, Mr Hannu Kokko (left) explains the workings of the balloon instrument package to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan. Picture: TONY MILLER.

For your interest

John Kearton, administrative officer in the Department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, has extracted the following figures from the computer system of graduate records:

Profile of Monash Graduate Population			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Total population including 99 honorary graduates (bracketed)	26,180 (59 per cent)	18,347 (41 per cent)	44,527
Total population excluding known deceased (229)	23,085 valid addresses (89 per cent)	16,067 valid addresses (88 per cent)	39,152
	2,932 invalid addresses (11 per cent)	2,214 invalid addresses (12 per cent)	5,146

Overall figure of 5,146 graduates with invalid address out of population of living graduates 44,298 = 11.69 per cent.

If you know of any graduates who have not received a copy of this issue in the mail, please ask them to contact this office, using the change of address coupon on page 12. They may be among the 5,146 "missing persons"!

1989 The Year in Review

Diet could slow ageing process

THE onset of old age may be slowed or modified by simple dietary supplements if a new theory of ageing proposed by biochemists from Monash and Nagoya universities proves to be correct.

The theory published earlier this year in the influential British medical journal, *The Lancet*, also provides support for the controversial practice of using large doses of Vitamin C as preventive medicine.

In the *Lancet* paper Professor Anthony Linnane and Associate Professor Sangkot Marzuki of the Monash Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine and two Japanese colleagues suggest that ageing and several degenerative diseases are caused at least in part by a lifelong build up of mutations in the genetic material of the mitochondria, the cell's energy production centre.

The mitochondrial genetic material is responsible for the construction of 13 enzymes (catalysts) critical to the body's system of energy storage and release. These enzymes are linked together into an energy production line, in such a way that the product of one reaction becomes a necessary ingredient of the next.

Hence a defect in any one of the enzymes can render the line, and the mitochondrion containing it, inactive. The researchers argue that over time, as the number of cells with a high proportion of mitochondria containing defective genetic code increases, the body's capacity for energy production decreases.

Cells begin to die and the performance of the body's tissues and organs declines. This eventually leads to a point where the body can no longer meet the environmental demand for continued existence.

The researchers have in fact found evidence of a decline with age in the amount of energy produced in muscle mitochondria. This data was published in a companion paper by Marzuki and Dr Ed Byrne of St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne in the same issue of *The Lancet* as the hypothesis.

And a German worker has now shown that the proportion of cells with defective energy production mechanisms increases from almost nothing in young children up to about 50 per cent at age 50.

Because the enzymes further down the line still may work perfectly well, it might well be possible to by-pass a single blockage in the energy chain so that the cell can carry on its activities, the Monash researchers say.

In fact, Linnane and Marzuki propose that certain substances, if taken in large enough amounts, can be used to by-pass these "breaks" in the energy chain of cells. These substances are present in common foodstuffs and include Vitamin C, the less well-known ubiquinone which occurs in both plants and animals, and a Vitamin K-like chemical, menadione.

A few such supplements are already in clinical use, and, the researchers argue, new and more effective supplements could be designed artificially to treat degenerative disease.



• Associate Professor Sangkot Marzuki.

Coselco first in technology park

A RESEARCH company making use of a revolutionary new technique to study and design vaccines and medical tests has become the first tenant of the Monash University Science and Technology Park.

Coselco Mimotopes Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL), has just opened a laboratory complex worth more than \$4 million on the park which is being developed across Blackburn Road from the university's northeast corner.

The laboratories have been designed to the highest safety standards and are equipped with the latest fume cupboard and chemical and biological containment technology.

In its new premises, the company will undertake research and development employing technology which allows the rapid construction and testing of hundreds of protein fragments at once. The method, developed by company founder Dr Mario Geysen, could lead to new or improved vaccines, new diagnostic tests and advances in the study of the mechanisms of diseases.

Proteins are long chains constructed from about 20 different kinds of amino acids. Up till now the method of building them in the laboratory was to bind the first amino acid to a resin, and one at a time in order join on subsequent amino acids to make up the chain. Once the chain was complete the first amino acid could be cleaved from the resin by treatment with acid.

What Geysen recognised was that the process of attachment for each amino acid was the same. The whole action of building up the chain was repetitive — in each step only the amino acids changed.

So he designed a simple piece of equipment made out of special plastic, a top with an eight by 12 array of pins which fitted into a bottom of 96 wells. By attaching starter amino acids to the pins and plunging them into appropriate biochemicals in the wells (differing only in the order the amino acids are added), 96 different chains could be made at once.

Recently it has been recognised that, while protein chains may be thousands of units long, they rely for their biological activity on a region or fragment of perhaps six to eight amino acids.

This being so, using Geysen's technique, it has become relatively easy to construct thousands of small protein fragments of different combinations of amino acids, and screen their activity systematically.

The method holds such promise for the design and development of new vaccines and tests that CSL have put up the money for the new facilities and have agreed to back the fledgling company for five years. Several scientists of more than 10 years standing with CSL have been induced to trade in their employment security and go and work for the new company.

Already Coselco has begun a series of collaborative ventures with several international institutes and drug companies.

A senior researcher, Dr Tom Mason said he thought that the first products of the company would be medical diagnostic tests, because their development was less likely to involve the exhaustive safety testing associated with vaccines.

In the longer term, he said he was excited by the potential of pure research using their technique to investigate cell receptors work.

"These are the switches, if you like, which control the action of cells," he said.

"If we could mimic the hormones that stimulate or inhibit them, it could lead advances like an oral version of insulin to give much better control of diabetes, for instance."

In the meantime, Coselco is marketing its technology in kit form through Cambridge Research Laboratories in Cambridge, England. The kits include the plastic holders, pins, software, chemicals and instruction outlining different strategies of use.

Coselco Mimotopes hopes to establish a close relationship with Monash involving collaborative research and the use of services. At present it is negotiating access to the university's libraries, health service, sports and recreation centre and other services on a fee paying basis.

Professorial moves

- Dr Bill Kent, 47, reader in the department of History, has been appointed to a personal chair in history. Dr Kent is known internationally for his work in the field of Italian Renaissance history.
- Dr John Hamill, 31, senior scientific officer at the Agricultural and Food Research Council Institute of Food Research, Norwich, UK, has been appointed to the Chair of Developmental Biology.
- Dr David Healy, 41, senior lecturer in the department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, has been appointed to a chair in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He graduated in medicine at Monash in 1973.
- Professor Bruce Tonge, 42, of the department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Sydney, has been appointed to the Chair of Developmental Psychiatry. He graduated in medicine at Monash in 1970.
- Dr Joe Monaghan, 50, a reader in the department of Mathematics, has been appointed to the Chair in Applied Mathematics.
- Professor Gordon Clark, 39, of the School of Urban and Public Affairs, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has been appointed to the second chair in Geography and Environmental Science. He graduated in economics at Monash in 1973.
- Professor Bernard Barry, 54, of the Cranfield School of Management, UK, has been appointed to the Computations Chair of Management in the Faculty of Economics and Politics.
- Dr Harry Cullinan Jr, 51, Academic Dean, Professor and Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Paper Chemistry in Appleton, Wisconsin, has been appointed to the Chair of Pulp and Paper Technology in the department of Chemical Engineering. He is also director of the new Australian Pulp and Paper Institute at Monash.
- Dr Paul Rossiter, 42, chairman of the department of Materials Engineering, has been appointed to the Chair of Materials Engineering. He graduated in science at Monash in 1968.
- Associate Professor Paul Zimmet, 48, of the department of Biochemistry, has been appointed to a part-time Research Chair in Diabetes. He is an internationally recognised expert on research into diabetes.

