



Refugee tribunal leads to legal maze: study

An international study by a Monash University law researcher has found Australia's system of testing whether asylum seekers are genuine refugees is inefficient.

It has also found the current system has led to a blowout in

the number of cases challenged in the courts.

The tribunal processes used to determine a person's refugee status were more adversarial, lacked transparency and were under-resourced compared with similar

systems in Canada and Britain, the study's preliminary analysis showed.

Senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law Dr Susan Kneebone has studied tribunal cases in Britain and Canada as part of a larger research project,

comparing Australia's processing of refugee claims with other nations.

The study, funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Australian Research Council, will also examine the way refugee claims are dealt with in France, the US and Germany and how each country's administrative laws on asylum seekers incorporate international human rights obligations.

Australia does not allow asylum seekers to be represented by a lawyer at hearings of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT), unlike Canada and Britain. Dr Kneebone, who works at Monash's Castan Centre for Human Rights Law within the Law faculty, said the right to legal representation was a key ingredient in determining whether a refugee applicant turned to the courts for a judicial review of a tribunal's decision.

In Australia, about 16 per cent of applicants seek a judicial review of an RRT decision, compared with less than 5 per cent of cases going to judicial review in both Canada and in Britain.

"If there is legal representation, arguments are presented more thoroughly and objectively, and the applicant does not have the same sense of grievance when the decision goes against them," she said.

"In Australia, we have this phenomenon of a huge number of persons seeking judicial review – it has blown out of all proportion."

Asylum seekers arriving in Australia must first apply to the immigration department for protection (refugee) visas. If their application is unsuccessful, they can ask the RRT, a one-person tribunal, to review the decision.

In Canada, most refugee applications go directly to a two-member tribunal hearing. Britain's three-member tribunal includes a lawyer and two lay people.

Both countries had better resources for their tribunals and more training for tribunal members compared with Australia, Dr Kneebone said. The multi-member tribunal system also seemed to lead to more



Processing the uninvited – frustration and tensions boil over in a system beset with problems. Photo Newspix.

informed decisions and fewer cases being challenged in the courts.

"In Australia, the (refugee) applicant is dependent on the one tribunal member to draw the issues out of them, and from what I have observed the tribunal member often seems to go in with a fixed line of issues," she said.

"There is a worrying number of cases in which the courts have decided that a tribunal member was biased by not approaching the issues in an objective way."

She said such an approach occurred when the tribunal did not allow asylum seekers to fully explain their case because of this bias and a lack of training about proper process.

The project, which is expected to take about another four years to complete, will now be expanded to examine other overseas jurisdictions.



Meet Goldie – pictured here with its designer Paul Manczak – the stylish beach rescue craft that is set to become an essential accessory for the modern lifesaver. Photo Peter Anikijenko.

Designer wins award breaking the waves

ART AND DESIGN

A prototype submersible craft used to help rescue swimmers from the surf has won Monash University graduate Mr Paul Manczak the inaugural Dyson Student Award.

Mr Manczak, 22, was presented with the \$7000 award at the prestigious Australian Design Awards presentation in Sydney in mid-April.

In addition to its lifesaving potential, Mr Manczak's Goldie lightweight rescue craft, described by the judges as "awesome", could become the next water sport sensation.

After using his own money to construct the \$2000 prototype, Mr Manczak said he was "very, very

happy – and so were my parents". Winning the award also provided him with a valuable opportunity to showcase his creation to manufacturers.

Explaining how the 15 kilogram hand-held device works, Mr Manczak said it was powered by an electric motor, helping both lifesavers and swimmers power through strong surf breaks, a useful tool on Australia's beaches notorious for powerful rip tides and crashing surf.

"Before embarking on this project, I thought there were only two ways of rescuing people – either by using a rubber duckie (surf lifesaving rubber dinghies which can cost

around \$14,000) or by just swimming out to get them," he said.

Over the past nine months Mr Manczak, who completed an industrial design degree at Monash last year, has been working with Surf Life Saving Victoria on making the craft more user-friendly.

Mr Manczak, who grew up on the beaches of Torquay, attributes inspiration for his design not only to his interest in surf lifesaving but also to a desire to contribute to the safety of the community.

More work on the mechanics of the prototype is scheduled to be carried out, and Mr Manczak hopes full production can begin within a year.

Konrad Marshall

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Monash Malaysia set to outgrow current location

Monash University Malaysia has experienced exceptional growth in its first four years of operation and has the potential to become the third largest campus of the university, according to Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson.

"Monash Malaysia was our first offshore campus, and it has been extraordinarily successful – so much so that we can foresee it outgrowing its present site in two or three years' time," Professor Robinson said.

The campus has increased its student population by almost seven times since it opened in July 1998 with 257

students. This year, the student population has swelled to 1685, including more than 200 students from neighbouring Southeast Asian countries.

"On current trends, we will probably have around 2500 students by the year 2005, and that will be enough for our current site. We need a campus that will, in the long term, take us to around 10,000 students," Professor Robinson said.

Monash was the first foreign university invited by the Malaysian Government to establish itself in that country. Monash Malaysia currently occupies a building adjacent to

Sunway College at Bandar Sunway, 18 kilometres south-west of central Kuala Lumpur.

Monash and the Sunway Group, the university's partner in Malaysia, have begun discussions that will see Monash Malaysia operating out of purpose-built facilities at a site close to its current location in 2005.

In a related development, discussions have also begun about including a medical school in the new Malaysia campus, with clinical teaching facilities to be located in Johor Bahru, in southern Malaysia.

David Bruce



The student population of Monash University Malaysia continues to grow.

Legal centre to work for justice and development

SOUTH AFRICA

A new law centre established at Monash University's South Africa campus will aid development and reconstruction in southern Africa.

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

These include job and wealth creation; land use planning; management and development in relation to water, sanitation, housing, health and education; integrated development; planning for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

Dean of Law Professor Stephen Parker said a key priority of the centre would be to establish a Legal Aid

Board-funded justice centre providing legal services in the areas of local economic development, small business, land rights and land usage. A research, educational and training program would be developed as part of the justice centre's activities.

"CLARISA will also seek funding from development agencies and other sources to undertake major development and reconstruction projects," he said.

A funding network for CLARISA projects is being established in cooperation with international aid organisations, the World Bank, international corporations, labour movements, governments of Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, and professional bodies committed to the development of Africa.

