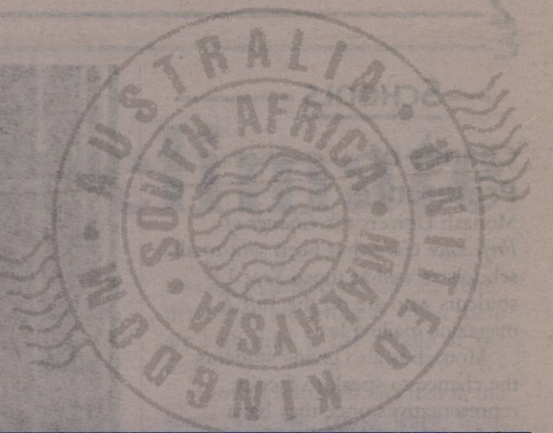


MONASH NEWS



NEWS FROM THE CAMPUSES OF MONASH UNIVERSITY
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MONASH
UNIVERSITY

Smoking link to kidney disease

MEDICINE

A Monash University study has found that smoking can cause kidney damage in people who are otherwise considered healthy and not at risk of kidney disease.

The study, by researchers in Monash's Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine and the Monash Medical Centre, assessed kidney damage in 4500 Australian adults who did not have high blood pressure or diabetes – two of the most common causes of kidney failure.

The researchers found that among people with normal blood sugar levels and blood pressure, smoking made men, but not women, three times more likely to show reduced kidney function.

The study also showed that both male and female smokers with blood sugar and blood pressure levels at the high end of normal were more likely to have high protein levels in their urine, a sign of kidney damage.

Dr Esther Briganti, a senior lecturer in the department, said the study did not examine why male smokers were more likely to have reduced kidney function than female smokers.

She said it also showed that the more a person smoked, the higher their degree of kidney damage.

"Until now there was information indicating that smoking was bad if you already had kidney disease," she said.

"But this is the first study to show that if you are healthy, you are at risk of having indicators of kidney

damage that may progress to kidney failure if you smoke."

Kidney damage was gauged by measuring glomerular filtration rate and proteinuria (leakage of protein into the urine).

"If you're leaking protein from your kidneys, it's a sign that there's kidney damage and an indicator of future kidney failure," Dr Briganti said.

"One of the problems with kidney disease is that you have to lose a lot of kidney function before you start feeling sick. Once the disease has progressed that far, the risk of kidney failure is markedly increased, and treatment with dialysis or a kidney transplant may become necessary.

"It's important that the general public is warned that smoking is associated with kidney damage, in addition to its other known health consequences."

Dr Briganti said that smoking might cause kidney damage by increasing blood pressure within the kidney by boosting the release of the hormones noradrenalin and vasopressin. It might also cause damage by impairing the regulation of blood flow through the kidney's blood vessels and interfering with endothelial function.

The study has been published in the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*.

– Penny Fannin

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Career highlight: Aspiring gastroenterologist Ms Geraldine Buckingham gets back to work after being named the Victorian Rhodes Scholar.

Photo: Peter Anikijenko

Medical student named Rhodes scholar

AWARD

Since Monash University medical student Ms Geraldine Buckingham heard the news, she has been unable to stop smiling.

The 24-year-old has been celebrating the highlight of her short career – last month she was named the 2003 Victorian Rhodes Scholar.

"It's a tremendous opportunity to broaden my horizons," she said.

At Oxford, Ms Buckingham will study for her masters of philosophy in comparative social policy with the option of staying on another year to undertake a PhD.

The aspiring gastroenterologist said she not only wanted to provide one-on-one patient care, she also wanted to tackle the various challenges of the health system itself.

"I'd like to do something that will go some way towards making the world a better place," she said.

"I want to establish health systems that can give people greater access to health care. To do this, we need to look at economic policies and the social impact behind public policies to ensure high-quality systems are available to people at a reasonable cost."

Ms Buckingham is hoping to defer the scholarship to 2004 to enable her to complete her internship next year.

"It's an awesome responsibility to be considered worthy of being in that group of people. It's unbelievable and quite daunting."

The Rhodes scholarship was established after the death of British colonialist Cecil Rhodes in 1902. Monash student Mr Nathan Grills was named as last year's Rhodes Scholar.

Past scholars include former Prime Minister Mr Bob Hawke and former leader of the Australian Labor Party Mr Kim Beazley.

– Ruth Ward

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Futuristic car designs and large-scale sculptures are among the Monash student work on show this month at the Caulfield and Gippsland campuses.

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OPINION

Holding the babies

Fathers are taking a much more active role in child-rearing, but the househusband is still rare enough to make equity in the home a remote prospect.

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SCHOOLS

Change of Preference

Monash University's *Change of Preference Guide* has been sent to all schools as well as those Year 12 students who are on the *VoiCE* magazine mailing list.

Monash is also giving students the chance to speak to faculty representatives once they have received their ENTERs. The Change of Preference Sessions will be held as follows:

Gippsland region – Tuesday
17 December, 3 pm to 6 pm,
Faculty of Business and Economics,
conference room, building 5N,
Gippsland campus.

Metropolitan region – Wednesday
18 December, 10 am to 2 pm, South
one lecture theatre, building 64,
Clayton campus.

The Change of Preference period for current Victorian VCE students runs from 7 am on 16 December to 5 pm on 22 December.

Monash University will be closing for the holiday period on Friday 20 December. Prospective students should direct any last-minute application and admissions inquiries to university staff before noon on that date. The university reopens on 2 January 2003.