1989 The Year in Review

Eve leads the way for other Koories



• Dr Eve Fesl faces the media after receiving her doctorate at a graduation ceremony at Robert Blackwood Hall earlier this year. Picture: RICHARD CROMPTON.

Study of brown coal shows growing uses

VICTORIA is not called the Garden State for nothing. It sits on the remains one of the world's largest compost heaps — the brown coal deposits of the Latrobe Valley.

In fact, brown coal has gone a stage further than compost, but it is a good source of humic materials, which are formed naturally during composting, says Dr Tony Patti, a chemist from the School of Applied Science at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education.

"There are many reports of weird and wonderful effects of humic substances on plants and micro-organisms, particularly as a growth stimulant. Some quite significant claims have been made which deserve to be investigated."

Because of this, for the past five years, in collaboration with the Coal Corporation of Victoria, Patti has been looking at composition of brown coal and its possible applications in agriculture.

Humic substances are the natural breakdown products remaining after micro-organisms have worked over plant material in soils, sludges and peats.

Using the expertise of the Coal Corporation's laboratories at the Gippsland Institute, Patti has been studying the differences between humic extracts obtained using different chemical treatments.

Now that he has a feel for the chemical composition of the humic extracts from Victorian brown coal, Patti is beginning a

series of collaborative projects aimed at determining their biological activity.

Most of the projects are applied in nature. For instance, he is collaborating with horticulturalists, Debco Pty Ltd in a study of the use of brown coal as a means of making trace elements available to plants.

A second line of research is to investigate reports that humics enhance the efficiency of conventional fertilisers. It has been claimed that humic acids in combination with conventional nitrogen fertilisers can increase plant yields by up to 30 per cent over the fertilisers alone.

There are sound environmental and economic reasons for looking at these claims. If they turn out to be true, the use of humic extracts could lead to a drop in the amount of fertiliser needed per hectare. This would mean less runoff into freshwater systems, reducing what is becoming a significant environmental problem.

A further claim in the literature is that humic substances can stimulate the growth of micro-organisms. If true, this could have an important impact on the fermentation and biotechnology industries, which depend on growing micro-organisms.

Patti is working with Dr John May and Khoi Vu-Trong of the Monash Microbiology Department on a series of experiments to test the effect of humics on yeast.

THE way language was used to conceal a covert slave trade in Australia led to Dr Eve Fesl becoming the first Koorie to complete a doctorate of philosophy.

Dr Fesl, the director of Monash University's Koorie Research Centre, says her thesis, entitled "Language policy and implementation in regard to Koorie languages", is probably the first sociolinguistic study to show how language has been used to oppress a people.

She received her Ph.D at a graduation ceremony in May.

Dr Fesl claims that as she traced the history of language policy, a pattern began to emerge which showed that language policy and its usage had played a major role in both promoting and concealing slavery in Australia.

The term Koorie means "our people", and is the name by which descendants of the native peoples of Victoria, New South

Wales, Tasmania, and Southern Queensland refer to themselves and others of their group.

Dr Fesl belongs to two clan groups; her mother is a Gabbi-Gabbi and her father is a Gangulu.

She joined the Koorie Research Centre as a research assistant, then became the secretary for a year, and finally was appointed the first tutor in Aboriginal Studies.

Dr Fesl feels the initiation of the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines (MOSA) is one of the success stories of the Koorie Research Centre.

The MOSA scheme provides mature age Koorie students with a full year of specific preparation for university education.

Dr Fesl says the most important thing about the Koorie Research Centre is that it is the only centre of its kind in Australia run by Koories, and directed towards their interests.

Sensing through the nose

A GROUP of Monash researchers has produced the first documentary evidence of a land animal sensing electricity.

The team of physiologists, led by Dr Uwe Proske and including Emeritus Professor Archie McIntyre, has found electro-sensory glands packed into the tip of the snout of the echidna.

These glands closely resemble electro-receptors discovered earlier by the group in platypus, the first recorded incidence of an electro-sensory system in mammals.

"We had a pretty good idea before we started that the echidna also was equipped with electro-receptors, but it was very exciting to have our suspicions confirmed," Proske said.

The group pinpointed the echidna electro-receptors and has been able to record nerve transmissions to the brain triggered by their electrical stimulation.

In addition, the researchers have run a series of behavioral tests which showed that echidnas are able to use the system to discriminate between electrically different environments.

The group found an echidna could discriminate effectively between the presence or absence of an electric current tiny by comparison to what can be felt.

Proske said: "It is extremely unlikely that such a sophisticated sense would not be used by the animal."

"We know, for instance, that echidnas always have a runny nose. That's just where the receptors are, and we think that the nasal secretions provide a low resistance pathway for the conduction of electricity from environmental sources. But so far, we have not been able to pick up where it is sensing electricity in its environment."

For example, he said, the group had placed electrodes in termite mounds — termites are a favorite echidna food — but had not been able to pick up a signal. Neither could the researchers pick up a signal in the laboratory from moving termites.

The group is still looking, and would be glad to hear from anyone who knows of sources of electricity in the echidna's world.



• The echidna, *Tachyglossus aculeatus*: The first land animal known to sense electricity.

1989 The Year in Review

For many plants, mite is right

AN ongoing study by a research team in the Botany and Zoology Department has uncovered what is thought to be the most widespread and ancient example of co-operation between species.

Members of about a quarter of the families of woody flowering plants possess little bumps or pits called domatia on the underside of their leaves. They are particularly common in rainforest vegetation.

The researchers believe that plants grow them deliberately to shelter mites. In return the mites either protect or groom the leaves by eating other small creatures which feed on leaves or removing parasitic fungi.

This would open up two interesting prospects. As the wild relatives of several agricultural crops are among the plants that carry domatia, it could hold the potential for improving crops by learning to manage better this form of biological pest control and by introducing it to new crop strains.

The second benefit would be the discovery of a manageable system for studying one of the great unknowns of ecology — the interaction between species known as mutualism.

Research team leader Dr Dennis O'Dowd said: "Interactions between species are a glue holding biological communities together. The three most important interactions in this respect are those between predator and prey, competition between species for a scarce resource and mutualism.

"Comparatively little work has been done on mutualism, although it could be very important to the understanding of the biological world. Using the plant-mite system, very large experiments on

mutualism could be set up in a small space."

O'Dowd's research group has been accumulating evidence on the mite-plant relationship since 1986. The first task was to demonstrate whether or not mites were associated with domatia. This was done by examining tens of thousands of domatia for any evidence of mites, either the animals themselves, or their eggs, or even their faeces.