Professor Parker said CLARISA would also be a research institute and

work closely with the four other research centres in the Faculty of Law on projects involving human rights, privatisation and public accountability, forensic studies and law in the digital economy.

"CLARISA will provide those interested in law and reconstruction in southern Africa with the opportunity to undertake a research masters degree or PhD in development-related fields of study," he said.

Professor Theo Scheepers has been appointed as the director of the centre. Professor Scheepers was formerly deputy director of the Centre for Community Law and Development at the University of Potchefstroom in South Africa, the country's largest legal aid law clinic and justice centre.

Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson said the establishment of CLARISA was an important step forward for the university.

"A centre based in South Africa and linked to the Monash global network opens up many new opportunities for Monash academics and research students," he said.

"The work will make a valuable contribution to our understanding of law and reconstruction internationally."

Fiona Perry

IN BRIEF

Pharmacy pathway to MBA

Pharmacists will for the first time be offered a direct pathway to an MBA.

Due to commence in the second semester of 2002, the Pharmacy Management Program is a joint project of Monash University's Victorian College of Pharmacy and Faculty of Business and Economics.

The program, which was developed with significant input from the relevant peak pharmacy bodies, will foster management skill development for pharmacists, nurses and health professionals.

Course director Mr Bill Suen said that combining the strengths of the two faculties would create a cutting-edge education program that combined professional track electives such as retail pharmacy management and pharmaceutical economics with core MBA units in managerial and leadership skills and information systems.

Prison reform project promotes justice

A group of Monash law students undertaking a community development project is helping provide Victorian prison inmates with greater access to legal resources and information.

The students successfully lobbied the Fitzroy Legal Service to provide a copy of the Law Handbook to all 13 Victorian prisons each year.

The project is part of a final-year law unit and stems from the group's interest in promoting justice for prisoners and empowering them by giving them a greater understanding of their legal problems.

Tribute to Professor Eric Glasgow

Medical graduates and the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences have paid tribute to the late Professor Eric Glasgow for his contribution to the university with a memorial bust in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology courtyard.

The bust, by renowned portrait sculptor Peter Latona, is a gift from the Association of Monash Medical Graduates Inc, the department and the faculty.

The bust was unveiled at a function recently, which brought together more than 200 of Professor Glasgow's colleagues, friends and former students, including Federal Minister for Health and Aging Senator Kay Patterson.

Professor Glasgow was appointed associate professor of anatomy at Monash in 1972 and professor of human anatomy at Stanford University in 1985, but he continued his association with the university for many years.

Founding VC mourned

Monash has paid tribute to its foundation vice-chancellor and visionary planner, Sir Louis Matheson, who passed away on 27 March, aged 90.

Sir James Adam Louis Matheson, who was vice-chancellor of Monash from its beginnings in 1960 until 1976, is survived by his wife, Lady (Audrey) Matheson, and three sons.

Vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson offered his condolences to the family of Sir Louis and said that he had made a major contribution to the development of higher education in Australia.

"During its formative years, Monash University was in confident and able hands. Sir Louis set the tone for Monash as a university that had fresh and innovative ideas," Professor Robinson said.

As another vice-chancellor and later governor-general Sir Zelman Cowen said after Sir Louis' retirement: "Within a very few years, it [Monash] grew into a university of high national and international standing. That is a great achievement, and it is his great and enduring monument as a vice-chancellor."

Born in 1912 in Yorkshire, England, Sir Louis studied at Manchester University.

He came to Australia in 1947 to take up an appointment as professor in engineering at the University of Melbourne. In 1950, he returned to England to become the Beyer Professor of Engineering (1950-59) at Manchester University. From this position, he was recruited to lead Monash.

Sir Louis welcomed Monash's first batch of 363 students in 1961. By the end of his term as vice-chancellor, the student population at Monash had grown to 13,751, and Monash had emerged from its formative years as a strong and distinctive institution.

In his book *Monash - Remaking the University*, Professor Simon Marginson described Sir Louis' 16 years at the helm of Monash in the midst of challenges and change as highly successful.

"Student power notwithstanding, few vice-chancellors have been as uniformly well regarded by their contemporaries, or so successful in achieving their stated aims. If the times favoured a builder ... Matheson was a builder for the times," he wrote.



Sir Louis Matheson (centre) shows the then Premier Rupert Hamer (right) scale models of what would later become Monash University. Photo Monash University Archives.

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Seize the day

Magnets show promise on depression: research

MENTAL HEALTH

Gently applying magnetic fields to specific areas of the brain is having encouraging results with clinically depressed patients in studies by Monash University's Department of Psychological Medicine.

The therapy is being trialled on 60 people with severe depression who have failed to respond to more conventional treatments, including the prescription of multiple medications and years of psychotherapy or counselling.

Senior lecturer Dr Paul Fitzgerald says preliminary results indicate that transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) is successful for about 40 per cent of the subjects being treated and partially successful with a further 20 per cent.

"These are people who are running out of options to improve their condition," he said.

Transcranial magnetic stimulation uses a small hand-held device to project pulses of electromagnetic

energy 2 cm deep into the brain over an area about 2 cm squared.

The treatment takes about 15 minutes each day and does not require an anaesthetic or hospital admission.

"We aim at specific areas of the frontal lobes known to be involved in depression. The magnetic pulses influence brain cell activity, with higher frequency pulses being stimulatory and lower frequency pulses reducing brain activity," he said.

"We don't yet know enough about the links between depression and brain activity, but we have shown TMS to be an effective therapy for a significant number of sufferers who may not be helped by any other treatment."

The three-year trial at Dandenong Hospital, supported by an NHMRC grant, will end later this year. Further studies are planned.

Dr Fitzgerald hopes to improve the process by adding the capacity to target the therapy based on individual brain scans, better focusing the magnetic pulses on the relevant brain regions.

