



Star gazing: Children are captured spellbound in the university's Giardini Planetarium on the Clayton campus in 'Explore the universe!', the winning entry in the inaugural *Monash: Making a Difference* photo competition. Competition winners Ms Susan Feteris, Mr Steve Morton and Mr Adrian Dyer from the Science faculty were recently awarded their prize of a digital camera. The Giardini Planetarium was designed and constructed by Science honours student Mr Walter Giardini in 1976 and is still used in the astronomy teaching program. The competition will be run again this year.

Surgery hopes not always met

BY CHRIS GILES

Cosmetic surgery is a popular option for women dissatisfied with their image or for those fighting the ageing process.

A new nose, younger looking face, bigger breasts ...with just a nip and a tuck and a few thousand dollars, women can have whatever their hearts desire.

But how realistic are women's expectations of successful surgery and how do they differ from those of their practitioners?

Monash University PhD student Ms Rhian Parker is undertaking research, the first of its kind in Australia, to find out if what women want is what cosmetic surgeons can or will deliver and whether expected results are adequately explained to patients.

"There is quite a volume of research material about body image and weight, but hardly anything about cosmetic surgery," Ms Parker says.

"It was clear that this issue was being discussed everywhere - in magazines, on television - but I couldn't find any academic work in the area.

"My research looks at how women perceive what they want, compared to what practitioners can give, or think they should give."

Ms Parker, from the Department of Community Medicine and General Practice, has spoken to 24 Victorian doctors and plans to interview up to



PhD researcher Ms Rhian Parker. Photo by Greg Ford.

eight more, including three female practitioners. She will also sit in on practitioner-patient consultations to see how procedures are explained.

Eight women aged between 28 and 73 have also been interviewed about reasons for surgery and whether the results met their expectations, but Ms Parker is appealing for more women to contact her.

Early research indicates that some women, while not complaining about surgery standards, feel their results are disappointing.

Continued on page 2

Anti-GST sentiment high among family businesses

BY SANDRA BUCOVAZ

With GST implementation less than a month away, family businesses across Australia are yet to be convinced of the benefits of the controversial new system, despite their frantic efforts to ready themselves for the 1 July taxation revolution.

In what is probably the most recent GST-specific research data available, a Monash University-led survey has

revealed that while family businesses are diligently preparing themselves, the majority do not believe the GST will be good for business; nor are they confident it will lower selling prices or save costs.

It is the smaller operators - the backbone of Australia's economy - and the family business giants who are most sceptical, according to the March quarter findings of the Pitcher Partners

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Two Monash researchers have designed a street drainage system that cleans stormwater run-off before it flows into Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay.

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Melbourne's water gets a clean bill of health

No city in the world can be more certain that its water supply does not cause health problems than Melbourne, according to medical doctor and infectious diseases expert Associate Professor Kit Fairley.

Dr Fairley was commenting recently on the outcome of a world-first scientific study on Melbourne's water quality conducted by the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Quality and Treatment and Monash University.

The \$3 million, three-year project was designed to examine the relationship between human health and water quality. Some 600 families in the eastern and southeastern suburbs took part in the study.

Each family had a water treatment unit installed in the kitchen, half of which were real filter units and half of which were dummy units. The real

units filtered and disinfected the water, while the dummy units delivered normal tap water. Neither the families nor the research workers knew who had the real or dummy units until after the study was completed.

Families recorded their health over a 16-month period, monitoring symptoms of gastroenteritis. The study showed no difference in the level of gastroenteritis between families with real water treatment units and families with dummy units.

"This study represents an unprecedented shift from a reliance on measuring bacteria to test water quality - to measuring the health effects on people," Dr Fairley said.

"Worldwide trends would indicate that water supplies sourced from surface waters are increasingly being filtered. In contrast, 90 per cent of Melbourne's water is sourced from one

of the best-protected catchment systems in the world. The study was prompted by questions about the value of installing filtration systems."

The water quality study results indicate that it is unlikely that Melbourne would derive a health benefit from filtering drinking water taken from highly protected catchments. Dr Fairley points out that this result is consistent with data from other sources, indicating Australian capital cities are free from waterborne disease.

Melbourne's drinking water is considered one of the best in the world as almost all of it is harvested from wilderness catchments, which are protected from any public access - all forms of tourism and agriculture are banned. As a result, the water requires minimal treatment.

Anti-GST sentiment high among family businesses

Continued from page 1

Family Business Index, conducted by the AXA Australia Family Business Research Unit (AAFBRU) at Monash and accountants Pitcher Partners.

The findings were based on the input of more than 350 family enterprises drawn from a cross-section of business sectors and with turnovers ranging from just under \$1 million to more than \$100 million.

According to 62.3 per cent of the respondents, the GST will not be good for business. And while this figure was almost identical to the previous quarter, a turnover-based breakdown showed that 80 per cent of family companies with annual turnovers of less than \$1 million said the GST would not be good for business, together with 85.7 per cent of enterprises in the \$20 million to \$50 million bracket, and 100 per cent of those in the \$50 million-plus league.

Overall, 77.2 per cent did not think GST would save business costs (up from 69.7 per cent in the

December quarter), and 81.9 per cent did not believe GST would lower selling prices (up from 79.1 per cent). In terms of preparedness, 89.6 per cent said they were fully prepared (up from 83.5 per cent) and 80 per cent (up from 78.3 per cent) agreed that the GST would create more paperwork. Those who had applied for Australian Business Number registration represented 94.1 per cent of family businesses surveyed.

AAFBRU foundation director Associate Professor Kosmas Smyrniotis said the findings reflected the widespread anxiety and negativity surrounding the GST. He attributed the scepticism to the fact that the GST was such a new concept for Australia, the negative publicity it has received, and the fact that it has become such a political platform with continued suggestions of roll-backs in the future.

"Businesses will have a much better feel for the impact of the GST about six to 12 months after implementation," Professor Smyrniotis said.

Surgery hopes not always met

Continued from page 1

Practitioners, on the other hand, can feel morally torn between needing to grant a woman's request for specific surgery, while believing that extra or alternative surgery would produce a better aesthetic result.

Ms Parker says that while practitioners admit that the media strongly influences women's decisions to have cosmetic surgery, the most common motivating factors are the correction of troublesome physical features or a desire to reclaim younger, physical attractiveness after childbirth or as a result of ageing.

Others take the plunge after divorce, when starting a new relationship or when deciding they need to compete with younger women in the workplace.

Ms Parker says her research will help practitioners realise how important it is to provide patients with a realistic appreciation of surgical results.

"Although there are some disastrous medical outcomes, it's often the level of communication that causes problems and litigation," she says. "I think that if the communication is right then the outcome - or what the patient expects from the procedure - will be better."

Women wanting to be part of Ms Parker's research can contact her on 0408 170 584.

Arousal response key factor in infant deaths: research



An infant of a smoking mother is three times harder to arouse from sleep than that of a non-smoking mother, says Dr Rosemary Horne.