In fact, mites accounted for about 90 per cent of insect-like creatures in domatia. They occurred in about half the domatia and on about 70 per cent of the leaves, with a preference for older leaves.

It is easy to show that domatia are grown by plants deliberately; that they are not galls formed as a reaction to mite invaders. Not only do domatia grow in the absence of mites, but they can also be detected in embryonic leaves within the bud.

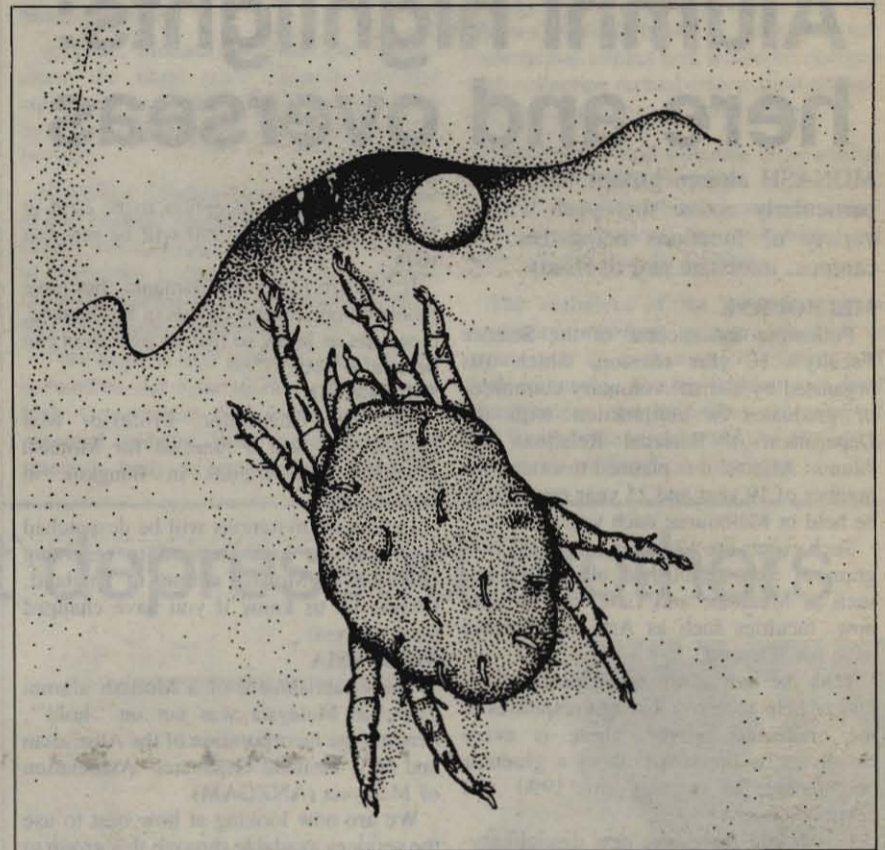
And the structure and position of domatia would seem to suggest that they are not specialised for use by plants as glands, or insect traps or for absorbing water or gases.

The researchers found that the mites harbored by domatia fell almost exclusively into two groups: mites which feed on fungi and other plant parasites on leaves, and predatory mites which eat plant-damaging insects and mites, their eggs and larvae.

"Domatia provide the mites with a useful humid shelter where they can lay their eggs in safety and gain a measure of protection from the things that eat them," O'Dowd said.

During the course of its work, the research team has discovered that the relationship between mites and plants goes back a very long way indeed.

Palaeobotanist Dr Dave Christophel is



• A mite scurries for cover into a leaf domatium outside of which an egg can be seen. Artwork: ANNE O'DOWD

studying ancient assemblages of leaves trapped and mummified in the Anglesea coal field and in a sand mine at Golden Grove, near Adelaide. These leaves have been preserved from a rainforest which was growing in the mid-Eocene, about 43 million years ago. And on the underside of their leaves, many display domatia.

As well as the leaves, the group has found fossilised mites. Not only have they turned out to be from tree-living species, but at least one of them is from a species closely related to one commonly found living in leaf domatia in Queensland rainforest.

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Play Season 89

* EDUCATING RITA July 11 to 15
FROM PHILIP STREET PRODUCTIONS

Playbox

* NICE GIRLS July 19 to 22

* CORALIE LANSDOWNE SAYS NO Aug. 9 to 12

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT BOX OFFICE

AT ALEXANDER THEATRE

• A handshake confirms a successful experiment. The director of the Alexander Theatre, Phil A'Vard (right), and project manager Ross Mollison congratulate each other beneath details of the season that brought Playbox to the suburbs.

Playbox becomes a Monash centre

FROM the beginning of 1990, Melbourne's Playbox Theatre is to become a Centre of Monash University.

The university Council and the board of the Playbox Theatre Company Limited have signed an agreement to establish the Playbox Theatre Centre of Monash University.

Under the agreement, the university will lease the Malthouse Theatre Complex in South Melbourne, fit it out, and make it available to the new centre.

In return, the centre will develop and present innovative Australian theatre, providing both popular entertainment and experimental drama, and balancing theatre education with performance.

The formal linking of Playbox with Monash follows the staging at the university's Alexander Theatre of *Play Season '89*, Australia's first suburban season of professional drama. Two of the season's three productions came from the Playbox, and the whole exercise was such a success that there are plans for a repeat performance next year.

The idea is to bring theatre closer to

where people live. As Alexander Theatre manager, Mr Phil A'Vard, puts it: "Nowadays, Monash isn't too far out. The city is too far in."

Interaction between the Playbox and Monash dates back to the mid 70s, when the Playbox held workshop readings of new Australian plays on campus. And the Alexander Theatre has, in past years, borrowed Playbox artistic director, Mr Carrillo Gantner, to star in several of its homegrown productions.

The new Playbox Theatre Centre plans to support Australian playwrights and help them develop and refine new scripts. Its programs will also include international works from groups whose performances are pertinent to Australian artists and audiences. Particular stress will be laid on cultural links with Asia.

The chairman of the board of the new centre will be Mr Graeme Samuel (the present chairman of the Playbox Theatre Company) and the deputy chairman will be the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.

The agreement calls for a review of the new centre after two to five years of operation.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Written and compiled by the director of External Relations and Alumni Affairs,
Ms Jennifer Beck

Alumni highlights: here and overseas

MONASH alumni groups have been particularly active this year with a variety of functions being held on campus, interstate and overseas.

MELBOURNE

Following the success of the Science Faculty's 10 year reunion, which was organised by a small voluntary committee of graduates in conjunction with the Department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, it is planned to extend the number of 10 year and 25 year reunions to be held in Melbourne each year.

Such events are a regular part of the program of long-established alumni groups such as Medicine and Law, but up until now, faculties such as Arts and Science have not featured.

With the indications of support and offers of help received through responses to the graduates' survey, there is every reason to be optimistic about a graduate heightening of activity in 1990 and beyond.

It is hoped that some new disciplinary-based groups will get off the ground in 1990, including Linguistics and History. Meanwhile, a big thank you to all those involved in running the many groups — for their good ideas, energy, enthusiasm and sheer hard work.