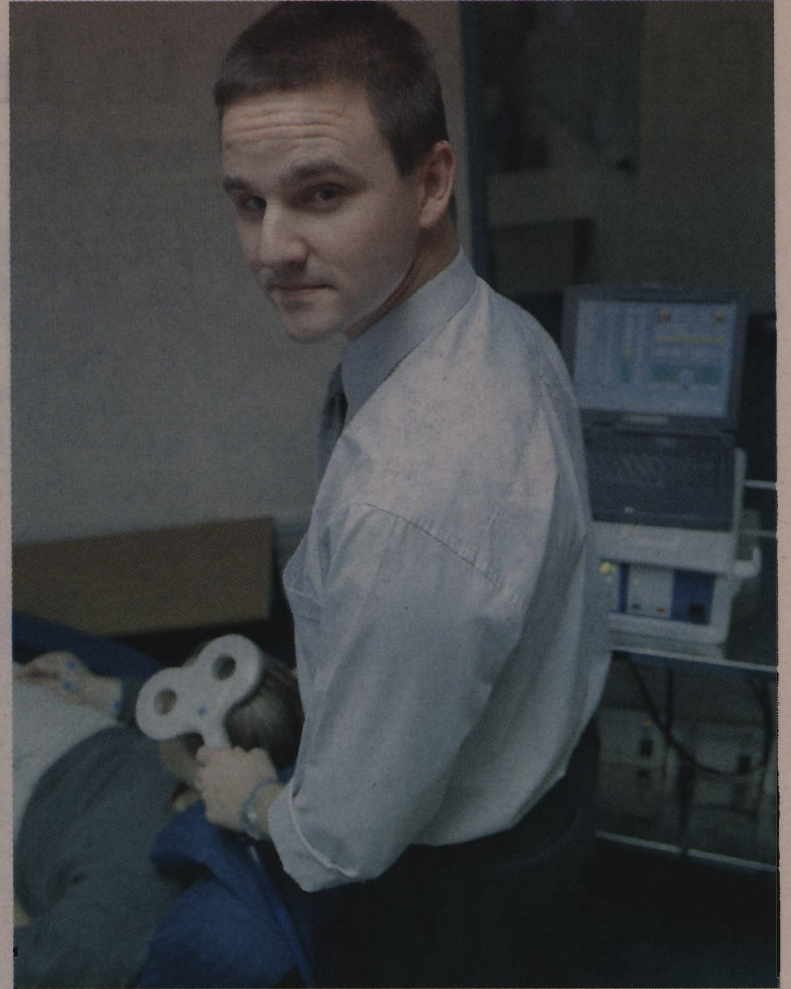
"I think this would enable us to improve our success rate and also to learn more about what is going on in the brains of patients with depression as they respond to treatment," he said.

The TMS team is also studying the differences between applications to the left and right sides of the brain, over a range of frequencies.

"There has been little work done anywhere in the world on right-sided treatment, and I think we'll be the first to demonstrate its effectiveness on very severe treatment-resistant patients," he said.

Another challenge is to develop the status of TMS from research to an approved medical procedure. Canada has approved it for specific applications, and Dr Fitzgerald is hopeful that it may become more available in Australia in the near future. Plans are under way for the development of an Australian clinical centre for TMS research and practice.

Stuart Heather



Magnets are applied to a patient's brain by researcher Dr Paul Fitzgerald in an innovative way of treating depression in Monash's Department of Psychological Medicine. Photo Maurice Grant-Drew.

Project to halt the further destruction of our wetlands

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The future of Australia's threatened wetlands is looking brighter, thanks to a new research and development project involving Monash University.

The \$600,000 three-year project, led jointly by a research team from Monash's School of Biological Sciences and the School Life Sciences at Victoria University, will examine the ecology and management, and ultimately the rehabilitation, of wetlands fringing the Gippsland Lakes, an area beset by blue-green algal blooms.

It is hoped the work will provide findings that can be applied immediately to similar types of endangered wetlands.

Joint chief investigator and aquatic ecologist Dr Paul Bailey, of the School of Biological Sciences, says between 60 and 70 per cent of Australia's known wetlands are under threat.

"In Victoria, more than 70 per cent of wetlands have been irretrievably lost, mainly through clearing, modified water regimes and draining for agricultural production and development," he said.

"Historically, they have been seen as swamps and bogs, areas where mosquitoes breed, or as sites to be drained or used as landfills."

The research, based at the Dowd and Clydebank morasses in the south Gippsland lakes, will examine how a range of factors – such as salinity, water management and carp – interact to degrade a wetland.

"Researchers in the past have normally addressed single issues," Dr Bailey said.

"We have hypothesised that multiple issues, or multiple threats, can actually coalesce and a synergistic effect can take place. As a result, a number of issues can have much more impact than just the sum of the single issues."

The 1500-hectare Dowd Morass is dominated by a small, common tree

belonging to the paperbark group (*Melaleuca*), interspersed with areas of open water. It is a diverse community of submerged water plants fringed by reeds and sedges – and it also happens to be home to one of the largest breeding colonies of ibis in Australia.

"For the past 20 years, this wetland has permanently contained 60 cm to 80 cm of water. It's the classic problem of a wetland not being allowed to seasonally dry down and then reflood as it would have naturally," Mr Bailey said.

"Such lack of natural variability under which the plants and animals would have evolved have been all ironed out."

Pivotal to the project will be the landscape manipulation of the wetlands. Scientists plan to reinstate one

of the old levee banks dividing the wetland, drain one side and then reflood it.

"It will enable us to quantify a range of different response variables, such as groundwater changes and responses by plants and animals," Dr Bailey said.

The bulk of funding (\$400,000) for the project – undertaken with joint investigator Associate Professor Paul Boon of Victoria University and one of only four projects of its kind funded nationally – has come from Land and Water Australia, a Federal Government initiative. The remainder of the money is from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

John Clark



Student artwork selected to honour PM in New York

A scaled-down version of a sculpture by a Monash University student was presented to Prime Minister Mr John Howard recently when he was conferred with the American Jewish Committee's Distinguished Public Service Award.

The presentation in New York on 30 January was made by Australia/Israel Jewish Affairs Council director Dr Colin Rubenstein.

The sculpture, titled 'The Tree of Life', was created by Mr Simon Kessel, who began his fine arts studies at Monash at the age of 45, having previously painted for many years. He is currently completing

his masters at Monash on monumental sculpture, with a special focus on Holocaust themes.

The sculpture presented to Mr Howard is a smaller version of a two-metre work by Mr Kessel, on display in the foyer of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation.

The tree is a symbol of growth and renewal, and Mr Kessel wanted to express this concept in visual form.

Mr Howard was honoured by the American Jewish Committee in recognition of his government's ongoing support for the state of Israel.

Konrad Marshall



Between 60 and 70 per cent of Victoria's wetlands are under threat. Photo: AAP.

Pulmosonix to help babies breathe easier



Research into lung diseases, particularly in premature babies, has received a significant boost with the establishment of Pulmosonix, a company creating new medical devices based on acoustic techniques.