By PETER GOLDIE

A new phase in the fight against Sudden Infant Death Syndrome has begun with research from Monash University's Department of Paediatrics and the Ritchie Centre for Baby Health Research highlighting the importance of arousal from sleep in young babies.

The research has taken further the accepted risk factors known to be associated with SIDS, and quantified their influence on the arousal responses of infants under laboratory conditions in the Children's Sleep Unit at Monash Medical Centre.

"The arousal response is becoming central to our understanding of SIDS," said senior research fellow in Monash's Paediatrics department Dr Rosemary Horne.

Dr Horne presented her findings in two papers to the Sixth Sudden Infant Death International Congress held in Auckland in February. They are the result of a three-year project funded by SIDS Australia.

Publicity and public education of known risk factors over the last decade have been responsible for a dramatic decline in SIDS rates, from 2.4 per thousand (more than 500 babies) in 1991, to 0.46 per thousand (or just over 100) today. The current research is now aiming to reduce this figure still further.

In this study, 40 infants aged up to six months were studied in a longitudinal survey, giving researchers clues to understanding the role of infant sleep patterns and arousability.

The work assessed and quantified the two major risk factors: prone sleeping position and smoking habits of the mother in full and pre-term babies. Other factors such as temperature, breathing and oxygen uptake showed no association with arousal response.

The researchers found that an infant of a smoking mother is three times harder to arouse than that of a non-smoking mother. That bias remained true even if the child slept in the supine position - on its back - which presents the lowest risk.

The prone, face-down position presents a higher risk, and babies of smoking mothers who slept in the prone position were again much more difficult to arouse.

"Our work to date is leading us to look closely at the arousal response - what it is, what causes it, what impedes it and how it functions during what we call Active Sleep (known in adults as REM sleep) and Quiet Sleep (or deep sleep)," Dr Horne said.

"The next step in our research will be to measure the brain activity of infants during their sleep patterns and to focus on how signals to arouse are being processed by the brain."

BRIEFS

Porter elected to South Africa business body

Monash's principal adviser on International and Government Relations Mr Ian Porter was recently elected national chairman of the Australia South Africa Business Council.

The council organises trade missions and liaises with business and government in South Africa and Australia, with the aim of increasing business links and improving trade and investment with South Africa.

Mr Porter was formerly Australia's high commissioner to South Africa, from 1995 to 1998.

Education donations help kids in East Timor

Staff at Monash's Education faculty have donated text and exercise books to East Timorese children via United Nations forces stationed in Suai.

UN Captain Rory Cain (BA 1981, DipEd 1982, BEdSt 1985) had requested donations of discarded English

books to help the children continue their studies, but Education staff responded by taking up a collection and providing new textbooks.

As well as undertaking military duties, Captain Cain has been teaching at the Ave Maria Senior School in Suai. He was originally with the Australian armed forces.

Risk management unit established

Monash has established the Australasian Risk Management Unit in conjunction with the Association of Risk and Insurance Managers of Australasia (ARIMA).

The unit aims to foster research in the area of risk management and to develop risk management education. The unit will be interdisciplinary in its approach.

Mr Michael Vincent, senior lecturer in the Department of Accounting and Finance, has been appointed director of the unit, which is based in the Faculty of Business and Economics at Monash's Caulfield campus.

Online student sites on track for award

Two Monash websites have been short-listed in the Australian Awards for Excellence in Educational Publishing.

The 'LLS Online Student Resource Centre', created by the Language and Learning Services Unit in the Centre for Teaching and Learning Support, has been nominated in the Educational Website, Tertiary Education (wholly Australian) category.

Project leader Ms Rosemary Clerehan said the site was a virtual resource centre for undergraduate and postgraduate students, with an interactive tutorial room providing assistance in writing, study and oral presentations; student chat and discussion rooms; and an online noticeboard.

Also shortlisted in the category is the Monash Transition Program website, which features information on transition issues for students, researchers, schools and parents.

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THE AGE
Seize the day

Green urban design helps keep our rivers, lakes and seas clean

BY DAVID BRUCE

A group of Monash researchers are challenging the idea that, when it comes to stormwater run-off, out of sight is out of mind.

In the urban areas of our country, each time it rains, a rush of stormwater carries tonnes of pollutants directly into drains and open waterways and, eventually, into open waters such as Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay.

At Lynbrook Estate, a residential subdivision on Melbourne's south-eastern outskirts, Monash scientists from the Cooperative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology have begun to change the way we look at stormwater run-off by implementing the best elements of water-sensitive urban design.

Their integration of a number of innovative elements in stormwater management is a first for Australia but, according to Associate Professor Tony Wong from the Department of Civil Engineering, Australians are beginning

to realise that better urban design will lead to cleaner rivers, lakes and oceans.

"In Australia, the whole notion of draining stormwater directly into our river systems and bays is quite common," said Associate Professor Wong. "It has always been the assumption that rainwater from roofs and road surfaces is clean. But it isn't. It is a polluted mix of metal-based chemicals such as copper, nickel, lead and zinc, as well as chemicals from agricultural products such as fertiliser."

With the support of Melbourne Water, the Urban Land Corporation and their consultants, Associate Professor Wong and postgraduate student Ms Sara Lloyd have designed a street drainage system that uses natural vegetation and wetlands to clean and store the stormwater run-off before it is released into the bay.

Stormwater collected from houses and street surfaces in one section of Lynbrook Estate is directed into a trench that runs the length of a street.

The trench is covered with grass swales and underlain with fine gravel that provide the primary stormwater treatment measures. The secondary treatment of the water is provided by a constructed wetland and a large pond that slow the pace of the run-off and further filter out the water pollutants.

Apart from its ecological soundness, the integration of natural vegetation and wetland at Lynbrook Estate will actually be an attribute for this flat and featureless stretch of former farmland, typical of many new developments on the fringe of major cities.

"When it is landscaped properly, it can become a feature of the neighborhood," Associate Professor Wong said. There is a small extra cost involved for the land-buyers in this sort of system, so we now need to wait and see if this is offset by the attraction of living in a clean and pleasant environment."

Associate Professor Tony Wong (right) and researcher Ms Sara Lloyd. Photo by Greg Ford.



Cloned calf a first for Monash

BY TRACEY HOCKING

Australia's first calf cloned from developed cells was born in April, an important breakthrough for local dairy and beef industries.

The elite Holstein calf, named Suzi, is the result of a joint research project between the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development, Genetics Australia, the Victorian Institute of Animal Science and the Dairy Research and Development Corporation (DRDC).

The young female was produced using developed (differentiated) cells. The cells were grown in the laboratory for many months, then used in cloning procedures similar to those used to make Dolly the cloned sheep. The resulting embryo was then transferred into a surrogate cow, which carried the pregnancy to term.

"The ability to produce clones from differentiated cells, including those from adult animals, is the first step in adding value to agricultural products," said IRD senior research fellow Dr Ian Lewis.