QUEENSLAND

A thoroughly enjoyable dinner was held at the Allegro Restaurant in Brisbane on 19 September. Guest speaker was Murrumba MP, Deane Wells (BA Hons 1972, MA 1976, LLB 1980). Mr Wells gave a witty and entertaining address on the role of the parliamentarians. Since parliamentary matters in Queensland are in a state of significant and continual flux, his address was both topical and informative.

Special thanks to Mr Wells for his contribution to the evening and to all those who attended the dinner.

NSW/ACT

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, hosted receptions for Monash graduates living in the ACT and New South Wales on 17 and 18 November.

If you did not receive an invitation to these functions but are living in NSW or the ACT, please use the change of address form on page so that we can bring our records up to date and keep in touch with you.

Library appeal

MONASH University graduates gave generously to the Annual Library Appeal this year.

Graduates from the years 1964 to 1974, who were asked to contribute for the first time this year, made an average donation of \$70 each.

The money will be used to buy books in those areas of interest specified by the graduates.

There have also been many other generous supporters of the library, some of whom have donated regularly for more than 13 years. These donations, which average about \$60, are vital to the continuing expansion of the library collection.

TASMANIA

Invitations to a reception to be held at Hobart in February 1990 will be sent out soon.

If you are living in Tasmania, but have retained your contact details in Melbourne, please let us know so that an invitation can be sent to you.

THAILAND

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, will host a function for Monash graduates and friends in Bangkok in January 1990.

Letters of invitations will be despatched soon and we look forward to receiving contact with Monash alumni in Thailand. (Please let us know if you have changed your address).

MALAYSIA

The establishment of a Monash alumni group in Malaysia was put on "hold", pending the incorporation of the Australian and New Zealand Graduates' Association of Malaysia (ANZGAM).

We are now looking at how best to use the services available through this group to support and promote Monash University Alumni activities.

MGA is filled with optimism

THE past year has been one of optimism at committee level. Several new members have joined the committee, bringing with them fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

The committee has functioned in past years with a nucleus of committed members who have carried the load with unflinching dedication, and the assistance of new committee members will give new impetus to the association.

The MGA committee has sought to create informal links with other alumni groups at Monash, and were heartened by the attendance of representatives from other groups at the Annual General Meeting Dinner recently.

Thirty-five members and some member's partners attended the AGM Dinner. The dinner was hailed a great success, and was much enhanced by the after-dinner speaker who was none other than Monash's own Mr Doug Ellis, Director of the Sports and Recreation Association.

Mr Ellis is a foundation staff member of Monash, and his anecdotes of Monash as only he knows it were both interesting and hilarious. The AGM Dinner is to be an annual event, and details for next year's dinner will appear in *Monash Reporter* and in *SOUND*.

All executive offices were filled at the AGM, and other members indicated their willingness to serve on committee. All this indicates a productive year for 1990.

The office bearers for 1990 are: President — Anne Langdon 650 3248 (Home); Secretary — Jean Grey 787 2192 (Home); Treasurer — Sylvia Evans.

Anne Langdon
President



● At the London reception (from left): Associate Professor, Ian Rae, Ingrid Scheffler (MBBS, 1983), Jane Heath (MBBS, 1980) and Graeme Cliff, who obtained an Engineering degree from Monash and an MBA.

London reception attracts our alumni

ABOUT fifty Monash graduates attended a social function held in May at Victoria House, London.

There are about 200 Monash graduates in Britain, and the invitation to meet over drinks marked the start of our effort to bring them into closer contact with the university.

Associate Professor Ian Rae was host for the evening and welcomed the graduates on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor Professor Mal Logan.

Mr Iain Haig, Agent-General for Victoria, also welcomed the Monash visitors and reminded them that they were always welcome at Victoria House on The Strand.

The suggestion was made that Monash

graduates in London might consider making Victoria House a focal point for their activities and a regular meeting point at specified times for Monash visitors to London.

Preliminary steps have been taken to establish a small interim steering committee, comprised of graduates living in the London area. This will gradually be extended to include graduates who volunteered their services from cities as far apart as Edinburgh, Southampton and Bristol.

The graduates' various response to the letter of invitation is greatly appreciated. A directory of Monash graduates living in Britain is now being compiled and will be available to interested graduates.

Where are the graduates?

Australia:	
Victoria.....	33,500
New South Wales	830
ACT	400
Queensland	340
Western Australia	220
South Australia	210
Tasmania	140
Northern Territory	70
Overseas:	
Malaysia	2,000
Singapore	270
United Kingdom	200
United States.....	170
Hong Kong.....	100
New Zealand	70
Thailand	60
Indonesia.....	55
Canada	50

In addition there are Monash graduates recorded as living in another 40 countries. (Round figures only).

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

EDUCATION

DURING the past 12 months members of the Monash Education Alumni have enjoyed several functions with guest speakers and have also seen the first Peter Fensham Scholarships awarded to six post-graduate students in the Education Faculty.

At the Annual General Meeting in February, Dr Barry McGaw, director of the Australian Council of Education Research was guest speaker. The topic of his speech was issues of assessment in upper secondary education.

Executive committee elections were held at this meeting with all former committee members indicating that they would be willing to serve on the committee for the following year. Mrs Julie Johns and Associate Professor Dick Gunston were also voted on to the committee. Dr Paul Gardner was elected convener, Joy Vogt, deputy convener and Neil McIntosh, treasurer. Joan Szalman was re-employed as executive officer.

The State Education Minister Joan Kirner was the guest speaker at a dinner in July. This was a very successful function giving alumni members the opportunity to meet with the Education Minister and hear her talk on the future directions of education in Victoria.

In 1988 the alumni established the Silver Jubilee Fund to raise money to provide scholarships for post-graduate students. These scholarships were seen as a practical way by which the alumni members could help present students and the university.

The scholarships were named the Peter Fensham Scholarships in honor of Professor Peter Fensham who has just retired as Dean after two terms in the Education Faculty. This year the first Peter Fensham Scholarships were awarded at the alumni annual dinner in November.

The recipients are PhD students B.M. Bandaranayake, Graeme Hawthorne, Anita Lustig, Jamsheeda Khan and Marjorie Horne and Masters student Norene Hill.

The Federal Minister for Science, Customs and Small Business, Barry Jones, was guest speaker at the annual dinner. Mr Jones, a former teacher, spoke on ways science and the teaching of science must improve and grow in the future.

The next function for the Education Alumni is the annual general meeting on 22 February in the Gallery Theatre, cost \$6 for members, \$7.50 for non-members.

Membership subscription for the alumni is \$18 ordinary membership or \$13 country/overseas membership. For further information please contact Joan Szalman on 565 2787 or write c/- Education Faculty, Monash University, Clayton.

Joan Szalman
Education



• At an education alumni function (from left): The convener, Dr Paul Gardner; the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan; the Victorian Minister for Education, Mrs Joan Kirner; Mrs Lesley Greagg; and the Dean, Professor David Aspin.

GEOGRAPHY

THE Geography Alumni started off the year with an address by noted anti-nuclear activist and environmentalist, Dr Helen Caldicott.