The setting up of the commercial entity, which uses Monash University know-how, follows the recent signing of agreements between Monash Commercial and Pulmosonix.

The intellectual property being exploited by Pulmosonix developed from a long-standing research collaboration within the Ritchie Centre for Baby Health Research, involving bioengineer Dr Malcolm Wilkinson, physiologist Dr Philip Berger, and neonatal pediatrician Dr Andrew Ramsden.

According to Dr Berger, the establishment of Pulmosonix is an important milestone in attracting private venture capital to commercialise the intellectual property of biomedical researchers at Monash.

Pulmosonix is investigating the use of sound waves to assess lung inflation and upper airway patency.

With further devices on the drawing board, Dr Wilkinson says, the company has created a platform technology that has the potential to improve treatment of respiratory and other diseases.

The first thrust of the studies being undertaken in the Ritchie Centre involves chronic lung disease, a major complication of premature birth, particularly among infants born at 28 weeks' gestation or less.

The condition prolongs the amount of time babies spend in neonatal intensive care units, and it develops when mechanical ventilation of the baby's immature lungs is inappropriate, either because they are over-inflated or under-inflated. At present, no practical method exists to monitor the inflation of lungs, with x-rays providing limited information.

Dr Ramsden, who is also director of newborn services at Monash Medical

Centre, is optimistic about new devices being designed at the company.

"We have now developed our acoustic technique to the point where we have prototype equipment suitable to test in small infants in the intensive care unit," he said.

"Initial research shows promise, and through the establishment of Pulmosonix there is great scope to extend the studies."

Mary Viscovich



Giving lung research a breath of life: At the signing of the agreement were, back row from left, Mr Jeremy Cooper, Premier Bionics; Dr Philip Berger, Ritchie Centre for Baby Health Research; Dr Mal Wilkinson, Ritchie Centre for Baby Health Research; Dr Andrew Ramsden, Monash Medical Centre; and Mr Martin Soust, Pulmosonix managing director, and front row from left, Mr Peter Marks, Premier Bionics; Monash deputy vice-chancellor (Resources) Ms Alison Crook; and Monash deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development) Professor Peter Darvall.

Schools



'At Monash' 2002 Seminar Series

'At Monash' seminars provide senior secondary students with an overview of Monash course and career paths. Staff at each seminar will talk about the disciplines offered in their faculty, and current students and graduates will discuss their experiences. The seminars now take place in the evening to enable parents to attend.

Bookings can be made online at www.monash.edu.au/ps0/programs/ or contact the Prospective Students Office on +61 3 9905 4164.

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Wednesday 8 May, 7.30 pm
Robert Blackwood Concert Hall
Clayton campus

Medicine and Health Sciences, Pharmacy

Tuesday 14 May, 7.30 pm
Robert Blackwood Concert Hall
Clayton campus

Nursing, Education
Thursday 16 May, 7.30 pm
George Jenkins Theatre
Peninsula campus

Arts, Science
Tuesday 21 May, 7.30 pm
Robert Blackwood Concert Hall
Clayton campus

Engineering, Information Technology
Wednesday 29 May, 7.30 pm
Robert Blackwood Concert Hall
Clayton campus

Monash Careers Teachers Seminar

This seminar, for career teachers and Year 12 coordinators, will be held on Thursday 13 June at the Clayton campus. Programs and booking forms have been sent to schools.

For additional information, contact Ms Val Foster on +61 3 9905 4164.

Forecasting unit to keep weather eye on recession

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

A new theory of probability forecasting being developed in Monash University's Faculty of Business and Economics could help swing economic planning back firmly in favour of the forecaster.

In a twist on the usual formula, a team in the Business and Economics Forecasting Unit is designing an economic model that can predict the probability of a forthcoming recession. Normally, the goal of economic forecasting is to predict output or growth.

The project – the brainchild of Associate Professor Heather Anderson, Associate Professor Farshid Vahid and Mr George Athanasopoulos – is based on the idea that the economy behaves differently during a recession than it does during a boom.

"Policy makers and business planners are often concerned about the possibility of a forthcoming recession," Dr Anderson said.

"Despite this concern, most forecasters of economic conditions simply predict future levels of economic growth. Such predictions, however, do not directly allow forecast users to determine the likelihood of a sustained fall in growth."

The project – nicknamed NARLI (Nonlinear Auto-Regressive Leading Indicator) – is an application of a multivariate model – that is, it involves several different random variables, such as GDP and interest rates.

"Interest rate spreads are useful predictors of output because they reflect the stance of monetary policy, current investment climate and investor's expectations of future financial conditions," Dr Anderson said.

"We can set the model up so that we could, for instance, work out the

probability that a recession – that is, at least two consecutive quarters of negative growth – was going to be this deep or last this long."

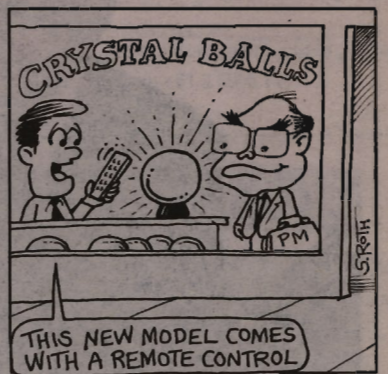
Although probability forecasting has been around for sometime, NARLI takes the practice to new levels.

"The inputs are the same as for other economic models – it's the type of model and its use for making probability forecasts that is new, rather than the individual ideas themselves," she said.

"Normally, you would want some idea of what GDP has been doing on a quarterly basis. In our case, you would also want information on interest rate spreads, so you can work out what the pattern has been in the past and use that to predict the future."

So far the team has built models for Australia, the US, Canada, the Netherlands, France and the UK, and is now assessing their performance.

"One of the reasons for not building a model for one country, and then publishing the results, is that we wanted to establish that our particular



technique worked for a variety of different economies."

Considerable interest has been shown in similar models that use interest rate spreads to predict output, Dr Anderson says.

"Our model is different from theirs, however, and works better. We have compared all sorts of forecast performance measures based on our models with those from other models, and we're coming out in front."

John Clark



Normally, the goal of economic forecasting is to predict output or growth. Photo AAP.

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Towards a welcoming Australia

OPINION



Business leader **NEVILLE ROACH AO** told a recent Monash Leading Ideas Forum that the lucky country can no longer afford to turn away so much of its good fortune.