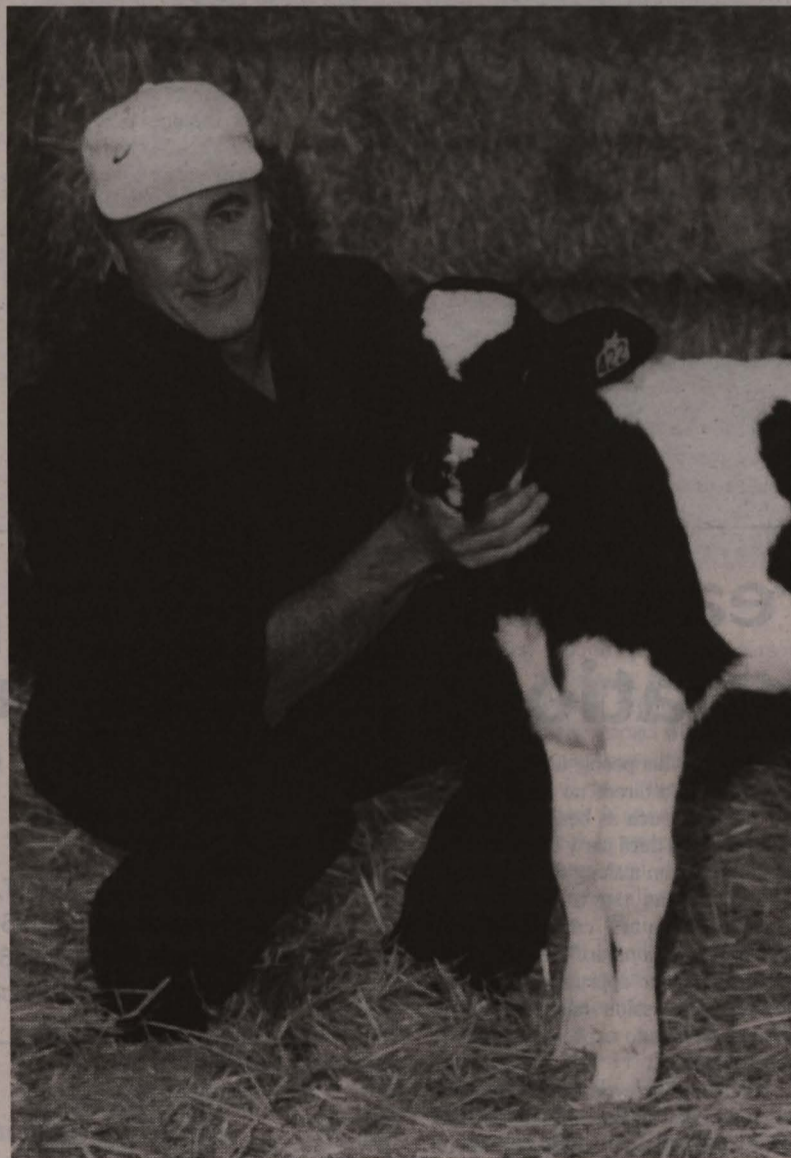
"This technology will help increase productivity and improve the quality of the end-product for the consumer."

Dr Lewis said the team's immediate aim was to generate multiple genetically identical animals capable of producing milk of higher protein content.

"The ability to produce animals genetically identical to their parents will open up opportunities for our dairy and beef industries. Breeding identical calves from high-producing cows for the dairy industry or identical males from the best beef bulls available for the beef industry will increase production efficiencies."

A limited number of calves made by similar techniques have been born elsewhere in the world over the last two years, but this calf is the first of its kind to be born in Australia.

"The birth of the first cloned calf in Australia from differentiated cells shows that our group of Australian researchers, with Genetics Australia as a commercial partner, is well on the way to establishing the important new



Dr Ian Lewis and Suzi, the first Australian cloned calf, produced recently by scientists at Monash's Institute of Reproduction and Development.

biotechnologies of cloning," said Professor Alan Trounson, deputy director of Monash's Institute of Reproduction and Development.

"The breakthrough also demonstrates that we are at the leading edge of international research and can expect new and important partnerships to emerge with multinational, biotechnology and pharmaceutical interests.

"As well as producing animals that have benefits for agriculture, the technology being developed can also be used to produce milk for pharmaceutical and nutraceutical uses. The long-term implications for improving human health are enormous."

Suzi is expected to be joined in a few weeks by a genetically identical twin sister, which was derived from the same cell line.

Award aids research into family violence

BY KAY ANSELL

When Kyllie Cripps finishes her PhD, she is adamant it won't be gathering dust on a library shelf. Ms Cripps is researching intervention in family violence in indigenous communities - how to tackle the issue and help heal communities.

Her Monash doctorate, 'Indigenous communities surviving family violence', will be the first specifically on practical intervention, she says.

"My hope is that my research can be used by any Aboriginal community anywhere in Australia, or even by groups in the US, so they can see how to set up their own family violence programs. They can find out where to get funding, for example, and determine ways in which they think the program could be adapted to suit themselves. We hope they will say, 'How can we, from those examples, set up our own program?'"

A Palawa (Tasmanian Aboriginal) woman, Ms Cripps sees many parallels between the problems faced by Aboriginal communities and native Americans, including high unemployment, alcoholism, poor health facilities and the separation of children from their parents.

Her comparative research will take her to the University of Arizona, in Tucson, for nine months. The trip was made possible by Ms Cripps being awarded a Fulbright Postgraduate Student Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, sponsored by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

She will investigate how the tribal court system addresses family violence and will also assess the impact of additional funding provided to native Americans under the 1994 Violence Against Women Act.



Monash researcher Ms Kyllie Cripps. Photo by Craig Wetjen.

In Australia, funding to combat family violence in indigenous communities tends to be fragmented because of the differing definitions of 'family violence', she says. The funding is then directed to specific types of abuse, such as domestic violence or sexual assault, for example, which, in certain circumstances, should come under the broader umbrella of family violence.

This is because in indigenous communities, there are much wider extended kinship relationships that define 'family' more broadly. "In indigenous communities, somebody is always related to somebody else," she says.

According to Ms Cripps, this is why a community-based approach to treating family violence is essential - not least because it encourages people to talk about the problems. For programs to succeed, she says, they need to tackle education as part of the overall prevention, and to support the victims, the perpetrators, the family and the wider community, who are all affected by the violence, to varying degrees.

Schools



Teachers' seminar

The Annual Monash University Teachers' Seminar will be held on Thursday 15 June. The session will feature discussion of new undergraduate courses, the globalisation of tertiary education, and seminars on selection into the Medicine and Art and Design courses. If you are interested in attending and have not received an invitation, contact Ms Val Foster on (03) 9905 4164.

Monash in Adelaide

Prospective Students Office representative Ms Jodie Martin will be available to speak to students, parents and teachers at the Australasian Tertiary Expo at Ainslee College, Wayville, on Friday 16 June. For more information, contact Ms Martin on (03) 9905 3152.