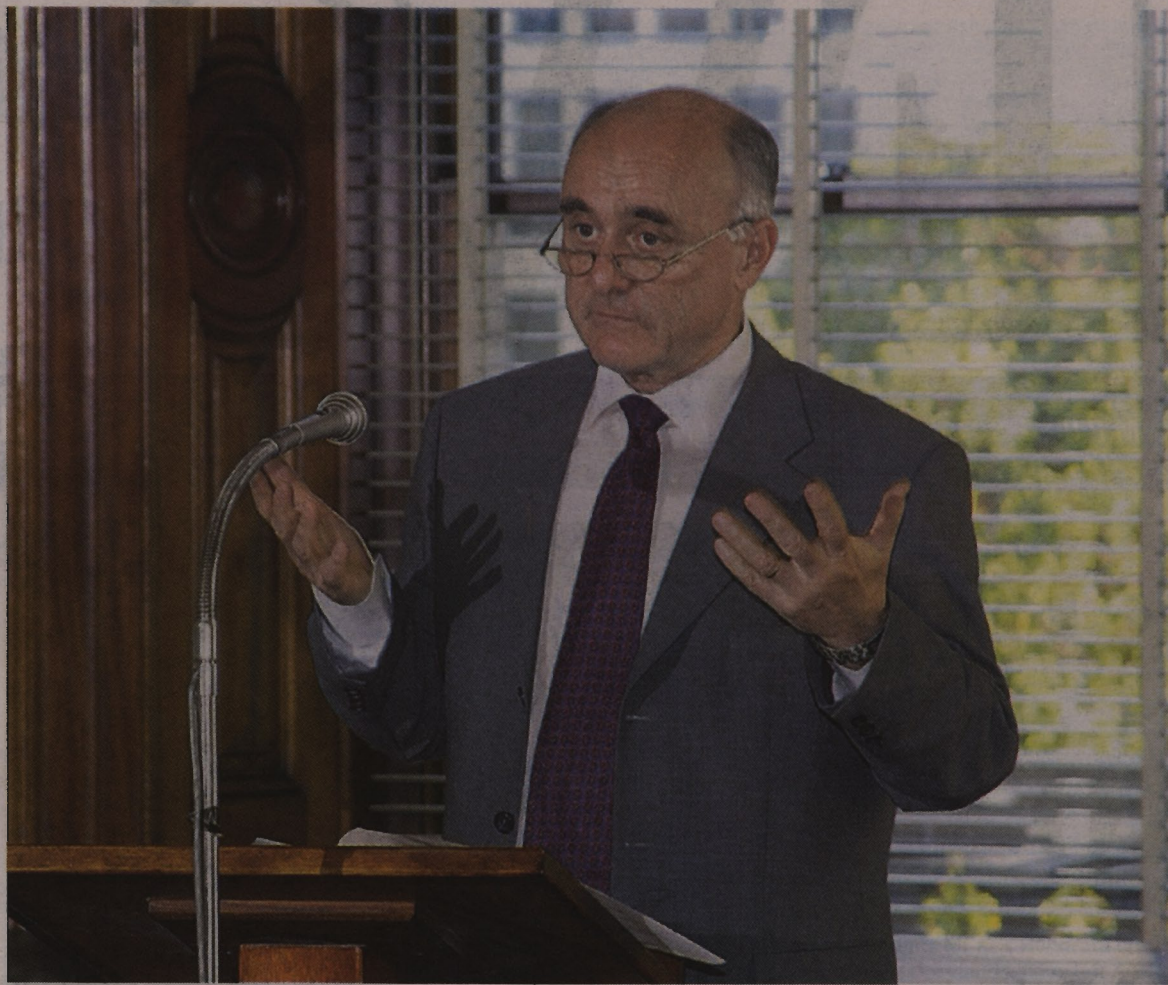
Orientation week

The official commencement date for first-year students is the beginning of Orientation week, 24 February 2003.

This is in accordance with the transition policy approved by Monash University's Academic Board.

The aim is to provide first-year students with the chance to benefit from the range of academic orientation programs on offer and to encourage them to engage in social interaction with staff and other new students. For more information, go to the Monash Transition Program website at www.adm.monash.edu.au/transition/.

International students are encouraged to enrol during the last week of February 2003. For more information on Monash International enrolments, contact Ms Tamra Keating on ph +61 3 9905 8540 or email tamra.keating@monint.monash.edu.au.



Consumers' hero: Professor Allan Fels believes hardcore collusion by big business is a form of theft.

Photo: Peter Anikijenko

Jail colluders, says Fels

BUSINESS ETHICS

Criminal sanctions should be imposed to help stamp out "hardcore collusion" by big business, Professor Allan Fels said at the Monash Governance Research Unit seminar held at Parliament House last month.

Professor Fels, the chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and an honorary professor in Monash's Faculty of Business and Economics, said hardcore collusion, including secret price-fixing agreements, bid rigging and market sharing, was extremely harmful to both business customers and consumers.

Gains by colluders were large and difficult to detect, he said, and

incentives for collusion were high in some areas of the economy. The current penalty system, based on the imposition of fines, was not a sufficient deterrent to prevent hard-core collusion by big business.

"We believe that hardcore collusion is ethically objectionable, a form of theft and little different from classes of corporate crime that already attract criminal sentences," Professor Fels said. "We should join the United States, Canada, Japan, Korea, Britain and other parts of the world in having criminal sanctions for collusion."

Professor Fels said it was likely the ACCC would seek to introduce criminal sanctions for collusion as the result of a review of the competition provisions of the Trade Practices Act

currently being undertaken by the commission.

He acknowledged the work of the Monash Governance Research Unit in making an important and reasoned contribution to the life of the nation.

The Monash Governance Research Unit seminars are monthly presentations by high-profile leaders in governance from the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. The seminars aim to stimulate debate on the relationships between the major spheres of governance that affect every society and economy.

— Fiona Perry

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IN BRIEF

Scholarship in student's memory

A scholarship celebrating the life of Monash graduate Andrea Joy Logan, who died in 1989, will help support a student researching hypoglycaemia.

The ongoing scholarship of \$20,000 per year will help with the living expenses of a PhD student in the medical faculty's Nutrition and Dietetics Unit.

Ms Logan (née Wilson) gained a Bachelor of Science degree at Monash in the 1980s. In her first year, she was named as one of the top 20 students in the course. She later became a teacher of mathematics and Indonesian at Wesley College.

In 1990, her parents, Yvonne and Geoff Wilson, set up the A. J. Logan Trust Fund to raise \$200,000 to support a PhD student doing research into hypoglycemia not related to diabetes.

Obesity studies rewarded

A Monash postdoctoral student researching the genetic factors that cause obesity has been awarded one of five industry fellowships by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Dr Amanda Edgley from the Department of Physiology was the only Victorian researcher to receive a fellowship.

The fellowships, intended for researchers who wish to spend two years working in industry and two years in a research institution, aim to foster closer interactions between Australian researchers and industry.

World issues and young people

More than 30 Australian academics gathered at the Gippsland campus recently to explore how world events affect young people.

Associate Professor Lindsay Fitzclarence from the Education faculty at Gippsland said the conference was an attempt to discuss the role education played in helping young people deal with events such as September 11.

He said people were identifying with events that happened 10,000 miles away as if they had happened on their doorstep. "What struck me about September 11 was that immediately after, there was no other conversation – it consumed everybody and people were unable to go about their normal lives," he said.

Dr Fitzclarence said education and teaching were vital tools in helping young people make sense of such an event.

Law studies in Italy

Monash law students have the opportunity to study at Bologna University in Italy next year.

International business law is a new, commercially focused course being offered by the Law schools of Bologna, Monash and York (Osgoode Hall) universities.

Although it is a stand-alone program, students may combine the course with study at Monash University's Prato Centre in Italy.