Migrants and refugees do not come at a cost to the rest of us, but actually enrich us all in many ways. The reason for choosing the extreme term 'highest priority' for today's address was to emphasise how critical it is that we return rapidly to a positive view of all migrants and refugees, whether or not they are in the queues that our orderly minds and programs would like them to be.

In the minds of many Australians today, migrants and refugees have become a problem, and the asylum seekers a national crisis. And yet, it was not so long ago that our collective view was that this country had been built by the continuous arrival of newcomers, and those already here, excepting of course Indigenous inhabitants, were always the better for their arrival. If we can return to a welcoming mind-set, we will once again celebrate their coming instead of needlessly worrying about them.

At the most basic level, we need migration because otherwise our population would already be in serious decline, which in due course would become irreversible. Our fertility rate is now below replacement level. Raising it through baby-friendly policies is worth trying but likely to have only a marginal effect. The entire developed world faces this problem and former emigrant countries, including Japan and several European nations, have now to attract migrants. We are indeed the 'lucky country' because, for us, immigration and settlement have always been core business, something we know how to do well.

While we need immigration to avert population decline, we should acknowledge that the earlier rationale for immigration, "populate or perish", is probably no longer an imperative in strategic or economic terms. In today's world, security does not depend significantly on having a large population to defend our shores.



Migrants make our community collectively more hard-working and entrepreneurial: Neville Roach. Photo Maurice Grant-Drew.

Technology can make up for a relative shortage of people, and our defence alliances can help us in case of overwhelming threat. From an economic perspective, migration is unlikely to have a huge and lasting impact on our major challenge, the small size of our domestic market. The answer must be found elsewhere, especially through exports to regional and global markets.

'...by far the greatest way in which migration enriches us today is by making us a more diverse society.'

Migration will also not have a major impact on the ageing of the population, even if we accept more parents. Besides, ageing will not be as serious a problem as is sometimes made out, because older people are becoming fitter and will remain productive for much longer.

So some of the more simplistic arguments in favour of migration are unlikely to pass scrutiny. However, most analysts agree that, on balance, the impact of a net inflow of migrants is beneficial. In particular, economists today would generally accept that migrants create more jobs than they take. And studies commissioned by the Department of Immigration consistently show that, overall, our current migration program adds to per capita income and contributes positively to the federal budget.

While I believe that a somewhat larger migrant intake would be good for us, the value of migrants to Australia is more qualitative than

merely a matter of numbers. Because they are driven to make a better life for themselves and their children, migrants make our community collectively more hard-working and entrepreneurial. But refugees, especially asylum seekers, because of the hardship they have experienced and the courage they have needed to survive and just get here, are likely to have the most impact.

A strong migration program also gives us continuous access to much-needed skills. Given the speed and unpredictable way in which technology and globalisation change skill requirements, we are fortunate that we have a great capacity to attract skilled people from around the world through permanent or temporary migration. We should also recognise the role migrants play in providing essential services in less skilled jobs, jobs that Australians born here may no longer want to do. A good example is the taxi industry, which almost all Anglo-Celtic Australian drivers have abandoned.

However, by far the greatest way in which migration enriches us today is by making us a more diverse society. Non-discriminatory immigration continuously adds to our diversity almost automatically, because, while it means we welcome people from every corner of the world, economic push factors attract more from

developing countries than from Britain and Ireland, the origin of the majority of Australians.

The benefits of diversity are now widely recognised under the term 'productive diversity'. I must acknowledge my bias. Having come to White Australia in 1961, I know from personal experience that Multicultural Australia is a much more exciting country to live in, and an infinitely

better place to eat in! While the food, song and dance bit is the most obvious and enjoyable outcome of our diversity, the economic benefits are greater. Multicultural and multilingual skills and cross-cultural competence help us develop new products and services, access new markets and connect to international networks. Our fastest growing service industries, education of overseas students and tourism, could not have been so successful had our own diversity not already made us comfortable with difference.

Most importantly though, diversity unleashes innovation and creativity, the primary drivers of income and wealth creation today, as the recent experience of America and Japan so conclusively demonstrates. While Japan's monoculture underpinned the disciplines of total quality management and continuous improvement, giving Japan dominance in the manufacturing economy

of the Industrial Age, leadership in the knowledge economy of the Information Age has been seized by America, where diversity has unleashed unlimited creativity. When it comes to diversity, thanks to our migrants and refugees, Australia is very much like America, and the opposite of Japan.

White Australia was awarded the 1956 Olympics but could never have won the 2000 games – only Multicultural Australia could have run them and welcomed the whole world so naturally and so brilliantly.

■ This is an edited version of a speech by Neville Roach AO, titled 'Why welcoming migrants and refugees should be Australia's highest priority', at a recent Monash Leading Ideas Forum, co-presented by the Monash Asia Institute and the Alumni relations program, a regular public discussion on current world issues.

Mr Roach is a business leader and chairman of Fujitsu Limited. He recently resigned as chairman of both the Council for Multicultural Australia and the Business Advisory Panel in protest at the Federal Government's treatment of asylum seekers.

For a full transcript of Mr Roach's speech or further information on the Leading Ideas Forum go to www.monash.edu.au/alumni/events/leading_ideas/roach_transcript.html

Colourful showcase of Indonesian dance

A Javanese folk tale about three sisters, a crab and the reunion between a prince and princess will be brought to the stage in a colourful performance at Monash University.

Andhe-Andhe Lumut - The Reunion of the Prince and Princess is a Cinderella-like story set in Jenggala in the 14th-century kingdom of Kediri Java.

The story of Panji Putra and his beautiful wife, Dhewi Sekar Taji, is told through dance and music, with a traditional Indonesian storyteller narrating the tale in English.

Producer Professor Margaret Kartomi, from Monash University's School of Music - Conservatorium, said the performance would include about 40 gamelan musicians, directed by well-known Javanese gamelan musician and composer Al Suwardi, as well as 25 actors and dancers. It will also feature Javanese dancer Soepri Soehodo as the lead dancer and director.

"It is a very colourful event ... a beautiful performance," Professor Kartomi said. "It is set to a spectacular jungle backdrop, and the costumes are stunning."

Monash has been presenting large-scale Indonesian performances for the past 30 years.

According to Professor Kartomi, a production such as this, which is being presented by the School of Music - Conservatorium, the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies and Monash Asia Institute, would not normally be seen outside Indonesia.