Dr Caldicott spoke at a lunchtime meeting of students and staff and later addressed alumni members at an evening meeting held in the Gallery Building.

At the lectures, Dr Caldicott expressed real concern for the future of the earth and stressed how immediate action was needed to save the planet.

Another highlight of the year was the careers night held in August. More than 90 geography students packed the theatre in the Gallery Building to hear from past geography students, who spoke on their careers and advised current students about obtaining jobs as geographers. The function was so successful the alumni hopes to make it an annual event.

The Geography Alumni of Monash University concluded its 1989 activities on

a high note when members gathered in the Banquet Room for the annual dinner.

The new chairman of the Geography Department, Professor Gordon Clark, who has returned to Monash after 15 years in the United States, addressed members and commented on the differences in attitudes of Australians and Americans to modern social issues.

He also praised the real world relevance of geography as taught at Monash and ranked Monash geography most favourably against the type commonly taught in prominent universities in the US.

Members of the Geography Alumni is open to past students of the Monash Geography Department. For information please contact Paddy Rapson, Geography and Environmental Science Department, Monash University, Clayton 3168 or phone 565 2946.

Paddy Rapson
Geography



• Geography alumni (from left): Christine Kenyon, Murray Gould, Paddy Rapson and Ann Scott.

LAW

HIGHLIGHT of the year was the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the David Derham School of Law.

More than 550 graduates, staff members and friends gathered at the Savoy Ballroom of the Hyatt on Collins at the end of May.

President of the Monash University Law Alumni, Campbell McComas, acted as MC and played the part of a 1960s law student, Willy Waller-Baxter. Guest speaker was the Victorian Premier, John Cain.

Other events this year were the Annual General Meeting conducted over drinks at the Redback Brewery, Flemington Road on 31 August. Some members also attended the 1989 Wilfred Fullagar Memorial Lecture, delivered by former Australian Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam.

The MULA entertained final year students to drinks at the Monash University Staff Club on 11 October. The MULA undergraduate awards were presented to the 1989 Law Review editors, Jonathan Clough and Jennifer Douglas.

If you want to be part of the action in 1990 and are not already a member of MULA, phone Helen Milovanovic at the Law School on 565 3373.

MEDICINE

THE Association of Monash Medical Graduates has continued its involvement with the faculty, with the graduates and with the undergraduates.

We have representation on the Faculty Board and are playing an active role on the Curriculum Review Committee. We have recently conducted a survey of all our graduates and HEARU have helped collate the material. A summary will be published in the next Newsletter.

We are having discussions with the Dean, Professor Robert Porter, to ascertain how a postgraduate centre could be incorporated in the proposed new faculty building on campus.

The Annual General Meeting and dinner was held at the Dorchester again in 1989 - sadly the last time at this venue as the Melbourne City Council in its wisdom has withdrawn the lease. It was a gala occasion with the "unveiling" of the association's Portraits of Professors Rod Andrew and Graeme Schofield and the presentation of their pastel studies, following which Professor Schofield gave the after dinner address. The association was also delighted to confer Honorary Life Membership on Graeme Schofield. We again thank him for all his support and encouragement and wish him well in his retirement.

Please note in your diaries that next year's AGM/Dinner will be held at the Tudor Court on Friday, 18 May. Associate Professor Eric Glasgow will be our guest speaker.

Rosemary Wright has continued the tradition of excellence in the production of our quarterly Newsletter. The association continues to send one complimentary issue per year to all non-member graduates and now to all clinical undergraduates.

We have continued with offering assistance in organizing 10, 15 and 20 year reunions. These functions are generally very well attended and voted a huge success.

This year we have given a scholarship for a PNG medical student to come to Monash for his elective and we are hoping he will write an article for our newsletter to hear his views and reactions.

We will be presenting the final year prize at the final year dinner held at Leonada. Last year's winner was Dr Susan Wigg. We continue to provide interest-free loans to clinical students who find they are facing financial difficulties.

We hope to see many members, associate members and potential members at the next AGM/Dinner on 18 May.

For further information phone Valda Twaddle on (03) 895 3456.

J.R. Elderton
President

Report on the Troup abroad

NEWS from abroad has reached the *Monash Reporter*.

The son of Dr Gordon Troup, a reader of the Physics Department at Monash University, has been recently appointed consultant geratologist to the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury, St Edmunds.

Dr Michael Troup has been living overseas for about six years with his wife and their 11 month old baby daughter.

MANNIX COLLEGE

THE Mannix Old Collegians Association steering committee has been kept busy this year drafting a constitution with a view to formalising the association in 1989.

Other activities have included organising the annual ball and monitoring past residents' address changes.

The association takes this opportunity to

thank Rob Gell, our guest speaker at this year's dinner, as well as those who attended. Also make a note in your diary that the dinner is held each year on the eve of the VFL (AFL) Grand Final.

If you know of any past residents who would be interested in receiving the association's newsletter or becoming a financial member (\$20 a year), contact Mannix College to obtain details.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

MATENGA

THE Materials Engineering Alumni Association (MATENGA) is now entering its fourth year!

Peter Aird, as our Founding President, has done a marvellous job in setting up the basic infrastructure of our association. He has returned to the ranks of our committee, having completed the maximum number of terms as president that is possible under our constitution, and Yvonne Fayman has taken over his position.

The new year also saw a change in much of the committee. A note of appreciation is extended to the retiring members who have done much to make the association viable.

The mid-year dinner still remains the major activity of MATENGA. On these occasions it is quite surprising who "comes out of the woodwork".

The top item on the agenda of the new committee concerns the production of an Alumni Register. This is intended to be a quite unique resource for the professional activities of our membership.

There have been many changes in Materials Engineering and these will be detailed in the departmental report which we intend to send to you in early 1990.

Please forward any address up-dates to Chris Berndt as soon as possible so that you do not miss out. Feel free to forward any comments or suggestions to Yvonne or Chris (C/- Dept. Materials Engineering) at any time — we are always looking for feedback!

Dr Chris Berndt
Materials Engineering

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

THE Mechanical Engineering Alumni Association was formed in 1984 to maintain contact between graduates.

Jacek Stecki took the helm at the start of 1988 and has brought about some major changes to the style and effectiveness of the association, promoting exchange between students and graduates.

This year two Alumni meetings were held overseas with Jacek meeting graduates in Singapore and Dr J. Mathew attending meeting in both Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Later in the year members from Singapore and Malaysia returned the visit and were given a tour of the department.

The association has adopted a "business lunch" format where graduates from different years are brought together in an informal gathering with members of the department.

Three business lunches were held this year with about 60 members turning up to each function.

The association is already planning its activities for next year and hopes to hold an annual dinner, more informal lunches and put out a newsletter.

Anyone interested in joining the Mechanical Engineering Alumni Association should phone Jacek Stecki on 565 3523.



• A modern miracle of mechanical engineering — 40 people drinking at an alumni function, and only four bottles of beer.

PHYSICS

THERE was an encouraging response to Professor Fred Smith's letter to physics graduates about the formation of an alumni group.

A large number of people indicated they would be willing to make it happen. They will be called upon soon to help draw up a program for 1990.