The Age are proud supporters
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Email: enquire@bviewcc.com.au



Graduation day: Ms Wan Shuk Yin Ava, with daughter Sharon and son Matthew, graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing degree. She is now working at the Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital.

Celebrations in Hong Kong

GRADUATIONS

The sounds of celebration were heard in Hong Kong late last month when 368 Monash students received their graduation certificates.

Staff and students in the Monash Music International Tour Ensemble performed before each ceremony.

The graduates had either studied at Monash in Australia or at a partner institution in Hong Kong. The ceremonies take the total number of

Monash graduates from Hong Kong and China to almost 4500.

Although Hong Kong residents have studied at Monash for many years, a growing number of Monash students now come from mainland China. There are 1027 Chinese students currently studying either in Australia or in China through Monash, including 167 studying a pre-university program at Monash College in Guangzhou, Hangzhou, and Qingdao.

New insight into our harsh climate

METEOROLOGY

Indigenous people's understandings of weather patterns are being recorded as part of a cooperative new project between Monash University and the Bureau of Meteorology.

The findings of the project could provide insight into surviving Australia's harsh climate.

The Indigenous Weather Knowledge Project, funded by an ARC Linkage Grant and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, aims to record Indigenous Australians' knowledge of weather phenomena, weather patterns and long-term environmental changes.

Professor Lynette Russell, director of Monash's Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies (CAIS), and Professor Nigel Tapper from the School of Geography and Environmental Sciences recently appointed PhD student Mr Greg Lehman to work on the project.

About 18 months ago, the Bureau of Meteorology approached Monash to develop an Indigenous Weather



Watching the weather: Monash professors Lynette Russell and Nigel Tapper, whose project looks at Indigenous Australians' climate knowledge.

Photo: Jennifer Keck

Knowledge link to the bureau's website.

A small study program was established, and the material gathered during that process, including seasonal weather calendars developed over thousands of years by Indigenous

communities, has been developed into web pages for the Bureau of Meteorology. The site, expected to be launched soon, will be expanded to include Mr Lehman's findings.

Professor Tapper said the project could also have implications for native

land titles as it showed Indigenous Australians' long-term association with, and understanding of, the land.

"This sort of information is critical to resolving some of the issues on land rights. If we don't understand the relationship between the land and Indigenous people, how are we going to resolve these issues?" he said.

Professor Tapper became interested in Indigenous weather knowledge about five years ago while researching atmospheric phenomena on the Tiwi Islands, north of Darwin.

"It seemed the locals knew a lot more about what was going on than we were giving them credit for," he said.

"We were on the Tiwi Islands looking at tropical thunderstorms, and one of the locals said 'we know when we are going to have a big thunderstorm because it coincides with high tide in the middle of the day'.

"After we did an initial analysis and looked at the data through scientists' eyes, we found evidence that there were indeed links between tide and thunderstorm activity because the sea

breezes that help initiate the thunderstorms are stronger when there are high tides in the middle of the day."

Professor Russell said that in the same way we could learn from Indigenous use of medicinal herbs, we could learn from their understanding of weather patterns.

"Any knowledge we have about how people live in the harsh Australian environment can't be underestimated," she said.

The Indigenous Weather Knowledge Project is the first opportunity for CAIS to work with the School of Geography and Environmental Science and has sparked plans for a new program in Indigenous archeology, which will be established in the Arts faculty next year.

- Diane Squires

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Tortoise care: Celebrating the launch of a new online wound care resource are Professor Colin Chapman, left, dean of pharmacy; Mr Paul Loughran, director of the Centre for Continuing Education in the pharmacy faculty, holding a wounded tortoise that is being treated after being bitten by a freshwater crocodile; and Mr Geoff Sussman, director of the Wound Education and Research Group in the pharmacy faculty.

Photo: Melissa Di Ciero

Wound-care management available online

HEALTH

An online resource that gives health care providers the latest information on how to best manage patients with wounds has been launched by Monash University and the Federal Minister for Health, Senator Kay Patterson.

The Online Wound Care Program, the first of its kind in Australia, is freely available to general practitioners, pharmacists, podiatrists, nurses and allied health professionals who want to further develop their knowledge and skills in wound care.

Mr Paul Loughran, director of the Centre for Continuing Education, part of Monash University's Department of Pharmaceutics, said the online wound care program would particularly benefit health

providers in rural, remote and isolated communities.

It would also benefit patients suffering from acute and chronic wounds, veterans and residents in aged care facilities, high-risk groups such as paraplegics, quadriplegics, diabetics and sufferers of multiple sclerosis, dementia and Parkinson's disease, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, he said.

"Health care needs in the area of wound care have undergone massive change in recent years," Mr Loughran said.

"Advances in wound dressings, growth factors and skin substitutes have been driving the development of the online wound care initiative.

"It's important that health care providers right across Australia have access to this latest information so they

can give their patients the best possible treatment.

"Significant savings can be made with the intervention of properly trained health professionals to manage patients with wounds. As well as saving on direct costs, there are benefits such as improvements in the quality of life of patients through relief of wound-associated pain and wounds healing at a faster rate."

Mr Loughran said the Online Wound Care Program offered free access to detailed content and a range of online interactions designed to provide greater support and encourage communication and cooperation among multidisciplinary health practitioners. Current information on the website covers wound healing and repair, phases of wound healing and factors affecting wound healing.

Over the next two years information will be added on wound assessment, wound products, management of acute and chronic wounds, dermatology, diabetic foot, managing pain, reconstructive surgery, management of burns and scar management.

Content for the website has been developed by the Monash Wound Care Consortium, which involves Monash University, the Wound Foundation of Australia, the National Ageing Research Institute, the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University. The Online Wound Management Program can be accessed at www.pharmace.vic.edu.au.

- Penny Fannin

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Ex-students show their support

ALUMNI

A group of Monash alumni has rallied to support the university in the aftermath of the tragic shooting at Clayton campus in October this year.

Head of the Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics in the Faculty of Business and Economics Professor Keith McLaren said a groundswell of support from past honours students was leading the way. He said they wanted to do something to honour those who were injured, traumatised or killed.

A member of the 1971 honours class, Stephen Brown, the David S. Loeb professor of finance at the Leonard N. Stern School of Business, New York University, has helped launch a memorial fund to establish a scholarship. Professor Brown said it had been a difficult year for those living in New York, following the attacks of September 11 last year. He said these feelings had been compounded on hearing of the events at Monash.

"I was sitting at home, feeling quite helpless half-way around the world and my wife challenged me to do something about it," he said.

He contacted friend and former tutor Professor Frank Milne, now a professor of economics at Queen's University in Ontario, Canada, who offered his support to kick-start the project.