... in Tasmania

A Monash University representative will be visiting schools in Tasmania from Monday 3 July to Friday 7 July. To organise a school visit, contact Ms Jodie Martin on (03) 9905 3152.

... and on the Gold Coast

Prospective Students Office representative Ms Sasha de Silva will be available to speak to students at the annual Gold Coast Careers Market on Monday 24 July at the Bond University Sports Complex. For more information about this visit, contact Ms de Silva on (03) 9905 3167.

Experience Monash Peninsula 2000

Prospective students will have the chance to 'Experience Monash Peninsula' during the June school holidays by taking part in a one-day program being held at the university's Peninsula campus on Tuesday 27 June.

The program aims to give students hands-on experience in a range of university disciplines, including nursing, business, education, wine technology and marketing, arts and applied science.

Students will have an opportunity to explore various study options as well as speak to academic staff about courses and careers.

The day will also involve some fun, with sporting activities and a barbecue lunch.

Current university students will feature in the program, providing information about the real-life, day-to-day issues students face at university.

While the program is aimed at Year 10 students, schools can nominate students from other year levels, who will be included space permitting. Participation in the program is free.

Registration forms as well as parent or guardian consent forms have been sent to schools and should be returned to Ms Julie Ryan at Monash University Peninsula Campus, PO Box 527, Frankston 3199, or by fax on (03) 9904 4190.

For further information, contact Ms Ryan on (03) 9904 4015 or email julie.ryan@adm.monash.edu.au

Monash Uni wins BHP railway industry research contracts

BY DAVID BRUCE

Monash and leading resources company BHP have joined forces to undertake research and technology development activities for the railways industry.

The BHP Institute of Railway Technology, within the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Monash's Clayton campus, has attracted all the railway experts from BHP's former Melbourne Research Laboratories (MRL) to join the new institute.

BHP has transferred all its railway-related research and development activities to the new institute following its decision to outsource these activities.

The BHP Institute of Railway Technology will provide services to

BHP in the heavy haul operations and rail and steel sleeper development programs. These activities will be complemented by other contract research and development activities for Australian and international railway operators, railway contractors, and manufacturers and suppliers of railway equipment.

The positioning of the BHP Institute of Railway Technology within Monash has provided greater opportunities to the railway industry to draw upon expertise from related disciplines within the university.

For additional information on the institute, visit its website at www.eng.monash.edu.au/railway or contact the institute on (03) 9905 1986.



Mr Graham Tew (left) and Mr Ravi Ravitharan of the BHP Institute of Railway Technology. Photo by Greg Ford.

'Green' chemistry leads attack on corrosion

BY STUART HEATHER

What is continuous, silent, often unseen and costs Australia billions of dollars a year?

Australia's infrastructure is under relentless attack by corrosion, from the steel and concrete in high-rise towers to the metals in pipes underground. It is estimated that the cost of rusting and

other forms of metal corrosion alone amounts to about 3 per cent of the national economy (GNP) in capital replacement and spending on control or mitigation.

Better technologies against corrosion are clearly of economic importance, but there are also other factors to consider. One group of anti-corrosion agents is based on the family of heavy

metals, notably chromates, banned from Australia (and most developed countries) after it was established that they were carcinogenic.

Chromates have been replaced with nitrites or mixtures of organic compounds, which also have their disadvantages. Being less effective, higher concentrations are required, which means higher costs, and concerns persist about the impact of nitrites on the environment. In the foreseeable future they, too, might be banned from use in Australia.

With the growth of a more environmentally aware branch of chemistry known as 'green' chemistry, effective but friendlier alternatives are being sought.

In Monash University's Department of Materials Engineering, PhD student Kerryn Wilson is investigating a promising group of compounds containing rare earth metals (REMs).

"REMs have been proposed quite recently as inorganic inhibitors, and so far they have not been significantly developed," says Ms Wilson.

Ms Wilson is working predominantly with cerium, a REM with at least one day-to-day application - in lighter

flints. Cerium and the other REMs are very reactive with oxygen, which aids their corrosion inhibition properties.

"In comparison with heavy metals and nitrites, REMs are benign. When they find their way into the environment they are even considered to have agricultural benefits."

Ms Wilson is investigating a little-understood aspect of REMs as corrosion inhibitors. When combined with a member of the carboxylate family - a commonly used organic inhibitor - performance can improve markedly due to a synergy between the two ingredients. Combinations are being studied to determine which function best, and why.

"We need to understand better the mechanisms of how REMs incorporate into surface coatings and their interaction with the second component," says Ms Wilson.

In addition to chemical and environmental benefits, REM-plus-carboxylate corrosion inhibitors show promise of lower production costs and more efficient water-based reticulation systems.



Research into 'green' anti-corrosion agents by researcher Ms Kerryn Wilson could save industry billions of dollars per year. Photo by Greg Ford.

Refusals: really all in the translation?

BY JOSIE GIBSON

US First Lady Nancy Reagan made refusals famous in the 1980s with her 'Just Say No' advice during a major anti-drugs campaign.

Unfortunately, refusals in other languages often aren't so straightforward.

Monash University doctoral scholar Mr Endang Aminudin Aziz is researching the cultural and linguistic gap between refusals in Bahasa Indonesia and English.

"Like apologies, refusals are often an area of tension in cross-cultural communication," Mr Aziz said. "This research project was motivated by complaints by non-Indonesians that Indonesians are reluctant, indirect, not frank. The non-Indonesians see this as implied impoliteness."

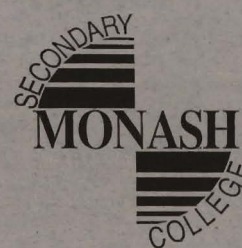
Mr Aziz's study established that indirectness was in fact the norm for expressing politeness in Indonesian, particularly when refusing a request. Responses were heavily influenced by the speaker's and addressee's relative age and social position. When communicating with a close friend, for example, an addressee might feel they could explicitly refuse.

He found that people used strategies ranging from a direct 'no' to more indirect methods such as hesitancy, putting the blame on a third party or even threatening the person making the request.

"Indonesians try to observe the principle of 'mutual consideration' to maintain a relationship," he said. "It's a 'harm and favour' approach - for example, this expression has potential to harm as well as to express something, so be careful."

Mr Aziz surveyed more than 160 people in Jakarta, Bandung and Bekasi using a test requiring them to respond to fictional requests. Respondents included roughly equal numbers of male and female factory workers, university students, bureaucrats, professionals, academics and members of non-government organisations.

"There was strong interest among authorities about this research as they often feel bad about complaints made by non-Indonesians about the way they speak," Mr Aziz said. "But they can't say yes or no explicitly because their culture teaches them to say it implicitly. In Indonesian, there are 12 ways of saying no and five ways of saying yes."