"Even in Indonesia, these kinds of shows are becoming rare because they are so expensive," she said.

What: *Andhe-Andhe Lumut - The Reunion of the Prince and the Princess*



Javanese dancer Soepri Soehodo is lead dancer and director in a tale of love and reunion. Photo Peter Anikijenko.

When: 29 May at 10.30 am, 1 pm and 7.30 pm

Where: Alexander Theatre, Clayton campus

Who: For bookings, contact the Monash Box office on +61 3 9905 1111, or for

more information, contact Mr Matthew Sutherland at the School of Music - Conservatorium on +61 3 9905 4698.

Diane Squires

ARTSSCENE

Students show their wares

The talent of Monash Art and Design postgraduate students is being showcased in an exhibition running at the university's Faculty Gallery at Caulfield.

The exhibition, which runs from 8 April until 17 May, is part of a visual project undertaken by PhD and masters research students, in which their work is assessed in a gallery context.

It also offers the public a chance to experience and enjoy the students' work, which includes painting, glass, tapestry, digital art and installation.

Student work will also be the focus of another exhibition to be held in the Faculty Gallery from 29 May to 5 July.

The gallery will feature artworks by top 2001 Victorian International Baccalaureate students, judged by examiners as demonstrating the highest levels of skill and as being "personally, culturally and aesthetically meaningful".

Schools represented in the exhibition will include Carey Baptist Grammar School, Ivanhoe Grammar School, The Kilmore International School, Lauriston Girls' School, Macedon Grammar School, Methodist Ladies' College, Presbyterian Ladies' College, St Leonard's College, Tintern Anglican Girls Grammar School and Wesley College.

For further information, contact the Faculty Gallery on +61 3 9903 2707 or email enquiries@ArtDes.monash.edu.au

Monash artist's solo show

The works of artist Julie Adams will be featured in an exhibition at the Switchback Gallery at Monash University's Gippsland campus this month.

The exhibition, *Works on Paper, a Selection of Recent Drawings and*

Paintings by Julie Adams, will run between 21 and 31 May.

Ms Adams, who is head of the university's Gippsland Centre for Art and Design and lectures in visual arts and drawing, says her works draw primarily from her experiences of working and living in a regional environment.

"Living in a regional environment, but also having connections with a metropolitan centre, has always raised questions for me about how we identify where we belong and what makes us connected. My art practice, particularly my painting, has been concerned with these issues," she explained.

For more information about the exhibition, contact Ms Rosemarie Abbott at the Gippsland Centre for Art and Design on +61 3 5122 6261.

Britain's big brass band

One of the UK's most famous brass bands will play at Monash University as part of its 2002 Australian tour.

Formed in 1917 as a leisure activity for working men from the local colliery, the Grimethorpe Colliery Coal Band has won almost every brass band competition in the UK.

The band rose to prominence in the late 1990s with the release of the movie *Brassed Off!*, the soundtrack of which became an international success. Since then the band has played to audiences all over the world.

The Grimethorpe Colliery Coal Band will perform on Friday 31 May at the Robert Blackwood Hall at 8 pm.

Tickets are \$59 for adults (\$49 concession or for those in groups of 10 or more).

For more information, contact the Box Office on +61 3 9905 1111.

The art of dissent in Indonesia goes on show

The role of the military, legal reform, corruption and reconciliation are among the themes explored in a new exhibition by the Indonesian artist collective Taring Padi at the Monash University Museum of Art.

The exhibition, *Taring Padi/Teeth of the Rice Plant*, includes a cross-section of the group's work, which features a recent series of collaborative paintings arising out of three days of discussion between the group and local students and community members in Yogyakarta.

Exhibition curator Stuart Koop said the participants in the discussion included artists and non-artists, and the dissonant pictorial style of the works reflected "the myriad voices having their say".

The collective was formed in Yogyakarta six months after the resignation of President Suharto in 1998, he explained.

"Members lived and worked collectively in the city, sharing a commitment to social change across Indonesia through their art," he said.

"The group's aim was to rebuild a 'people's culture' through programs of cultural activism - it was instrumental in organising some of the radical cultural protests and performances that animated the student movement of 1998."

Since 1998, Taring Padi has continued to push democracy and social justice education among urban and rural Javanese. The group has produced banners, posters, street puppets, leaflets and newspapers, working in collaboration with various communities, including students and

farmers, to represent minority views within Indonesian and at international cultural forums.

"Much of this material is created for dissemination on the streets, not in the gallery - the banners and puppets lifted high on poles in street parades, the printed material handed out to anyone interested. It's ephemeral stuff - posters and zines - flimsy and disposable, often seized and destroyed by police," Mr Koop said.

"Yet the work of Taring Padi is vital and crucial to the public discussion of

politics in Indonesia. In their work, it's easy to see the movement of radical ideas from grass roots to artistic form."

What: *Taring Padi/Teeth of the Rice Plant*

When: Until 15 June

Where: Monash University Museum of Art

Who: For more information, contact the Monash University Museum of Art on +61 3 9905 4217

Mary Viscovich



The banners and posters of Taring Padi on the streets of Indonesia.

Violins and voices hit a high note

The individual signature works of composers Antonio Vivaldi, Arvo Part and Johann Sebastian Bach were showcased at Monash University in a special event last month.

An audience of more than 700 at the Robert Blackwood Concert Hall saw many musical forces at play in the well-received fourth concert of Monash University's Making Music series.

Sponsored by the Monash MBA and DBA programs, the concert featured the Monash Chamber Orchestra and Choir and guest performers, who entertained the audience for more than two hours.

The evening began with a rendition of Arvo Part's *Fratres*, described by conductor Finlan Murphy, senior lecturer and coordinator of strings at the Monash School of Music - Conservatorium, as "a simple or straightforward mix of violin and voice ... which has a chorale-like shape".

A member of the Monash Ensemble Studies program and celebrated violinist, Mr Murphy has performed with both the Melbourne Symphony and the State Orchestra of Victoria.

A performance of Bach's famous cantata, the rich and extravagant *Sleepers Wake!*, continued the grand chorale theme of the evening.

Guest performers included acclaimed violin soloist Paul Wright, from the University of Western Australia, tenor Peter Mander, who lectures at Monash, and soprano Tania Rordan, who is currently completing a masters in performing arts at Monash.

Other performers were Linda Kent on the harpsichord and American vocalist Steven Grant, a highly acclaimed bass of the Baroque school.