Donations to the Memorial Fund are welcome. Cheques should be made payable to Monash University (2002 Econometrics Honours Memorial Scholarship Fund) and can be sent to The Director, University Development and Alumni Office, Building 65, Monash University, Victoria 3800. Donations are tax-deductible.

- Ruth Ward

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It was a year of ups and downs for Monash in 2002 with a new vice-chancellor, a tragic shooting incident and ongoing groundbreaking research. Diane Squires looks back at the year that was.

New centre launched in London

Monash continued to expand its international activities with the launch of the Monash University Centre in London in August. Monash deputy chancellor Dr June Hearn officially opened the centre in a ceremony held at Australia House.

Australian high commissioner to the UK Mr Michael L'Estrange, centre director Professor Merran Evans, Monash deputy vice-chancellor (Academic and Planning) Professor Alan Lindsay, Monash Law dean Professor Stephen Parker and King's College principal Professor Arthur Lucas also attended the ceremony.

Monash showcased its expertise in the sciences, sport and international education during a week-long series of seminars and events marking the opening of the centre.

The centre will develop links with government, educational and cultural institutions and industry in the UK and Europe.

Council's goal is sporting excellence

Plans to establish Monash University as a premier sporting organisation were announced this year as part of a drive to elevate the university's involvement in all things sport.

In June, the University Council passed a comprehensive report that frames the role of sport within the greater Monash community and links a range of sporting goals with the university's defining themes of innovation, engagement and internationalisation.

The university has ties with professional sports organisations linked to the Australian Football League, the National Basketball League and the Australian Institute of Sport.

Also in June, former Australian Olympic swimming coach Mr Vince Raleigh was appointed to head up swimming at the university.

Monash Sport general manager Mr Martin Doulton said sport at Monash had the potential to become one of the defining features of the university.

"Sport can, without a doubt, help Monash become an even more attractive place to study, work and play, while enhancing its reputation as a leading university," he said.

Victorian Minister for Sport and Recreation Mr Justin Madden opened a new \$1 million hockey facility at Monash's Peninsula campus in May. The facility will provide a focal point for students, staff and the local community and will become a regional centre for excellence in the sport.

And in March, Monash entered into a partnership with the International Olympic Committee to help transfer knowledge of the organisation of the games.

The Olympic Games Knowledge Services (OGKS) was launched at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City and aims to capture the know-how of Games organising committees and prepare written guides and other educational material to assist future committees in meeting the enormous task.

Heroes honoured after tragic incident



In sympathy: Staff and students laid tributes, pictured left, at the Menzies building in memory of the two students who died, while, pictured right, the Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson, centre, this month presented assistant lecturer Mr Alastair Boast, left, and lecturer Dr Lee Gordon-Brown Australian Awards for University Teaching for their bravery during a tragic shooting incident at Monash.



A tragic shooting incident at Monash's Clayton campus in October shocked the university community.

Two students, Mr William Wu and Mr Steven Chan, were killed and four students and lecturer Dr Lee Gordon-Brown were injured during the incident in the Menzies building.

Dr Gordon-Brown and deputy head of the Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics Dr Brett Inder as well as student and assistant lecturer Mr Alastair Boast were labelled heroes after helping to subdue the alleged gunman.

Last week the trio, as well as other staff and students who showed bravery during the tragic incident, were awarded special teaching awards for their actions.

Dr Gordon-Brown and Mr Boast were presented Australian Awards for University Teaching by the Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson, at a function at Parliament House.

The pair also accepted awards on behalf of Dr Inder, Mr Andrew Swann, Mr Colin Thornby and Mr Bradley Thompson.

Dr Nelson said he was making the awards on behalf of the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, who had commented on the swift and selfless action of those concerned.

Dr Gordon-Brown said he was pleased that he and his colleagues had been acknowledged for their actions under such difficult circumstances.

"This is a welcome gesture to us to show that we all look after each other. I have been inspired by the way the university as a whole and my colleagues and friends at Monash have kept a watch on us over the last few weeks," he said.

Shortly after the tragic incident, about 2000 people attended a ceremony of reflection and respect for the Monash University community in memory of Mr Wu and Mr Chan.

The ecumenical service also offered staff, students and the broader community the chance to offer support and comfort to one another.

During the service, Dr Inder said Mr Wu and Mr Chan were both bright young men who had "so much potential and so much to offer those close to them and the wider community".

Leading research at Monash

Saving the world's most endangered donkey breed and diagnosing children with autism at 18 months are just two examples of the groundbreaking research undertaken by Monash University researchers in 2002.

The rare Poitou donkey foal was born to a surrogate standard-bred horse after embryo transfer from the biological mother. The mother had been artificially inseminated using sperm from its breeding partner.

The foal was born in January under the guidance of Dr Angus McKinnon, an honorary research fellow at Monash's Institute of Reproduction and Development.

In another major breakthrough, researchers in the Monash University Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology have developed techniques to diagnose children with autism as young as 18 months using a basic screening system.

The system, announced in April, has the potential of reducing the average age of diagnosis from six years to two.

This year also saw a Monash law researcher undertaking a study that showed Australia's system of testing whether asylum seekers were genuine refugees was inefficient.

Senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law Dr Susan Kneebone found the current system had led to a 'blowout' in the number of cases challenged in the courts.



Searching for answers: Associate Professor Tracey Brown, from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is studying how a naturally occurring sugar called Hyaluronan could be used to better target cancerous tumours. Her work is part of Monash's ongoing commitment to research.

Photo: Greg Ford

And in another medical breakthrough this year, Monash researchers used immune system stem cells to grow a crucial part of the immune system – the thymus. The breakthrough could lead to the possibility of rebuilding a person's thymus after it has been destroyed.

Associate Professor Richard Boyd and Dr Jason Gill from the Monash

University Medical School identified a small population of cells that can generate a complete and functional thymus, a small organ just above the heart that is critical for generating many vital cells of the immune system.

In June, Monash physiology PhD student Ms Sanaid Billiard found a brain steroid link to SID. She found

that bacterial infections led to high levels of a brain steroid that could make babies extra sleepy and prevent them from waking when they have difficulty breathing.

And in September, researchers from Monash's Department of Physiology and Institute of Reproduction and Development were the first to generate healthy live young using ovarian tissue xenografting, a technique where the ovarian tissue of one species is grafted into another. The technique brings new hope for animal conservation.

Monash researchers also continued their groundbreaking work in stem cell research, despite ongoing debate on the ethics of the research in Federal Parliament.

In early October, Professor John Bertram, head of Monash's Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, was among a team of Monash researchers who shared in a \$4 million grant from the United States' National Institutes of Health.