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Black and white reconciliation: simply a matter of political will

Reconciliation presents a unique opportunity for recognition and redress of past wrongs in Australia, but the government's lack of will and vision is hindering the process, writes Professor Eleanor Bourke.

OPINION

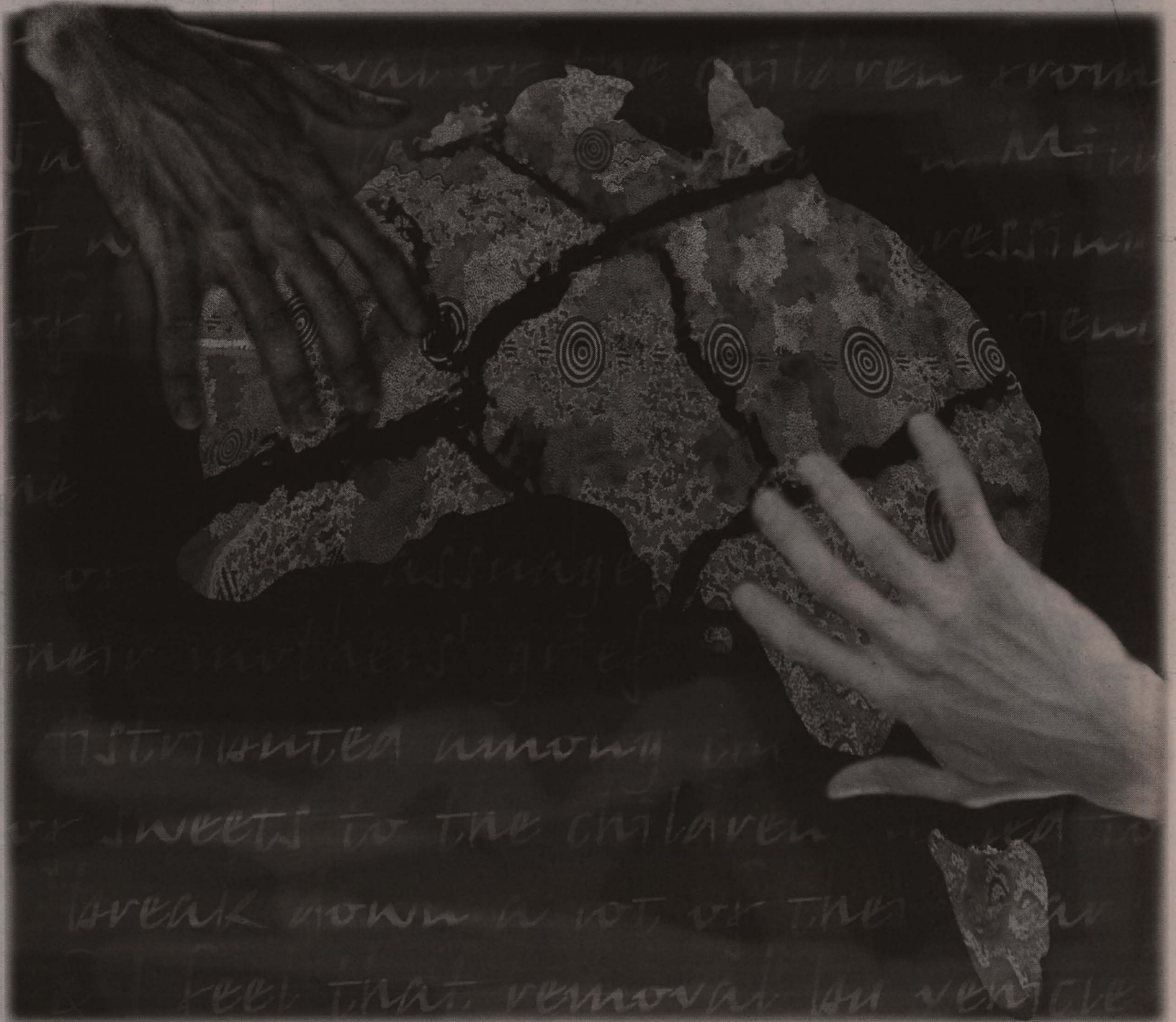


The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation's vision is an ambitious one. It seeks: 'A united Australia which respects this land of ours; values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage; and provides justice and equity for all'.

In the decade of Australian reconciliation, recognition of past wrongs and injustices have been at the forefront of national debates in the United States, Australia and South Africa. In these contexts, reconciliation seems to have three components: acknowledgment of past wrongs; an official apology; and redress for past wrongs.

Acknowledgment should have been easier in Australia than in the United States or in South Africa, one reason being that the historical 'conspiracy of silence' infers that most of the past wrongs seem genuinely new information to most other Australians. Books such as William Stanner's *The Great Australian Silence*, Henry Reynolds's *Why Didn't They Tell Me*, and other recent works are revelations in Australian history. Stolen children, massacres and wilful neglect have not been public topics in Australian history nor in the Australian education curriculum. Many of the facts are, however, on the official public record for anyone to read. Public records offices and local historical societies all hold telling accounts of unpublished stories.

It should be noted that not all indigenous Australians have supported reconciliation and that it might be of more benefit to other Australians. While this is true, at least to some extent, many indigenous Australians see reconciliation as a chance to make some progress towards achieving some of their aspirations. However, the time demands of being involved in the reconciliation process can be excessive for indigenous Australians. In addition to having the same family, community and employment demands upon us as do other Australians, we have to deal with issues such as reconciliation, native title, land rights, health issues, high incarceration rates, low socio-economic status, stolen children,



Artwork by Elizabeth Dias.

the republic debate and constitutional change.

The decade of reconciliation has now been overtaken by its own momentum, which, of course, embraces the diverse range of responses to it. Outnumbered 49 to one, we are continually burdened by other people's requests to help understand the status of indigenous Australians. Reconciliation is seen by some as yet another impost as it has become a very time-consuming and demanding exercise.

An official government apology to the Stolen Generations was recommended in the *Bringing Them Home* report. The apology so desired by those indigenous Australians has been denied by the current Federal Government. Apologies from the churches, state governments and ordinary citizens who supported a national 'Sorry Day' in May 1998 to express their feelings of sorrow have highlighted this omission.

Former Aboriginal Australian of the Year Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, one of the Stolen Children, has said publicly that the year since the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's national report on Stolen Generations so drained her emotionally that she desires closure. Instead, the Federal Government, through the Prime

Minister, though expressing personal sorrow, refuses to acknowledge the responsibility of predecessor governments and the impact of such policies on indigenous Australians today.

Indeed, at the Australian Reconciliation Convention in May 1997, rather than apologise, the Prime Minister harangued delegates when they showed their disapproval. Martin Flanagan in *The Australian* on 8 August 1998 noted that "Silence can be an extremely effective weapon...", especially when the Prime Minister's response was to shout at it. Since that time, the Prime Minister has expressed qualified support for reconciliation, but will not give those indigenous Australians the government apology they desperately seek.