Many offered to meet current students

and talk about career paths for physics graduates.

Of the graduates who responded to the letter, 77 per cent were still directly involved in science. Other areas included management, consultancy, marketing and the law. Teachers and schools accounted for 10 per cent, with 26 per cent of those employed in the tertiary education sector.

SOCIAL WORK

THE Monash Social Work Network was launched this year with a recent dinner held at Monash University.

About 130 graduates, students and staff attended the evening with Lesley Hewitt from Protective Services as the guest speaker.

The network aims to develop and maintain supportive links between the members and continue the ties with the department of Social Work at Monash.

The functions will combine a social and educative focus and it is hoped to continue

to draw on the expertise of graduates to speak on developments in the field.

A directory of members with their place of work and special professional interests is available to all members. It shows the wide range of positions held by Monash social workers. Any social work graduate wishing to be included should contact the External Relation & Alumni Affairs director, Jennifer Beck on 565 5007.

For further information about the Monash Social Work Network phone Jinny McGrath on 523 8399 (w) or 551 6805 (h) or Jo O'Neill on 509 0604 (h).

SMEEA

THE Society of Monash Electrical Engineering Alumni (SMEEA) has now been going for three years and boasts more than 300 members.

It has been a busy year for the Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering, one of the highlights being the SMEEA's second dinner on June 2. A directory of members listing more than 300 names has also been produced and costs only \$10 (cheques to be made out to SMEEA).

Although membership continues to grow it is still only a third of the total number of graduates from the department. Anyone who would like to join should phone Dr Kishor Dabke on 565 3507 or Dr David Morgan on 565 3483 or leave a message 565 3486.

GRADUATE SEMINARS

The SMEEA organised two talks this year to undergraduates who may be feeling lost or are unable to see where the course is leading. Guest speakers were Geoff Ramadan (1982) of Unique Micro Design Pty Ltd and Marianne Lourie (nee Sharpley, 1984) of Asea Brown Boveri. These were well attended and the students would like more talks to occur in the

future. Would you like to tell them how you fitted in after graduation? If so get in touch with us.

RESEARCH AND GRANTS

The department is forging ahead with research in diverse areas. Professor Ray Jarvis and BHP Melbourne Research Laboratory have received a GIRD (Grants for Industry Research and Developments). The \$1 million grant will be used to develop generic technology for real time 3D vision for robotic and inspection systems.

Other research and teaching activities in the department include new courses in communication and research in video coding.

OTHER NEWS

Monash University will amalgamate with Chisholm on July 1, 1990. What kind of electrical engineering degrees will develop on the two campuses is an open question. Similarly what happens to the status of past graduates of the two institutions when they are amalgamated is something you may wish to comment on.

Dr Kishor Dabke
Electrical and Computer
Systems Engineering

SCIENCE

IF Monash science graduates have anything in common other than their degrees, it is that they show extraordinary diversity in their careers.

At the 1978-1979 Science Faculty reunion dinner held in August, there were entrepreneurs, computer consultants, those with a career in the Defence Department, nurses, hospital consultants and solicitors.

The message of the evening was reflected both in the careers of the graduates and the speech made by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan; that graduates have an enormous choice of careers and make an important impact on Australian society.

A directory listing the 1978 and 1979 graduates was distributed at the reunion and is being distributed to those who were unable to attend the dinner.

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

These days **Robyn Charlwood** is very much in the public eye. As newly appointed head of the nutrition program at the Victorian Division of the National Heart Foundation, her overall task is to get across the message which links good nutrition very positively to heart health.

This may take the form of speaking to groups of health professionals, supplying information and resources to the public and overseeing health promotion programs. Robyn was heavily involved in producing the "Heart Health" menus at the Victorian Arts Centre and has appeared on Channel 9's "A Current Affair" program talking about the myths associated with heart disease.



• National Heart Foundation nutritionist, Robyn Charlwood.

According to Robyn the general level and awareness about the role of good nutrition in health is encouraging.

"People really feel they can do something about nutrition, probably because they are close to it at least three times a day," she said.

Combined with the knowledge of other factors related to heart health of weight, cholesterol, blood pressure, smoking and exercise, Robyn believes it means that "we can take control of our lives in a very tangible way".

With a background not only in clinical nutrition but also as an art researcher and director's assistant at Sotheby's, Robyn believes that a science degree is "a great background to any career, giving invaluable training in thinking clearly and logically".

Entrepreneur, **Harry Ramdan** put the Monash network to good use when he set up his company, Unique Micro Design, six years ago.

After graduating in 1978, Harry worked in the research department of ICI as an information scientist. According to Ramdan he had also regarded this time as a "stepping stone" to forming his own company.

With brother Geoff (a Monash Electrical Engineering graduate), Peter Worth (formerly with the Monash Computer Centre) and Matthew Raftopoulos, an accountant who holds a Monash degree in economics, Ramdan formed Unique Micro Design (UMD).

Ramdan said the enterprise fulfils a long term aim to "have a powerhouse of graduates doing high level work".

UMD conducts research and developments in electronics and manufactures micro processor-based devices such as magnetic cardreaders, bar code readers and point of sale displays.

The company's links with Monash extend well beyond those making up its working team. The Mechanical Engineering Department and Montech are two of the company's clients for whom the UMD team have been working for some time on the development of a vibration analysis and other systems.

Survey results

IN the last year's Graduates' Special edition of *Monash Reporter*, we sought feedback from graduates on their sense of attachment to the university and what value they placed on their time here. The responses have been illuminating and have helped us to know in what ways we might maintain contact.

The overwhelming number of respondents would choose Monash again if they were to apply to enrol at a university again — 88 per cent as against 12 per cent.

One of the classic reasons given for choosing Monash again was; "Because I liked it". Others included, "Monash was (and is) about excellence" and "It is the most forward-looking university". There were some obviously biased answers however; "Monash is the best university in existence!" The "delightful grounds" and "beautiful campus" also featured, which will hearten those who have been responsible for landscaping the campus over the years.

Graduates were also asked to state on a scale of one to five how valuable their time was at Monash. Only one person gave it a "five" — a complete waste of time. The other results were; 51 per cent of respondents thought their time there was very valuable (one); 31 per cent gave it a "two", 16 per cent gave it "three" and two per cent gave it a "four".

How did they rate the quality of the formal/professional education received here? Excellent (1) 29 per cent; (2) 49 per cent; Average (3) 18 per cent; (4) three per cent and Poor (5) one per cent.

And how valuable was it in terms of personal development? Very valuable (1) 45 per cent; (2) 23 per cent; Moderate (3) 25 per cent; (4) six per cent; Detrimental (5) one per cent.

Responses to the question "What did you value most about your time at Monash?", can nearly all be summed up in one answer: "It expanded my horizons". This was the outcome of opportunities provided through lectures and tutorials, clubs and societies, sports and recreation, living in halls and through developing an independent mind and spirit and meeting lots of different people.

And what did people value least? Exams, lack of funds, lack of time, the wind and the mud in those early years. Those who found distance to Clayton a problem will be pleased to know that Monash now sits at the demographic centre of Melbourne. How things change!