The grant will allow Professor Bertram and his colleagues to explore whether stem cells can be coerced into becoming different parts of the kidney.

Professor Bertram hopes stem cells could be a long-term strategy for regenerating and repairing damaged kidneys.

New VC names teaching, research as priorities

Professor Peter Darvall was appointed vice-chancellor of Monash in July, in his 32nd year of academic life at the university.

After beginning as an engineering lecturer in 1970, Professor Darvall worked his way through the positions of dean of engineering and deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development), to the top job. He said that quality of teaching and research would be the priorities in his new role.

"Every day our research makes important contributions to the community in all manner of fields.

"Every day our students move through important stages in their professional and personal development under our guidance," he said after his appointment. "We can be enormously proud of what has been achieved in just 40 years and confident in moving forward to reach our ambitious goals within Australia and beyond."

Earlier that month, the former vice-chancellor, Professor David Robinson, reached mutual agreement with the chancellor, Mr Jerry Ellis, to stand down following allegations of plagiarism during his career as a



New leadership: Vice-chancellor Professor Peter Darvall

Photo: Greg Ford

researcher in the UK in the 1970s and 1980s.

Mr Ellis said that while the incident had been damaging, the outcome had demonstrated

the university's commitment to upholding the highest ethical standards in all it does.

Professor Gary Bouma was appointed acting deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development).

Professor Bouma has been at Monash for 24 years and was most recently associate dean (Research) in the Faculty of Arts.

Centre highlights focus on science

Monash University reinforced its commitment to science in 2002 with the launch of its new science centre, the formation of a biotechnology cluster and the announcement that it would lead the National Stem Cell Centre.

The projects were just three of a number of major announcements made at the university throughout the year.

In May, Monash joined with The Alfred, the Baker Heart Research Institute and the Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health to form one of the largest and most advanced medical research facilities in Australia – the Alfred Medical Research and Education Precinct.

The \$93 million complex will offer state-of-the-art equipment and provide the Monash Medical School with at least three new floors of laboratories, offices, seminar rooms and shared facilities.

And in July, a new \$4.2 million science centre aimed at primary and secondary school-aged children was officially opened at Monash University's Clayton campus.

The centre, developed over 10 years, was designed to involve the children in science by tapping into their curiosity. Visitors can interact with working scientists and gain hands-on science experience.

In another science initiative in July, Victorian Innovation Minister Mr John Brumby launched the first of five planned stages of construction for seven buildings in the new Monash Science Technology, Research and Innovation Precinct (STRIP).

The \$300 million STRIP, expected to become an epicentre for research

and development, is designed to support innovation by merging business and industry with the latest research which has commercial potential.

Drug discovery and development company Biota Holdings made an in-principle agreement to be among the first tenants in the precinct.

The launch came just a month after Prime Minister John Howard announced that Monash would be home to the \$43.5 million National Stem Cell Centre.

The centre, to be housed in the STRIP, will bring together research groups across the fields of bio-medicine, biotechnology, IVF technology, genomics, bioinformatics and nanotechnology.

In October, Mr Brumby and Monash vice-chancellor Professor Peter Darvall launched the university's Clayton campus as the site of Australia's first synchrotron.

Preparation works have begun at the site at the corner of Blackburn and Wellington roads, with major construction expected to begin early next year.

In October, a research cluster was formed at the university to accommodate growth in biomedical research and development in Australia.

The Monash Research Cluster for Biomedicine, based at the Clayton campus, comprises facilities and researchers from Monash's School of Biomedical Sciences.

The cluster has Victoria's only widely accessible fluorescence lifetime imaging microscope as well as state-of-the-art research and medical imaging facilities, a structural biology facility, advanced DNA-sequencing capabilities and a transgenic knockout mouse facility.



Interactive science: Paleontologist and Science Centre director Professor Pat Vickers-Rich gets up close with a tarbosaurus at the new centre. Photo: Peter Anikijenko

AROUND THE FACULTIES

Law: A new law centre has been established at Monash University's South Africa campus to aid development and reconstruction in southern Africa.

The Centre for Law and Reconstruction in Southern Africa (CLARISA), a joint initiative with Monash South Africa, will provide legal services and training and undertake projects focusing on critical development issues in southern Africa.

Arts: A new Monash centre promoting creative writing and the study of literature and discourses from post-colonial communities affected by European imperialism was launched in June.

Dr Chandani Lokuge, from the School of Literary, Visual and Performance Studies, was appointed director of the Centre for Postcolonial Writing.

Business and Economics: Monash led the way in corporate reform in 2002 with the launch of a dynamic research centre to investigate the governance framework of Australian corporate, public and community sector organisations.

The Monash Governance Research Unit is identifying how corporations are governed in Australia with the aim of developing a comprehensive index that will help identify risk factors, improve transparency and accountability of institutions, assist in policy development and address issues of corporate social responsibility.

Education: Monash's Faculty of Education joined forces with King's College London in a quest to help developing countries improve their school maths and science curricula.

The new centre was established to bring together the ideas from the two institutions and visiting scholars.

Engineering: The research achievements of Professor Tam Sridhar, head of Monash's Department of Chemical Engineering, were acknowledged with his election to the Australian Academy of Science.

Professor Sridhar was honoured for his contributions to reaction engineering and for solving a major problem in the science of large molecules, particularly polymers.

Medicine: Two Monash University researchers were awarded Victoria Fellowships by the state government in August in recognition of the significant contributions they have made to heart research and public health.

Dr Cindy Yap from Monash's Department of Medicine at Box Hill Hospital received her award for her role in identifying an enzyme that is largely responsible for the abnormal blood clotting that underlies heart attack and stroke.

Ms Tracey Bessell from the Monash Institute of Health Services Research was acknowledged for her research into how to improve the quality of prescribing in Australia and make medicines more cost-effective.

Science: Monash University has established a research centre that aims to maintain environmental sustainability rather than merely documenting the decline of plant and animal biodiversity in Australia.

The Australian Centre for Biodiversity: Analysis, Policy and Management brings together researchers with specialties in terrestrial and aquatic ecology and conservation biology, environmental policy formulation, impacts of invasive, exotic species and conservation genetics.

Pharmacy: Monash University's Victorian College of Pharmacy has been awarded \$4 million by the Victorian Government to establish a Centre for Pre-Clinical Drug Candidate Optimisation. The funding will be provided by the state's Science, Technology and Innovation Infrastructure (STII) scheme.

The centre will integrate and build upon the college's key research strengths in pre-clinical drug development and, through collaborative partnerships with commercial organisations and not-for-profit research institutes, it will help design and identify drug candidates with optimal chemical, metabolic, developmental and biopharmaceutical properties.