The climax of the night was Vivaldi's immortal *Four Seasons*, a collection of concertos which depict the seasons.

Family secrets take flight for author

Sometimes the deepest secrets are neither political nor in the national interest: they're the ones that dwell in your own family.

Just ask Professor Lynette Russell, the new head of the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies at Monash.

While researching the tragic story of her great-grandmother for a memoir a few years ago, Professor Russell officially unmasked a family secret she had already suspected herself: her father's mother was Aboriginal – a woman who, with the help of pale make-up, had lived as a white person.

The story of Professor Russell's quest for the truth is revealed in her recently published book, *A Little Bird Told Me* (Allen & Unwin).

Subtitled *Family Secrets, Necessary Lies*, the book examines the durability of a family's secret in the face of a world prepared to pass swift judgement. At its centre is the story of her great-grandmother, Emily, who was committed to a mental asylum at the age of 40.

"I knew my great-grandmother as a quiet and timid woman, reserved and very passive," Professor Russell said.

"But the picture I got from the asylum records was of a very strong Aboriginal woman who would say to staff 'You can't change me – I'm a darkie'."

Although the book began as an account of her great-grandmother, Professor Russell soon found she was writing about her own life and about how she felt as a person with Aboriginal heritage.

"While it was a secret within the family throughout my childhood that we were of Aboriginal heritage, I suspected this for the past 10 or 15 years and acknowledged it openly," she said.



Professor Lynette Russell, new Director of the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies at Monash, examines the durability of a family's secret. Photo: Greg Ford.

Professor Russell is careful in describing her heritage – she does not call herself an Aboriginal person.

"I think to do so would have trivialised the experiences of those who struggled to survive. My family and my grandmother's descendants have never suffered the way others did," she said.

"I am a person of Aboriginal descent: a subtle but important point."

The discovery of her family's secret has caused Professor Russell to ponder the meaning of belonging.

"I think we've now reached a fairly sophisticated point where we can challenge the concept of being either black or white. I am both, yet neither."

John Clark

Oh Brother! Reality takes centre stage

Reality TV will hit the stage this month in a production by the Monash University Student Theatre that is sure to break new ground.

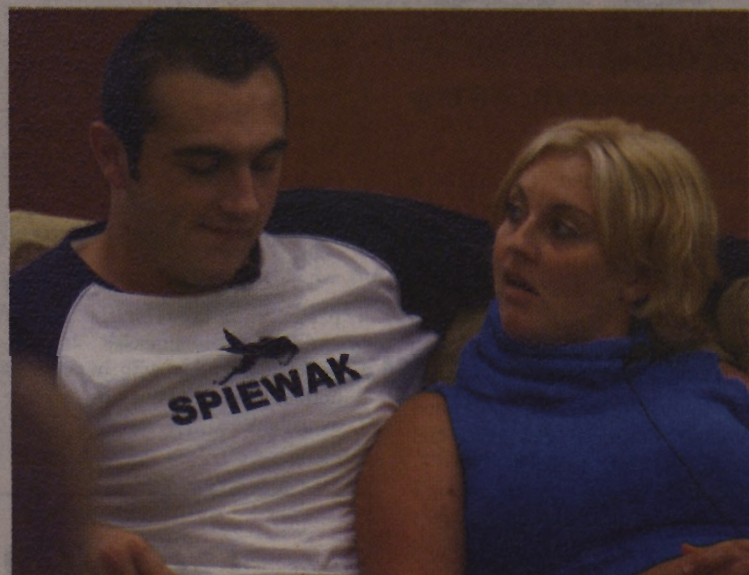
The play, *Mary Had A Little Lager*, by third-year performing arts/law student Rhys Auteri, is the third Open Access Show for the year, and follows on from the success of *In Transit* and *The Right Message* in February and March.

Student Theatre artistic director Lyn Coleman says Open Access is a flexible program that aims to provide students wanting to experience the theatre with the opportunity to become involved.

Featuring colour and movement, pineapples, drinking, dating, hilarity, heathenry and more sordid delights, *Mary Had a Little Lager* challenges the audience to take its chances on 'Big Temptation Survivor Camp', billed by Mr Auteri as "the most real, reality-based, realistic TV show on realism to date".

"The show is driven very loosely by the theme of drinking alcohol in moderation – always an appropriate topic for university students," Ms Coleman said.

"It is going to be great fun and very silly, with a bit of a moral at



Off the small screen and onto the stage, reality TV is brought to life. Photo Newspix.

the end. Comedy and alcohol go together very well – in moderation! The cast laughed their heads off during the first reading of the script, so I know our audiences will definitely get a giggle!"

A shorter, modified production of the play will be shown at the Monash Halls of Residence and at

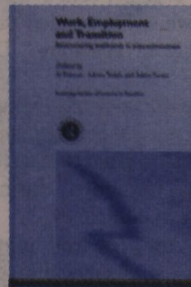
several secondary schools in the Clayton area in second semester.

What: *Mary Had A Little Lager*
When: 16–18 May
Where: Student Theatre, Clayton campus

Who: For more information, contact Ms Lyn Coleman on +61 3 9905 8173.

Konrad Marshall

INPRINT



Work, Employment and Transition:

Restructuring Livelihoods in Post-Communism

Edited by Al Rainnie, Adrian Smith and Adam Swain

Published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group

The former communist world has undergone a profound transformation in the area of work and employment since the late 1980s, a transition that has given way to problems such as mass unemployment and increasing labour market inequality.

This book brings together a series of scholarly essays that highlight the varied and complex forms that work and employment restructuring have taken in the post-Soviet world.

The authors contribute to our understanding of these transformations, which makes the book valuable reading for those studying transition economies. Scholars from across a broad range of disciplines will also be interested in its discussions of geo-political issues from different standpoints.

Editor Al Rainnie is associate professor in the Department of Management at Monash University. Adrian Smith is lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Southampton, and Adam Swain lectures in human geography at the University of Nottingham.



Commercial Law and Human Rights

Edited by David Kinley and Stephen Bottomley
 Published by Ashgate Publishing Limited

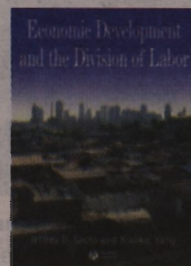
In an era of globalisation, privatisation and corporatisation, the intersection of commercial law and human rights has raised many questions of international significance for commercial lawyers, governments and non-government organisations alike.

