

# Coronial centre puts Victoria in the lead

A retired Monash academic saw years of hard work and planning completed last week with the opening of the new Coronial Services Centre of Victoria.

Vernon Plueckhahn, former Associate Professor in Pathology and Immunology, and now Honorary Professor in Forensic Pathology, was involved "from day one" in a joint Monash-State Government project to establish coronial services of world standard in Victoria.

Last year, Professor Stephen Cordner was appointed to the foundation Chair of Forensic Medicine at Monash, an appointment which also made him the director of the newly-formed Victorian Institute of Forensic Pathology.

He attributes the advent of the institute to the efforts of Professor Plueckhahn and the Dean of Medicine at Monash, Professor Graeme Schofield.

"Until May last year, forensic pathology services in metropolitan Melbourne were provided on an ad hoc basis," he said.

"Now, for the first time in Australia, there will be a cadre of forensic pathologists dedicated to providing a comprehensive, high quality service to the Coroner, the courts and the people of Victoria."

Professor Cordner, whose background includes a lectureship in forensic medicine at Guy's Hospital Medical School, London, oversaw the final stages of planning and construction of the new centre, built on a 1.4 hectare site in South Melbourne.

It was opened jointly by the Premier, Mr Cain, and the Attorney-General, Mr Andrew McCutcheon.

The 14,000 square building houses the State Coroners Office and the Victorian Institute of Pathology.

"In one step, Victoria has moved from 20 years behind to 20 years ahead of the rest of Australia," Professor Cordner said.

"The institute and its new quarters represent a major development in forensic pathology around the world.

"In terms of planning, design and construction of the autopsy and laboratory facilities, there are only two facilities — one in Canada and one in the United States — which are comparable."

Professor Cordner said a high quality forensic pathology service was essential for a number of reasons including the provision of an accurate cause of death and the reconstruction of circumstances surrounding a death.

"There are a number of ancillary contributions made by a forensic pathology service," he said.

"It provides an audit of deaths occurring behind closed doors in prisons, mental institutions or hospitals, and contributes to the assessment of new therapies and techniques in medicine.

"Within the terms of the Human Tissues Act, 1982, it contributes to the

## COMMUNITY ISSUE

# MONASH REPORTER

A MAGAZINE FOR THE UNIVERSITY

Registered by Australia Post — publication No. VBG0435  
NUMBER 6-88 AUGUST 3, 1988



• Professor Cordner speaking at the opening of the centre. Photo — John Clark

use of tissues for therapeutic and research purposes.

"It provides a valuable teaching resource for medical undergraduates, as well as ongoing education for the

medical profession as a whole.

"Finally, and most importantly, in the period leading up to death, everything that could have been done was done and that what was done was appropriate," Professor Cordner said.

"Relatives can often be wracked by guilt after a death in the family and reassurance, if appropriate, that there was nothing that could have been done in the particular circumstances can be an important part of its resolution.

"For example, such unwarranted feelings of guilt are quite common in the parents of babies dying from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome."

## Local children get a head start

Having an excellent command of a foreign language by the time you enter university is an enormous advantage.

It usually takes years of hard work to reach that level but, for Melissa Rogerson, now a first-year student in German, the learning came naturally and it was great fun.

As a primary school pupil, she took part in the German Children's Program at Monash and her German pronunciation is indistinguishable from that of a Associate Professor Michael Clyne and senior lecturer, Dr Silke Hesse.

The program began in 1976 at the Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children, and is now run by the department of German under the leadership of senior lecturer, Dr Silke Hesse.

The instructors are senior students and native speakers. They teach through

play and conversation, and children of school-age are also taught to read and write.

No English is used during the teaching sessions although the children range from as young as kindergarten age through to mid-primary school.

"Some have a German background, German-speaking friends or parents who travel," Dr Hesse says.

"Others take advantage of the opportunity to gain an early start in a foreign language.

"At their age, perfect pronunciation and an unselfconscious use of vocabulary can be readily achieved."

The results of the program can be seen on Sunday (2pm, Room 322, Menzies Building) when the children present their traditional mid-year concert, held over

this year to coincide with Open Day.

The advanced group will perform a puppet play written by student teacher, Judy Lachele, featuring *Kasperle*, the German *Punch*, and his birthday adventures.

The beginner and intermediate groups will give the chorus responses and join in the songs. All age groups have worked on the scenery and they will all help the audience to learn some of the more important German words in the play.

The German Children's Program, which is taught from 4.30 to 5.30 on Friday afternoons in the German department, has between 15 and 20 pupils this year and a few more could easily be accommodated.

There is a charge of \$15 a term for the first child and \$10 for further children from the same family. Part of the money is used to buy German children's books and games which can be borrowed by participants.

Inquiries about the course or the concert should be directed to Dr Hesse on 565 2240.