At the 1997 convention, as well as celebrating the 30th anniversary of the 1967 referendum, a range of topics was canvassed to identify ways forward in the reconciliation process. These included: self-determination; the sharing of natural resources; land and sea entitlements for indigenous Australians; the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families and its subsequent impact; education; health; legal and customary law issues; and cultural and intellectual property rights.

All of these were debated so that a Document of Reconciliation might be developed. The issue of an appropriately worded apology from the Federal Government has been allowed to dominate the process and no progress has been made on other crucial issues.

The complexity of reparation – returning victims to the economic position they would have occupied but for government policy – is also not being addressed. Nor is there any accounting for the inter-generational impacts of discrimination and the severe spiritual and psychological losses from dispossession of land and separation from families, culture, and dispossession of language and suppression of beliefs. Surely a window of opportunity exists for universities to make a significant contribution to this debate.

A weakness of the Australian reconciliation process is that there appears no plan to handle the difficult topic of compensation for prior wrongs. Perhaps it presumes that indigenous people are to be reconciled to their fate as poor second-class citizens.

The former chairperson of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, Patrick Dodson, has resurrected the concept of a treaty. Patrick has suggested a process for debating whether

or not the document *Towards Reconciliation* should lead to a treaty. His suggestion includes a mechanism for further discussion through a panel of some 40 eminent Australians, half of whom should be indigenous Australians. If this group cannot reach agreement, then Mr Dodson suggests that the matter of a treaty should go to a national referendum.

My own view is that this Prime Minister has the opportunity to take the initiative. A number of government agencies already exist around the country to deal with land issues such as the National Native Title Tribunal, state tribunals and the Indigenous Land Corporation. Compensation through the development of land and natural resources can be pursued through a Land Treaty Tribunal. Compensation of another kind could also occur through Commonwealth-funded places in Australian universities for indigenous students to the value of full-fee-paying places for the decade following the centenary of Federation.

Professor Eleanor Bourke is chair of Australian Indigenous Studies and director of Aboriginal Programs at Monash University.

Great appeal in 'The Good, the Bad and the Cuddly'



'Sacred site' (1998), ceramic hand-built earthenware by Michael Doolan, now on show at Monash's Faculty Gallery.

BY BRONWYN STOCKS

A new ceramic sculpture exhibition at Monash University tackles themes of good and evil using comic images from our past.

Michael Doolan's works in *The Good, the Bad and the Cuddly* have a nostalgic appeal that is both personal and collective.

A lecturer in the Department of Applied Arts in Monash University's Faculty of Art and Design, Doolan claims television and comic images from his childhood as his strongest influences. The pervasiveness of such images ensures that the significance of his references are shared by a wide audience.

For each work, Doolan gathers a cast of toy characters and nursery props. Some of his figures are inspired directly by well-known characters like GI Joe and Miffy; more often he captures the essence of established types – the fluffy bunny, the corpulent bear, the macho cowboy.

His imagery focuses largely on the theme of good versus evil, drawing on simple moral issues present in many comic books.

The large scale of the works implies that the toys have grown in correspondence with our own growth as adults.

Doolan tries via this approach to facilitate a return to the infant/toy relationship for the viewer. He permits

entry to the interior world of the child and participation once again in childhood fantasy.

Yet these are not simply oversized toys, large versions of innocent childhood playmates. Key elements of each work have been subtly manipulated to suggest that, perhaps because of our loss of innocence, we can't return to that childhood state.

What: *The Good, the Bad and the Cuddly*

When: Until 1 July

Where: The Faculty Gallery at Monash's Caulfield campus

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

ARTS SCENE

Monash composer-of-honour named for 2000

Monash's School of Music – Conservatorium has announced its Australian composer-of-honour and adjunct professor for 2000.

Currently chair of Music at the University of Glasgow, Professor Graham Hair is well known in the US, the UK and Australia as a prolific composer of piano, ensemble and female vocal music.

He is the eighth composer in the annual Monash Australian Composers Series.

Business Systems sponsoring concerts

Monash University's School of Business Systems has entered the musical sponsorship arena, supporting three major performances this year.

The school, based in the Information Technology faculty, sponsored a concert by the New Monash Orchestra and Winfried Rademacher last month, and will sponsor *Viva Voce*, the orchestra and Yuri Rozum in October. Both concerts will be performed at Monash University.

In August, the school will support a family concert by the touring Asian Youth Orchestra at the Melbourne Concert Hall in the Victorian Arts Centre.

School head Professor Rob Willis said the sponsorships were an important example of the school engaging with the community. "Our successful degree programs allow us to support such worthwhile projects as the Asian Youth Orchestra and help them bring their talents to a wider audience," he said.

Artists tackle downside of Taiwanese 'miracle'

BY JOSIE GIBSON

The other side of Taiwan's transformation from a poverty-stricken agricultural society to economic powerhouse is told in a new exhibition at the Monash University Gallery later this month.

Face to Face: Contemporary Art from Taiwan examines the impact of the island's socioeconomic miracle on the psychological, emotional and spiritual well-being of the Taiwanese.

The eight young artists explore the consequences of the transformation from an island subject to foreign colonialism, political authoritarianism and cultural repression to a bastion of capitalism, democratic ideology and cultural pluralism.

Born in the 1960s, they are the direct beneficiaries of the material prosperity wrought by Taiwan's economic miracle, but also of the environmental and spiritual degradation it has caused.

The works in *Face to Face* range from video installation art to photo portraits and ink paintings, some

employing materials such as cloth, sequins, needles and feathers.

According to curator Ms Sophie McIntyre, the Taiwanese artists have deployed various modes of communication to explore and express the uncertainties of everyday life.

"If there is any unifying element in this most diverse selection of works, it is the sense of uncertainty, rootlessness and even displacement to which these artists give expression," she says.

"Considering the accelerated pace of Taiwan's transition into a modern industrialised nation, political economists define these symptoms of impermanence as part of the post-Taiwan experience – a result of the 'Taiwan miracle'."

What: *Face to Face: Contemporary Art from Taiwan*

When: 20 June to 22 July

Where: Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus

Who: For more details, contact the gallery on (03) 9905 4217.



'Face from the Edge of the Ocean 2' (1999) by Chen Shun-Chu, one of the works in *Face to Face: Contemporary Art From Taiwan*.

Workshop festival on again

The Australian International Workshop Festival 2000 will be held from 24 June to 9 July in Melbourne.

Presented by Monash University, the highly successful festival brings together some of the world's leading theatre figures for workshops with local performers, directors and theatre practitioners.

This year brings a range of exciting teachers and creators of performance theatre and dance, including Gennadi Bogdanov from Russia, Linda Wise

from France, Mike Alfreds and Wendy Houston from the UK, and Angela De Castro from Brazil.

In addition to the main workshops, there will be a range of extra events, including daily voice and movement warm-up classes, massage sessions, workshop forums, films/videos and discussions on all aspects of the performing arts.