Just to show that you can't please all the people all the time, student politics featured as both the most valued and least valued aspect of life at Monash. Many people cited it as the least valued aspect and one only as the most valued.

And how strong is the graduates' sense of identity with Monash? Strong (1) 29 per cent, (2) 25 per cent; Moderate (3) 34 per cent, (4) 10 per cent and Non-existent (5) two per cent.

Confederation

THOSE involved in running alumni groups around the campus are now considering the establishment of a confederation of alumni groups.

The organisation would have the advantage of providing a loose structure that would accommodate the comparatively diverse alumni groups.

It would also provide a channel of communication and a means of mobilising opinion and support.

The survey also found that 56 per cent of respondents felt sufficiently well informed about Monash, whereas only 33 per cent felt well informed about their own faculty. Hardly surprising, therefore, that 21 per cent did "not know" or would not recommend Monash to a prospective student. But 77 per cent would.

Clearly, communicating with our graduates about issues and developments has to be a top priority. In fact, 77 per cent of respondents sought some form of regular communication from the university.

Graduates also experienced interest in other activities:

- ★ 64 per cent indicated that they would appreciate access to library facilities
- ★ 54 per cent indicated their interest in professional development courses
- ★ 41 per cent responded positively to the question of travel opportunities
- ★ 36 per cent indicated their interest in sporting facilities
- ★ 36 per cent wanted hotel discounts
- ★ 25 per cent indicated an interest in Monash memorabilia
- ★ 25 per cent favored social activities
- ★ 22 per cent would be interested in current affairs seminars.

The information gained from graduates' responses to this survey has been enormously helpful in determining program priorities. It has also provided important information for those involved in other areas of the university including the library and continuing professional education.

Thanks to those around the world who offered their service to help in furthering the alumni program. The great deal of interest shown in alumni activities should lead to increased contact between the university and its graduates and amongst the graduates themselves.

The time and trouble of all those who responded is greatly appreciated as are subsequent letters and phone calls from interested graduates.

For further information about the survey contact the director of External Relations & Alumni Affairs, Jennifer Beck on 565 5007.

Jennifer Beck

External Relations and Alumni Affairs

Discount card

A Monash Alumni ID card will entitle you to a number of benefits:

- Eligibility to apply for Special Membership of Monash University Club at only \$30 a year.
- Savings on Thomas Cook Travel Products through Monash Alumni Thomas Cook Travel Club — discounts on holidays within Australia, international airfares, cruises, insurances and commission free travellers' cheques.
- Bonuscard rates at Southern Pacific Hotels, The Parkroyal Collection, Travelodge. Bonuscard rates can save you 10%, 20% and even 40% a night on your hotel accommodation.
- Special rate for Monash Alumni at the Hyatt on Collins, Melbourne.
- Monash Alumni rates at hotels of The Victoria Holdings Limited: The Sheraton Hotel, Melbourne, The Victoria Hotel, Melbourne, The Grosvenor Hotel, Adelaide.

To enjoy these rates — and others as they become available — apply for a Monash Alumni ID card by sending a fee of \$10, together with your name, address, degree and year of graduation to the Department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, Monash University, Clayton 3168.

Graduates' guide to alumni groups

- Chemical Engineering:** Inquiries: Dr Eric Olbrich, 565 3436
- Chemistry:** Inquiries: Dr Ernie Nunn, 565 4566
- Civil Engineering:** Inquiries: Dr Bill Young, 565 4699
- Classical Studies:** Inquiries: Mrs Norma Gilbert, 565 3013
- Earth Sciences:** Inquiries: Mr Guy Royce, 565 4892
- Economics & Politics:** Inquiries: Assoc. Professor Lachie McGregor, 565 2319
- Education:** Inquiries: Mrs Joan Szalman, 565 2787
- Electrical Engineering:** Inquiries: Dr Kishor Dabke, 565 3507
- English:** Inquiries: Ms Barbara Calton, 565 2156
- Geography:** Inquiries: Ms Paddy Rapson, 565 2911
- Japanese:** Inquiries: Dr Helen Marriott, 608 2272
- Law:** Inquiries: Ms Helen Milovanovic, 565 3373
- Librarianship:** Inquiries: Mari Davis, 608 6888
- Mannix College:** Inquiries: Dr G.L. McMullen, 565 3583
- Materials Engineering:** Inquiries: Dr Peter Aird, Dr Chris Berndt, 565 4919
- Mechanical Engineering:** Inquiries: Mr Jack Stecki, 565 3523
- Medicine:** Inquiries: 565 4318
- Monash Graduates' Association:** Inquiries: Ms Anne Langdon, 650 3248
- Music:** Inquiries: Mrs Yvonne Hansen, 565 3230
- Physics:** Inquiries: Professor Fred Smith, 565 3630
- Social Work:** Inquiries: Ms Jinny McGrath, 523 8399

Overseas and Interstate

- Western Australia:** Inquiries: Monash Alumni Western Australia, c/- Mr Ken Fehily, PO Box 7312, Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6000. Tel. (09) 481 3550 (bh), (09) 275 7500 (ah)
- Queensland:** Inquiries: Monash Alumni Queensland, c/- Mr Christopher Joy, Box 80, Red Hill, Queensland 4059. Tel. (07) 369 6499 (bh)

Malaysia: Inquiries: Monash Alumni Malaysia, c/- Ms Yong Siew Lan, ANZGAM Secretariat, Lot 3, Lorong Utara B, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia. Tel. (03) 756 2389

Hong Kong: Inquiries: Monash Alumni Hong Kong, c/- Dr Albert Leung, Department of Biochemistry, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin NT Hong Kong. Tel. 0-635 2333, 0-635 2876

Singapore: Inquiries: Australian Alumni Singapore, c/- Mr Lee Siew Khaun, 10 Anson Road #16-16, International Plaza, Singapore 0207. Tel. 225 6737

General: Inquiries: Department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, Monash University, Clayton, Vic. 3168. Tel. 565 2044

The colors

NYMPH's thigh is one prescribed color in the Dictionary of Color Standards that Monash University has not selected for its academic dress.

However, rose beige, peacock blue and banana silk are among the colors adopted by different faculties to adorn the academic gowns at graduation ceremonies.

Director of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, Jennifer Beck, recently presented a history of the development of academic dress from the 1200s to Halls' residents. Tutors acted as models for the occasion.

According to Ms Beck it was not until the 1500s when colors in academic dress became significant.

"It was by this time that faculties felt a need to assert themselves as a unit and to make their common aims known to the university as a whole," she said. "It also secured them against unqualified perpetrators."

The Monash University faculty colors are: Arts — old rose, Economics — peacock blue, Education — banana silk, Engineering — rose beige, Law — white, Medicine — victrix blue and Science — primrose silk.

Updating our records

This year's final issue of *Monash Reporter* is being sent to more than 39,000 graduates. As in previous years, we are asking your help to keep our massive address list up-to-date.

From last year's mailing of the

TO: Mr John Kearton,
Department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs,
Monash University, Clayton, 3168

Surname at time of graduation:.....

Given names:.....