Art and Design: International performance artist and Monash graduate Stelarc was awarded an honorary doctorate from Monash University in March.

Stelarc has achieved a high level of international recognition in the field of conceptual, performance and body art.

Information Technology: Monash University's IT faculty launched the mCommerce Research Centre in November. The centre aims to give academics and students the chance to do research and teaching in mobile and distributed computing and information systems.

The research will be used to engage with Victorian businesses and stimulate adoption of mobile technology.



INPRINT

George Eliot

By Pauline Nestor
Published by Palgrave
RRP: \$55

George Eliot was one of the great thinkers of her time, a figure central to the main schools of thought and beliefs of the 19th century. In this new study of her life, Associate Professor Pauline Nestor offers a challenging reassessment of Eliot's contribution to critical debates of her age and of our own era.

In particular, Dr Nestor examines the author's literary exploration of ethics. She argues that Eliot's novels can be seen as relevant to contemporary theoretical debates in feminism, moral philosophy, postcolonial studies and psychoanalysis. Covering the writer's complete body of fiction, *George Eliot* is an indispensable volume for anyone studying the work of one of the most important and influential novelists of the 19th century.

Dr Nestor is an associate professor in English at Monash University and the author of several critical studies of Charlotte Bronte.

Technoculture and Critical Theory

In the Service of the Machine?

By Simon Cooper
Published by Routledge
RRP: \$182

Technology allows people to develop constructive ways of engaging with the world, enabling us to realise our needs. But according to author Dr Simon Cooper, it can also reconstruct those needs so that aspirations towards human progress are realised within a technocratic, antihuman paradigm – in the 'service of the machine'. *Technoculture and Critical Theory* articulates the ambivalence most of us feel towards technological progress. The author explores the work of major thinkers and cultural movements that have grappled with the complex relationship between technology, politics and culture. Topics such as the internet, cloning, warfare, fascism and virtual reality are put under the microscope to explore how humanity might, through technology, establish a more ethical relationship with the world.

Dr Simon Cooper is an editor of *Arena Journal* and a lecturer in the Department of Mass Communications and Writing, in the School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, at Monash University.

What Counts as Mathematics?

Technologies of Power in Adult Vocational Education

By Gail FitzSimons
Published by Kluwer Academic Publishers
RRP: \$80.16

In this book, the historical, sociological and practical elements of mathematics within vocational education are discussed against the emerging impact of technology.

Differences between educational institutions and the workplace are raised as sources of tension as well as offering new possibilities for vocational mathematics education.

The author draws on an extensive literature base, as well as two decades of practical teaching experience, to critique the impact of recent liberal government policies on mathematics education. This book is suitable for mathematics and vocational educators, researchers and research students.

Ms Gail FitzSimons is a research assistant in the Faculty of Education at Monash University.

postscript

The judicial interpretation of statutes and the constitution is one of the most controversial areas of law in Australia. In this new book, *Legal Interpretation in Democratic States*, original essays have been brought together to look at the prospect of finding a workable separation of powers that uses the rule of law to curb political power without undermining the democratic ideal. Published by Ashgate, the text is edited by Jeffrey Goldsworthy, a professor of law at Monash University, and Dr Tom Campbell, a professorial fellow from Charles Sturt University.

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

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

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Student talent on show

Futuristic car designs and large-scale sculptures are just some of the works created by final-year students from Monash University's Faculty of Art and Design on show this month in two exhibitions at the Caulfield and Gippsland campuses.

At Gippsland, 16 students completing their Bachelor of Visual Arts are displaying their work in an exhibition at the Switchback Gallery until 31 January.

Gallery manager and head of the Gippsland Centre for Art and Design Ms Julie Adams said the exhibition included a diverse selection of work, from paintings, sculptures and photographs to digital prints and video.

Ms Adams said the variety of pieces on show reflected the different personal and global concerns of the exhibiting students.

"Each student is reacting to the time in which we live. There is work that responds to, and questions, environmental issues, the plight of refugees, and the effects of technology and scientific research on our lives," she said.

"Other students have been prompted by issues of identity and the various roles that we find ourselves acting out, or notions concerning the family unit and domestic life."

At the Caulfield campus, graduating third-year and fourth-year honours students in industrial design and graduates from the Bachelor



Take a seat: Industrial design student Mr Deden Mertakusuma with his state-of-the-art chair design, which is on display at the Caulfield gallery.

Photo: Peter Anikijenko

of Industrial Design/Bachelor of Engineering double degree are exhibiting a wide range of work that includes designs for furniture, automotive vehicles and consumer products.

Mr Selby Coxon, a lecturer in Monash's Department of Design, said the aim of the exhibition was to highlight the students' innovation.

"Not only are the designs on show fresh and original, incorporating new materials and concepts, they also reflect new ways of thinking about our relationship to the world at large," he said.

"These students will be designers and opinion-makers in the near future, so this exhibition provides a sneak preview of how we could be living 10 or 20 years from now."

The exhibition, on show until 13 December, includes work by more than 30 students. It is the last of seven final-year student exhibitions running at the Caulfield campus following two exhibitions by fine

arts students and shows by students in multimedia design, visual communication, interior architecture and design.

– Derek Brown

Show Notes

What: Gippsland Centre for Art and Design final-year exhibition

When: Until 31 January

Where: Switchback Gallery, Gippsland campus

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

Show Notes

What: Industrial Design graduating students exhibition

When: Until 13 December

Where: Rooms G227 and G228, building G, Caulfield campus

Who: For more information contact, Mr Selby Coxon on +61 3 9903 2953.



Christmas spirit at Clayton: Charles Dickens' classic yuletide morality tale, *A Christmas Carol*, is being presented by students, lecturers and graduates from Monash University's Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies at the Clayton campus this month. Members of the cast include (from left) performing arts student Ms Lisa Parnis, senior lecturer Dr Peter Snow and performing arts student Ms Sarah Ryan.

Photo: Melissa Di Ciero

ARTS BRIEFS

Student sculpture rewarded

Art and design student Mr Roh Singh has won the \$7000 Flinders Sculpture Prize for his wall piece titled 'Act 1: Scene 2', depicting his grandmother walking in front of Flinders Street Station in the 1930s.

Mr Singh, 22, was one of 26 artists short-listed from 150 entrants from around Australia for the annual prize.

Gippsland book short-listed

A Monash University academic was one of three authors whose work was short-listed for the Community and Regional History Prize of the 2002 New South Wales Premier's History Awards.

Director of the Centre for Gippsland Studies Ms Meredith

Fletcher was short-listed for her book *Digging People Up for God: A History of Yallourn*.

The award recognises an author who makes a significant contribution to the understanding of community, institutional or regional history.