The festival is being held at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne. For more information, call (03) 9905 1674.

Voices of terror from Pol Pot's secret prison

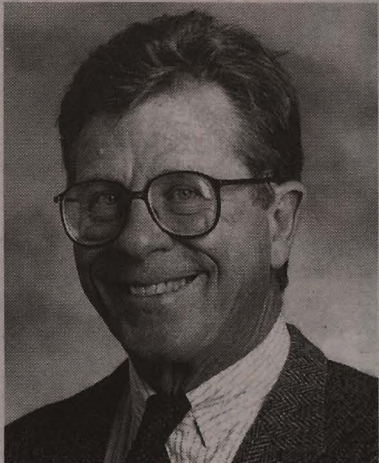
BY DEREK BROWN

In just four years, from 1975 to 1979, more than 14,000 men, women and children were imprisoned, interrogated, tortured and killed at S-21, a prison camp built by Cambodia's Khmer Rouge to persecute its political enemies.

David Chandler, an emeritus professor in Monash's History department, has sifted through hundreds of prison records, forced confessions and photos of prisoners found at S-21 in an attempt to understand how such an atrocity could occur.

Years of research have resulted in *Voices from S-21*, a book that bears witness to the suffering of prisoners who, deemed dangerous by the communist regime, were incarcerated in one of the Khmer Rouge's most notorious institutions.

"A typical prisoner arriving at S-21 would be questioned and beaten on several occasions, tortured if thought to be concealing important information, and



Professor David Chandler.

made to write or dictate a confession over several days, weeks, or in the case of 'important' prisoners, months. They were then put to death," Professor Chandler said.

As well as documenting the experiences of prisoners at the hands of their

captors, Professor Chandler attempted to look objectively at the people who worked within S-21 to discover how they could willingly participate in acts of severe and inhumane violence.

"While the crimes committed within the prison were truly horrific, I believe there is more to learn from S-21 than merely condemning it, and those who worked there, as evil," Professor Chandler said.

"Most of the people working at S-21 were not inherently brutal or authoritarian, but were mainly unexceptional, often poorly educated men and women who were cast in brutal roles. At S-21, workers could become prisoners overnight themselves," he said.

For Professor Chandler, *Voices from S-21* was a difficult book to write. "When I immersed myself in the S-21 archive, the terror inside it pushed me around, blunted my skills and eroded my self-assurance. The experience at times has been akin to drowning," he said.

Conference will examine global impact on the arts

BY JOSIE GIBSON

The impact of globalisation on Australia's performing arts will be examined at a national conference in Melbourne later this month.

Organised by Monash University and Circus Oz, the Globalisation and Live Performing Arts Conference on 23 and 24 June will bring together arts practitioners, trade experts, entrepreneurs and policy-makers for an in-depth look at the industry's future.

Dr Rachel Fensham, a lecturer in Monash's Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies and one of the conference organisers, said the wide-ranging program would cover major issues likely to influence the health of Australia's performing arts scene.

"There is great pressure on Australian companies to compete and survive in a global world," Dr Fensham said. "But what this means often isn't clear. We want to put some facts on the table."

The recent Nugent inquiry into the performing arts, with its recommendations for global, national, regional and local focuses for Australian companies, would have far-reaching implications and was one of the catalysts for the conference, she said.

Another was the recent tour by the highly successful European company Cirque du Soleil, which performed to packed houses around Australia - only weeks before Circus Oz's home season was due to start.

"Cirque du Soleil has about 600 employees," Dr Fensham said. "It can buy the best performers in the world, including from Australia. It caters to the same audiences as Circus Oz. This clearly has an impact locally."

At the same time, Aboriginal theatre and music are flourishing. The theatre production *Stolen*, four stories of Aboriginal children taken from their families, is touring Europe and the UK after a successful local season, underlining the exportability of Australian culture.

Dr Fensham said globalisation raised many questions, some of which the conference hoped to explore.

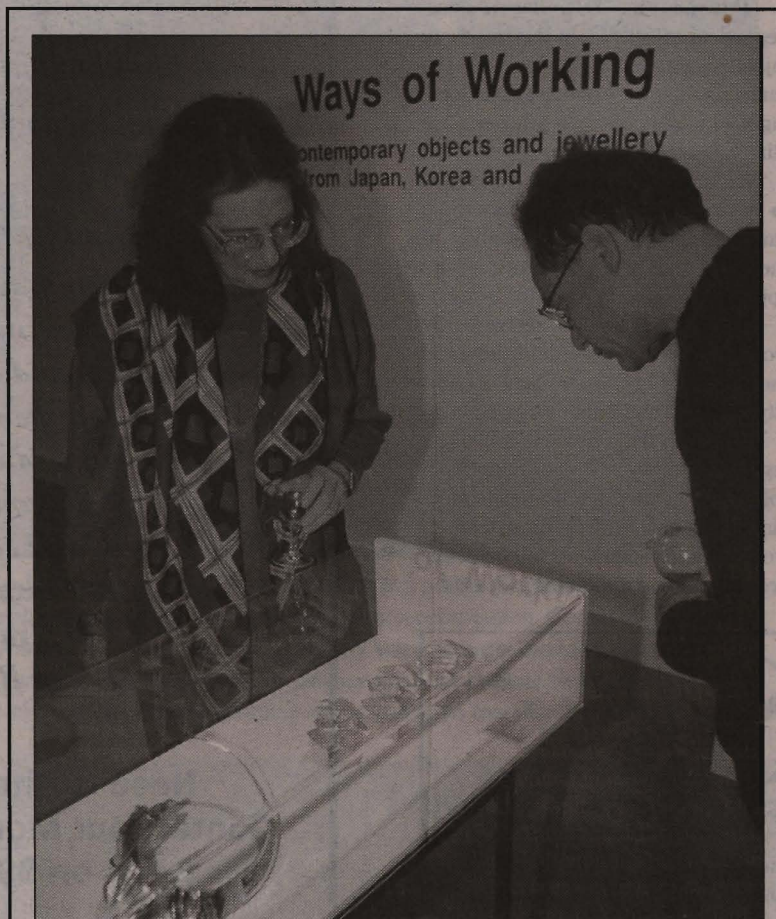
"It is an attempt to look at the economic and cultural benefits of globalisation, but also some of the losses," she said. "If the push is all towards exporting, you might not get the development of local culture."

Among other issues, delegates will explore globalisation's impact on national culture, cultural pluralism and local communities and the role of government.

"The conference is a really good example of a university working with

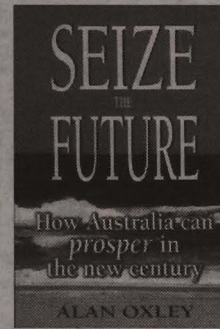
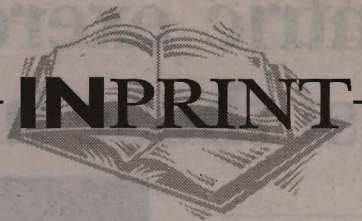
the industry, although timing - getting everyone together - has been a challenge," Dr Fensham said. "We have been able to bridge the distance between the scholarly language and interest of academics and the performing arts industry on the ground."