New surname if applicable:.....

New title if applicable:.....

Last address notified:.....

..... Postcode:.....

New address:.....

..... Postcode:.....

Degree and year graduated:.....

Student I.D. number, if known:.....

Re-creating the art of the copy

RE-CREATION/RE-CREATION — The Art of Copying, 19th and 20th centuries, is the University Gallery's final exhibition for the year.

The curator of the exhibition, Merryn Gates, concentrated on three different types of copying practice: the student copy, the mature copy and the contemporary copy.

The exhibition includes rarely-seen works from the Collections of the National Gallery of Victoria and regional galleries as well as plaster casts of antique sculptures and contemporary artists from Melbourne and Sydney.

For many centuries the practice of copying the works of master painters by students and apprentices was an accepted, even preferred, way of teaching the technical skills of the artist.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, the practice of the art of copying fell into disrepute in preference for the notion of originality. Most art schools have now discontinued the practice of copying and emphasise instead the value of individual expression. Student copyists may still be seen occasionally at the National Gallery

of Victoria copying the works of the European Old Masters.

Rank Xerox Copy Centre sponsored the publication of the substantial catalogue which is still available at the Gallery (price \$7). The exhibition will close on 2 December.

The Friends of the Monash University Gallery will host a champagne Christmas Party on Tuesday 28 November in the Gallery. Music will be provided by the Early Music Society Ensemble. The Friends will present two drawings to the University Collection which have been acquired with funds generously provided by its members.

From 6 to 20 December, an exhibition of recent acquisitions, loans and gifts to the Collection will be on display in the Drysdale Gallery. Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 5 pm.

The Gallery will be closed from 20 December and will re-open on 28 February 1990 with a retrospective exhibition of paintings and drawings by the distinguished Melbourne artist/engineer, the late Edwin Tanner.

Jenepher Duncan
Monash University Gallery



• A plaster cast from the past: Venus de Milo at the Monash University Gallery.

The McGowans take life by degrees

GRADUATING from university is a milestone in anyone's life, but for Marie McGowan, the word graduation has a special significance.

While not a university graduate herself, she could lay claim to being part of degrees ranging from medicine to law.

Mrs McGowan is the mother of 12 offspring who will soon have 17 degrees between them.

What makes this feat especially admirable is the fact that the McGowan clan has had to overcome the tyranny of distance which comes from living in rural Australia.

Spanning an age range of 18 years from oldest to youngest, the McGowan family grew up on a farm in the Indigo Valley, near Wodonga in northeast Victoria.

According to daughter Cathy McGowan, who has an arts degree from Monash and was recently awarded a Churchill Fellowship, rural women are often the unsung heroes when it comes to their children's academic achievements.

"Often rural women do this kind of full-time parenting, and then get this amazing result at the end of it," she said.

"If you live in Melbourne, education is really easy, and you don't have to travel away, because all the schools are there, but it's much harder in the country."

Ms McGowan said in the case of her family, there was another very gratifying aspect of her parents.

"The end result of all these children reaching their potential is that many of us have come back and are working in the country," she said.

Cathy McGowan has a professional interest in seeing educational opportunities developed for rural women.

"My fellowship involves going to Canada to see how the Canadian government consults with rural communities, particularly rural women, when it sets up services for them," she said.

"We've got pretty good systems for men getting things through their networks, but it is much more difficult to get services which are appropriate for women."

Ms McGowan is working at present as a rural affairs adviser for the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department.

The 17 degrees the McGowan children will have by the time next year's graduation ceremonies are held cover the fields of

arts, science, medicine and surgery, economics, social work, engineering, education, parenting, law and agricultural science.

Five McGowans — Cathy, Helen, Peter, Rebecca and Miriam — each have at least one Monash degree.

Their father, Paul McGowan, has an agricultural science degree, and worked as an agricultural scientist before returning to

farming.

Mrs McGowan has been to every graduation, and now the children are off her hands has taken up breeding her own horses and racing them — activities at which she has been very successful.

Mr and Mrs McGowan celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in August, and are justifiably proud of all they and their children have achieved.

Program for RBH

The following activities are scheduled for Robert Blackwood Hall in December:

2: **PRE-CHRISTMAS SOUND SPECTACULAR** — Features the University of Melbourne Institute of Education Wind Symphony and special guest artists. 8pm. Adults \$9, Conc. \$7. Group concession also available. Ticket inquiries: 878 5893 or A.H. 729 1305.

3: **THE VICTORIAN BOYS' CHOIR** — Director of Music: Paul Forster. The annual Family Christmas Concert program will include items by all groups within the choir. A special feature this year will be a performance of some choruses from Handel's "Messiah" for which the performers will be joined by tenors and basses comprising the Victorian Chorus and a small orchestra under the leadership of Margaret Griffiths. Adults \$10, Conc. \$5, Family (two adults and their children under 16 years) \$25. 5.30pm. Ticket inquiries: 233 1642 or 233 1142.

6: **THE AUSTRALIAN GIRLS' CHOIR ANNUAL COMBINED CHOIRS CONCERT** — Christmas music from around the world as well as selections from the 1989 Canadian Tour repertoire. Features the Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra together with the 380-voice Australian Girls' Choir. 7.30pm. Ticket inquiries: 419 4800.

8: **CHIME CHRISTMAS CONCERT** — Boys and girls choirs as well as ensembles combining in a concert of

music for the festive season. Adults \$12, Conc. \$6. 8pm. Ticket inquiries: write to 11 Kipling Court, East Burwood 3125, or phone 848 1068 A.H.

9: **VICTORIAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR** — The Keith Glover Christmas Celebrity Concert features the Junior Strings of Melbourne. Conducted by Spiros Rantos. 8pm. Adults \$14.50, Conc. \$10.50. Ticket inquiries: 890 4575.

10: **MELBOURNE YOUTH MUSIC COUNCIL** — All ensembles of the Saturday Music School — Melbourne Youth Orchestra, Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra, Melbourne Youth Symphonic Band, John Antill Youth Band, Junior Training Band, Margaret Sutherland Strings, Junior Strings, Melbourne Youth Choir and SILHOUETTE: Melbourne String Choir. 3 and 7pm. Adults \$8, Conc. \$5. Tickets available at the door. Inquiries: 690 8624.

16: **NATIONAL BOYS' CHOIR CONCERT** — Christmas carols old and new, including "The Song Cycle — Dancing Day" by John Rutter. Carols by Malcolm Williamson, William Walton, Vaughan Williams and Ord. Arrangements of traditional carols by Llewellyn, Carter and Ray Charles. 8pm. Ticket inquiries: 439 9146 or 431 1741 A.H.

17: **SCHERZO MUSIC ACADEMY ANNUAL CONCERT AND AWARD PRESENTATION** — The Melbourne Academy Boys' Choir, directed by Andrew Blackburn. 2pm. Ticket inquiries: 560 1513.



• The McGowans: Back row, left to right — Cathy, Rebecca, Miriam, Peter, John, Paul, Rick, Veronica. Front row, left to right — Patricia, Frances, Paul (father), Marie (mother), Elizabeth, Helen.