New course designed to meet future need

The Art and Design faculty and Monash College are offering a new college diploma that provides guaranteed pathways into selected art and design degrees.

Monash International's Access Division director, Mr Clive Vernon, said the diploma, to be offered from February 2003, was designed to meet an anticipated demand for courses in visual communication and multimedia design.

Monash College currently offers pathway programs into business and

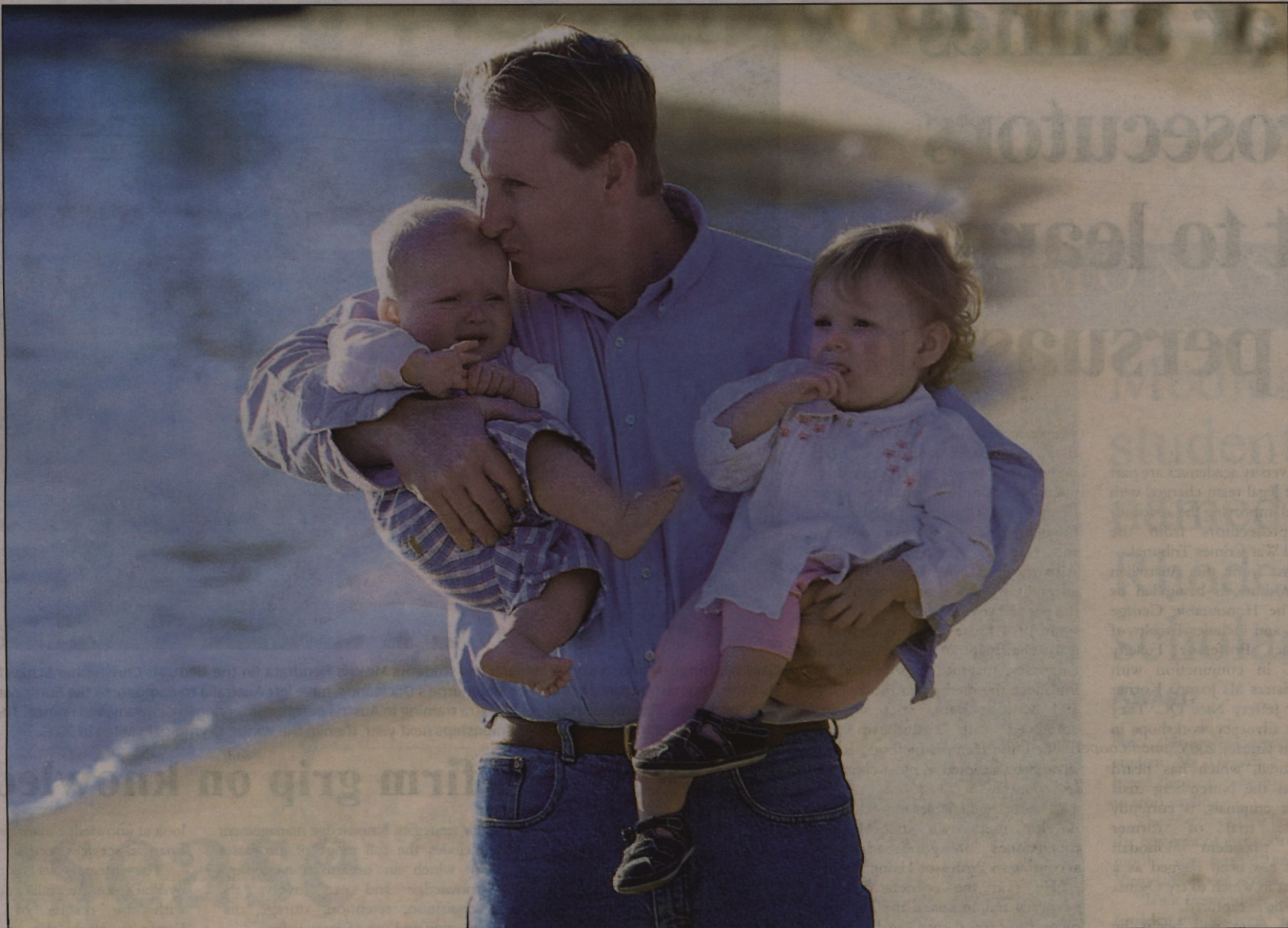
economics, information technology and engineering degrees for students who may not have studied an approved international qualification or who narrowly missed the academic entry requirements of their preferred Monash course. Successful Monash College graduates are guaranteed entry into the university.

Graduating students have designs on architecture

The first students to study a Bachelor of Interior Architecture at Monash University finished their four-year degree last month.

The course was introduced in 1999 to provide the relevant theory and practical skills needed to design interior architectural space.

The 11 students last month celebrated the completion of their degree with an exhibition of design concepts at the Caulfield campus.



The thing about househusbands



While more fathers seem to be staying at home with the children, Dr Andrew Singleton warns we should not be celebrating equity in the home just yet.

The cultural ideal of fatherhood has changed dramatically through the 20th century. In the 1950s, the model father was a breadwinner, mentor and disciplinarian. Emotional involvement with the children was not important – rather, what a man could provide materially was the best measure of being a ‘good dad’. This ideal of fatherhood was reinforced by the ubiquity of single income families and glamorised on wholesome television shows like ‘Leave it to Beaver’.

Social theorists argued that a stable society could only be achieved through ‘instrumental’ male leadership in the family home. To be sure, not everyone was happy with this image. Perhaps fearing that the 1950s man might become too domesticated, *Playboy* magazine offered a utopian vision of a place where men could spend their money on ‘anything-but-the-kids’.

By the late 1970s, following the second wave of the feminist movement, a new and abiding cultural ideal of fatherhood emerged – the ‘new father’, who was expected to be caring, sensitive and emotionally available to his children. He was present at the birth, pushed the pram, changed nappies and picked his children up from child care.

Like his ‘good provider’ forebears, images of the ‘new father’ are everywhere. Think of rearing footballers embracing their children on the farewell lap or calendars depicting bare-armed fathers cradling their babies.

The importance of men taking an active and emotionally engaged role in their children’s lives is reinforced by academics, health professionals and pop psychologists. As a recent ‘new dad’ myself, I have witnessed this interest first hand. In preparatory birth classes, I was taught not only how to wind and burp baby but instructed on the value of dads giving remedial massages. The local health centre sent me a brochure telling me

that “research shows that men’s involvement in early parenting is very important” and offering a range of ‘new dad’ classes. The ‘new dad’ self-help literature is more concerned with how a father can provide emotionally than what he can give materially.