Commercial Law and Human Rights explores the extent and implications of issues arising at this intersection with regard to the legal responsibilities of multinational corporations and obligations.

The book deals with the major interfaces between corporations and the law and includes contributions from experts in international law, labour law, anti-discrimination legislation, native title, intellectual property, commercial litigation and the commercial development of biotechnology.

Editor David Kinley is professor of law at Monash University and director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law. Stephen Bottomley is professor of law and director of the Centre for Commercial Law at the Australian National University.

Orders can be placed by email at info@ashgate.com.au



Economic Development and the Division of Labour:

Inframarginal Analysis Versus Marginal Analysis

By Jeffrey Sachs and Xiaokai Yang
 RRP: \$88 (paperback)
 Published by Blackwell Publishing

In this textbook, Jeffrey Sachs and Xiaokai Yang introduce students to development economics within a neoclassical economics context.

Taking advantage of the latest mathematical models, the authors analyse important developmental issues including the division of labour.

The pedagogical features of the text are intended to lead readers to a thorough understanding of the content, helping them to develop their critical and creative thinking skills.

Xiaokai Yang is a professor of economics at Monash University and Jeffrey Sachs is Galen L. Stone professor of international trade and director for international development at Harvard University.

POSTscript

Counselling psychologist at Monash John Waters has written a book, *Spiritual Psychology: And the Ageless Wisdom*, on building the relationship between our personality and soul through counselling, awareness techniques and seer-ship methods. The processes he describes examine the nature of an individual's 'constellation' of consciousness and are both therapeutic and educational.

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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www.monash.edu.au

Singled out: myth of the vanishing twin debunked

MEDICAL RESEARCH

The theory that twins have less chance of survival as embryos than single babies has been disproved in a study of pregnant women by Monash University researchers.

The findings of Dr Steven Tong and Dr Beverley Vollenhoven from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Dr Simon Meagher from Monash IVF at the Epworth Hospital contradict the dogma of the 'vanishing twin theory', where up to 10 times as many twins are conceived than end up being born.

The vanishing twin theory was developed by US researcher Dr Charles Boklage in 1995 using largely mathematical models. He extrapolated backwards from ultrasound studies of women who showed twins in the first trimester but ultimately gave birth to single babies.

"The alarming implication of this theory is that 12 to 15 per cent of all of us were once twins, but booted out our siblings early in gestation," Dr Tong said.

Rather than mathematically extrapolate to produce results, Dr Tong and his colleagues made a point of directly observing what happened during weeks zero to six of pregnancy.

In doing so, they studied ultrasounds and looked specifically for signs of ovulation where two eggs were released from the ovaries instead of one. (When the two eggs are fertilised, the result is dizygotic, or fraternal twin, embryos.)

The Monash team screened 504 pregnant women using ultrasound, and of these 27 were found to have two corpora lutea, indicating the release of two eggs, without the aid of fertility drugs. Of that group, nine sets of twins were conceived.

According to the vanishing twin theory, they should have only seen one, if any, set of twins born. The figure of nine out of 27 (or 30 per cent) sets of twins surviving gestation parallels well-accepted figures on the survival of single babies. Overall, women have only between 20 to 30 per cent chance of falling pregnant each cycle.

"The probability of the second egg also becoming fertilised seems to be similar to that of one egg becoming fertilised in a singleton pregnancy," Dr Tong said.

Dr Tong and his colleagues concluded that the presumption of huge losses of twins in early pregnancy is unfounded, as they would have seen far fewer twins from 27 double ovulations.

"There are no space issues when it comes to twins. The presence of one embryo does not affect the development of its twin," Dr Tong said.

Konrad Marshall

New \$1 million hockey facility set to boost Peninsula sport



The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr Justin Madden, gets the Mornington Peninsula Hockey Club game under way at the new Peninsula campus facility. Photo Greg Ford.

Victorian Minister for Sport and Recreation Mr Justin Madden recently opened a new \$1 million hockey facility at Monash University's Peninsula campus.

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.

Launching the facility last month, Mr Madden said it provided a much-needed facility in the area and demonstrated what could be achieved when communities worked together.

"Projects like this don't just happen," he said. "Even with funding provided, there is still a lot of collaboration and

cooperation needed to make it happen."

The synthetic pitch has been jointly funded by six organisations including the Monash University Student Union (\$300,000), Monash University (\$110,000), Frankston City Council (\$163,950), Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (\$125,000), Sports and Recreation Victoria (\$250,000) and local hockey clubs (\$50,000).

Monash deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development) Professor Peter Darvall, who joined Mr Madden at the opening, congratulated all those who had been involved in the project.

"It is important that Monash takes an active part in the communities they are part of, and joint ventures such as this show we are not just about teaching and research but also about cooperation in many areas," he said.

Young players from the Mornington Peninsula Hockey Club Under-11 and Under-13 teams took to the pitch after the official opening to try out the new facility.



Mr Paul Carlson with Ms Taryn Macfarlane, who has joined the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council for a work placement. Photo Peter Anikijenko.

Integrated work program builds partnerships

WORK PLACEMENT

Monash students undertaking business and commerce degrees at the Peninsula campus will now get the chance to take part in an innovative industry placement scheme, benefiting both the students and the local community.

The Faculty of Business and Economics has introduced the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program as a full-time, professional employment-based learning scheme for its second-year students.

The program enables students to take a 12-month leave of absence from their studies to work in a business-related field such as accounting, management or human resources.

Program coordinator Dr Susan Mayson says the placement gives students the chance to put their university studies into practice while gaining valuable professional skills.

"The program was designed as a partnership between the faculty and local businesses in the Peninsula region, with benefits to both students and businesses," she explained.

Mr David Osborne, a partner at local accounting practice Shepard, Webster and O'Neill, says the program has given his firm a chance to train the students in professional business practice even before they finish their studies.

"The students gain experience in various aspects of the firm's business while allowing us to take a proactive role in developing potential future accountants," he said.

This year, four students have taken up positions in local professional accounting practices and another is working at the local council in the finance and economic development area.

Team support and development manager at the Council Mr Paul Carlson believes the program gives students the chance to find out about the broad range of careers offered by local government.

Dr Mayson says that many of the students will remain in contact with their employers, continuing their employment on a part-time basis while they finish their studies.

Julie Ryan

MONASH NEWS

Published monthly by the Media Communications Unit of Marketing and Public Affairs, Monash University.

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