For more information about the conference, contact Ms Liz Sadler on (03) 9486 3408 or email lsadler@webtime.com.au



Exploring Ways of Working

The Faculty Gallery at Monash University's Caulfield campus recently hosted *Ways of Working*, an exhibition of work by distinguished contemporary metalsmiths and jewellers from Japan, Korea and Australia. Photo by Greg Ford.



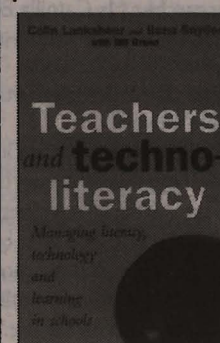
Seize the Future: How Australia Can Prosper in the New Century

Alan Oxley
Published by Allen & Unwin
RRP: \$19.95

In a rapidly changing world, where information technologies are moulding a global community and economic rationalism is creating a new way of doing business, Australia is gaining strength.

Seize the Future argues that as a nation we have regained our confidence, conquered our past and are now ushering in a new golden age. Author Alan Oxley explores economic, social and historical factors that have placed Australia in a prime position to prosper in the new century.

Mr Oxley has been an Australian ambassador to GATT (the predecessor of the World Trade Organisation), has represented Australia as a diplomat in Singapore and at the UN in New York, and is currently director of the Australian APEC Study Centre at Monash University.



Teachers and Techno-Literacy: Managing Literacy, Technology and Learning in Schools

Colin Lankshear and Ilana Snyder with Bill Green
Published by Allen & Unwin
RRP: \$29.95

The authors of *Teachers and Techno-Literacy* believe that in the rush to provide students with adequate technological literacy, vital educational purposes and standards are being sacrificed.

With this in mind, the book serves as a guide for teachers in countries like Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the United States, providing guidelines on how to incorporate technological literacy into a school curriculum without compromising teaching practices.

Dr Ilana Snyder lectures in the Faculty of Education at Monash University, Colin Lankshear is a Mexican Council for Science and Technology fellow based at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and Bill Green is a professor at the University of New England.



Gendering European History

Barbara Caine and Glenda Sluga
Published by Leicester University Press
RRP: \$39.95

Recognition of gender as a historical force has breathed new life into the analysis of historical events such as the First World War and the French Revolution, creating new perspectives on the effects of sexual difference on national and international politics.

Focusing on three main periods of European history, the text attempts to bring together existing literature on the role of gender to explore its effects on developments in work, urban and domestic life, national politics and nation-building during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Barbara Caine is a professor of history at Monash University, and Glenda Sluga is a senior lecturer in history and director of European studies at the University of Sydney.

POSTscript

In *Pioneer Players*, Associate Professor Peter Fitzpatrick, director of Drama and Theatre Studies at Monash University, tells the story of Louis Esson, the distinguished playwright, and his wife, Hilda, who worked in the theatre and in public health.

Associate Professor Tony Dingle, a lecturer in economic history at Monash University, has helped RMIT academic Alisa McLeary produce *Catherine: On Catherine's Diary 1873-1908*, an in-depth and moving analysis of the autobiography of an Australian pioneer.

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

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Eccentric exercises will protect against those hamstring injuries

BY DAVID BRUCE

Of all the serious injuries an Australian Rules footballer can receive, doing a 'hammy' is undoubtedly the most common.

Painful and crippling in its initial impact, the hamstring injury has a nasty habit of recurring throughout the athlete's career – and not only in football, but in a broad range of sports played at all levels.

Ms Camilla Brockett, a graduate student from Monash's Physiology department, believes she has developed an exercise strategy that will help to minimise this type of injury.

Her theory is based on a new understanding of eccentric exercise, that is, exercises where the contracting muscle is stretched at the same time. In poorly trained athletes, the first bout of such exercise leads to muscle soreness – the soreness and stiffness of the legs you feel the next day.

"This soreness is actually damage to the muscle fibres caused by overstretching," explains Ms Brockett. "It is at this point where the muscle is vulnerable to more major damage such as a muscle tear."

However, a second period of eccentric exercise, not long after the first, typically leads to much less soreness. This is because the muscle has undergone adaptive changes that protect it from further damage.

By adapting this theory of muscle development to the hamstring, Ms Brockett has shown that appropriate



Monash PhD researcher Ms Camilla Brockett explains an eccentric exercise that will help minimise the risk of hamstring injury. Photo by Sue Mitchell.

eccentric exercise can eventually protect this vulnerable muscle.

"We all perform eccentric exercise in our daily activities, but athletes in sports such as football are particularly vulnerable when kicking the ball. The type of training they are currently doing is not adequately preparing them for this range of movement in the hamstring," she said.

Ms Brockett has developed a range of eccentric exercises for footballers

that are designed to protect them from new and recurrent hamstring injuries. Other sports with a high number of hamstring injuries include grid iron, soccer and athletic events with a high leg lift, such as hurdling and sprinting.

"Hamstring injuries are at the top of the list of injuries for footballers. So any exercise strategy that can help minimise these kinds of injuries will obviously be of great interest to clubs and players," she said.

Brain chemical research could help treatment of weight-related illness

BY DEREK BROWN

A Monash PhD student's research into how chemical levels in the brain modulate appetite may help improve treatments for illnesses such as obesity and anorexia.

Ms Nazila Jamshidi, from the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Biology at the Victorian College of Pharmacy, has spent the last two years researching the effects of cannabinoids on the appetite of rats in an attempt to uncover the role these chemicals play in appetite modulation.

"I began by looking at THC, a major psychoactive constituent of cannabis. Cannabis has been used in the US as an appetite stimulant in HIV, AIDS and cancer patients," Ms Jamshidi said.

"By injecting rats with THC and measuring changes in their eating habits and body temperature, we have



PhD researcher Ms Nazila Jamshidi. Photo by Elizabeth Dias.

been able to deduct how cannabinoids act in the body."

Ms Jamshidi identified that THC plays a role in appetite modulation, but that the effects vary depending on the size of the dose, the time of its adminis-

tration and how much a rat has eaten prior to dosing.

"I found that THC has a dose-dependent effect. When the rats were injected with a high dose of the cannabinoids, for example, their feeding was inhibited, while a lower dose stimulated feeding."

Ms Jamshidi said the next step was to determine whether anandamide, a cannabinoid that occurs naturally in the body, had a similar effect on the appetite.

She said she hoped her research would provide new breakthroughs in the treatment of diseases such as obesity, anorexia and bulimia.

"If we can find out what is happening in the brain and determine what role anandamide plays in appetite modulation and how it affects these kinds of weight-related states, we will be better prepared to find a solution," she said.

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