The epitome of the ‘new father’ today is the stay-at-home dad. He is the bloke who takes substantial time off work to be the primary caregiver. He changes nappies, prepares formula, soothes the overtired child and looks bashful at mothers’ group meetings. In between child-care duties, there is no rest. Washing needs to be done, meals prepared and clothes folded.

For many, the existence of the

‘househusband’ is the barometer of how far our society has come in response to feminism. When asked if domestic work is now being shared more equally between men and women, students in my sociology-of-men-and-masculinity class say that more men are staying at home to look after the kids on a full-time basis. A number of students even know a househusband.

Many of the social scientists who study patterns in domestic labour claim that men’s preparedness to assume primary household duties is indicative of a move towards an equitable division of domestic labour between men and women. This optimism is

reinforced by the occasional television or newspaper feature on men who choose to be househusbands.

But despite the widespread optimism, very few men are actually taking up the job of househusband. Those who do are generally not choosing to stay at home in the first instance because of a broader commitment to gender equity. Rather, the existence of househusbands highlights the complexities and contradictions of having children in contemporary society. Financial imperatives, career paths and divorce are all factors that come into play.

In many cases, the female partner earns a higher salary, so the couple will make a pragmatic decision that he stays home for the sake of the mortgage. Sometimes, the man is unemployed or made redundant, so it makes sense that he stays at home and looks after the kids for a while. The death of a spouse or a ruling in the family court may also be a factor.

Other couples actively negotiate a domestic arrangement that will enable both parents to spend time at home with the children while also

allowing professional contact with the outside world – both workers and houseparents in any given week.

But evidence indicates that househusbands do not always have an easy time. Amid the joys of a child learning to walk or saying a few words, many househusbands report feelings of isolation, boredom and depression. They tell of the anxieties of a career on hold, the difficulties in completing a task without disturbance and the tedium of watching the Wiggles. Of course, this is not news to women who stay at home and look after children – many report exactly the same feelings.

And while a few men are prepared to take up the househusband role, claims about equity in the family should be restrained. More broadly, men’s interest in being ‘new fathers’ is not always matched by practical application.

Social research consistently demonstrates that in most families it is women who continue to take the leading role in the provision and organisation of domestic labour and child care. Men might be performing tasks like nappy changing or Sunday afternoon pram pushing with greater endeavour, but for many that is the limit of their involvement. Indeed, significant numbers of men spend no time at work after the birth of a child that is before.

This reality makes the few househusbands that do exist seem like a special breed of man who should be lavishly praised. But, while they are doing an important job, plenty of women have done the job before and never received the same giddy accolades. Raising children is a tough job for anybody.

Dr Andrew Singleton is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Monash University. His research interests include the sociology of men and masculinity, youth spirituality, gender issues and Generation X.

War crimes prosecutors set to learn art of persuasion

LAW

Monash University academics are part of an expert legal team charged with assessing and improving the advocacy skills of prosecutors from the International War Crimes Tribunal.

The team, from the Australian Advocacy Institute, is being led by Professor The Honourable George Hampel QC and includes Faculty of Law Adjunct Professor Felicity Hampel SC in conjunction with English barristers Ms Joanna Korner QC and Mr Jeffery Nice QC. They will conduct advocacy workshops in The Hague in January 2003.

The tribunal, which has heard cases such as the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals, is currently hearing the trial of former Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milosevic. It has been flagged as a possible court in which to try Osama bin Laden if he is captured.

The legal team will begin by watching tribunal proceedings to determine which features of the court might require specialised advocacy skills from prosecutors.

Professor Hampel said the cases heard by the tribunal, such as crimes against humanity and genocide, differed in many ways to normal legal proceedings. It was important to understand these differences, he said.

"Ultimately, advocacy is about good analysis and presentation," Professor Hampel said. "Advocacy is the art of persuasion in court. To be persuasive, an advocate must be prepared, disciplined, skilled and able to communicate effectively."

Professor Hampel said 12 prosecutors from the tribunal had shown interest in participating in training sessions that will be provided by the Australian Advocacy Institute.

The method of teaching to be employed by Professor Hampel and his colleagues involves coaching

people in practical workshops, where their performances are reviewed and demonstrations given. The performances are carefully analysed after being videotaped. This method, originally based on the work done by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy in the US, has been adapted by Professor Hampel over the past 25 years.

In 1994, Professor Hampel, who is also chairman of the Australian Advocacy Institute, was invited to introduce the method to the English and Scottish Bars, where it was embraced with enthusiasm and dubbed 'the Hampel method'. It has since been adopted in most common law countries.

The method enables individuals to develop their own styles within touchstones of good advocacy, according to Professor Hampel.

He said the cornerstones of advocacy training were the development of case theory, analysis and persuasive presentation.

"Once the fundamentals are established, the advocacy skills based upon them can be applied in all jurisdictions and before all tribunals, despite different practices and procedures," he said.

"Advocacy – or persuasion – involves creating or changing perceptions to influence the result. It involves good skills in examination and cross-examination of witnesses as well as presentation of argument. Great advocates are not necessarily better lawyers than others – they are better communicators."

The Hampels will go to The Hague in January 2003 via Oxford University, where they will run a training course for advocacy teachers at the Oxford Institute.

– Konrad Marshall

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Cool runnings, Monash style: Monash law students Mr Kris Hendrata (in the sled), Mr Christopher Schaerf (rear), and Mr Peter Thomas, pictured training at Melbourne's Docklands, have left Australia to compete in the European Bobsleigh Championships. The trio will undertake extra training in Austria before competing in Germany and France. Their aim is to compete in the World Bobsleigh Championships next year, then in the Winter Olympics in Milan in 2006.

Business has firm grip on knowledge

IT

A Monash University study has placed Australian companies ahead of their European counterparts when it comes to implementing knowledge management strategies in the financial services sector.

Associate Professor Frada Burstein, from the School of Information and Management Systems, said about 92 per cent of the 130 companies surveyed had in place or were planning specific programs to acquire and exploit organisational knowledge.

In comparison, only 41 per cent of European financial institutions said they had set up such programs, with nearly 30 per cent examining the need

for strategies. Knowledge management includes the full range of processes by which an organisation deploys knowledge and can involve the acquisition, retention, storage, distribution and use of knowledge.

Professor Burstein said the results of the study confirmed that in Australia, knowledge management had an established place in management practices.

"It certainly showed there is a good understanding of the need for knowledge management practice in Australia today."

The study, undertaken by researchers within the Faculty of Information Technology, is thought to be Australia's first comprehensive

look at knowledge management in the financial services sector.

The research was commissioned by FujiXerox Australia and compared with the results of a similar European study also sponsored by the company.

Monash researchers are undertaking a second project to look at knowledge management practices in law and accounting firms and professional and consulting services. The project should be completed by February.

– Ruth Ward

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