• Puppeteers from the German Children's Program give a preview of Open Day.

# OPEN DAY 88

SUNDAY AUGUST 7

DON'T make any other plans for next Sunday. All the entertainment you could possibly need will be available free and close to home at Monash University.

And this community issue of *Monash Reporter* is your invitation to join us for our special Bicentennial Open Day.

Not only will this year's Open Day be one of the biggest we've had, it is special for another reason . . .

Monash Medical Centre, now just a year old, will be joining the University in the celebration. A shuttle bus service will link the two campuses, giving you a splendid opportunity to see two great institutions at work.

The University will be open from 10.30am to 4.30pm, and the Medical Centre from 1pm to 4pm.

# Mass media plays an insidious role

Beneath the glare of the studio lights, documentary film students in the department of Visual Arts are producing their own alternatives to popular visual media.

The exercise is part of a course titled "Deconstruction, Construction, Deconstruction", run by British film director, Peter Watkins, with the assistance of Deb Verhoeven, a sessional tutor in Visual Arts, and Mick Ryan of Educational Technology Services.

Best-known for his anti-nuclear film, *The War Game*, Peter Watkins is currently a visiting professor in the Visual Arts Department.

## Undemocratic

The unusual title of his course refers to the students' analysis of film's restrictive and manipulative structures, the creation of something different, and the analysis of the alternatives.

This combination of theory and practice is crucially important if film-making is to escape the traditional Hollywood approach, said Mr Watkins.

For more than 10 years, he has been speaking publicly on the subject that concerns him most — the insidious role played by the mass media in modern society.

"Television, in particular, is playing an increasingly undemocratic role," he said.

"As part of that, what I try and do is help people understand how television is structured, especially the evening news programs."

The fragmented nature of television news (the way the images are put together) and its hierarchical process (the lack of audience contact with editorial decisions) are just two aspects of the medium that trouble Peter Watkins.

"The audience seems to have virtually no power at all in the way the process is organised. Television should be opened up to a diverse range of presentation, and the balance of power must be shifted."

Despite the amount of academic research being done in the field at institutions such as Monash, the past 10 years have not brought the changes he had anticipated.

"The broader understanding is there, but work being carried out at universities doesn't, for one reason or another, get out into the public process.

"And since the academic material hasn't become public coinage, television has been able to function unchallenged in isolation," he said.

The lack of public debate has led to an easy acceptance of the relationship between the image and the viewer.

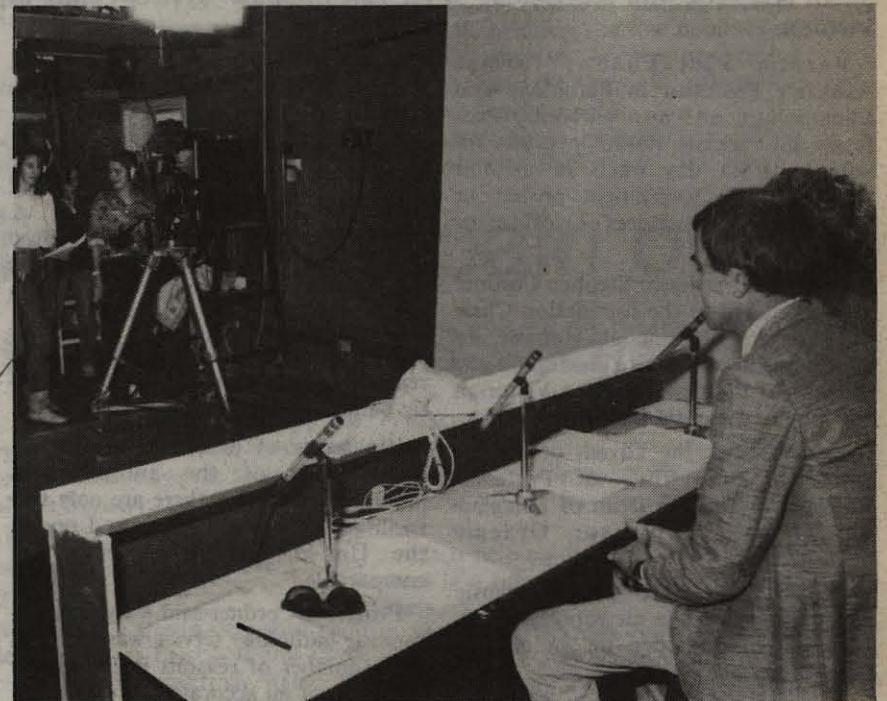
Meanwhile, said Mr Watkins, we are beginning to see the effects of that union

in the way the medium separates people and reinforces the existing power structures.

"The symbiotic relationship between the media and power structures is not a happy accident.

"Maybe 10 years ago you could say that those structures were just feeling around a bit, but now there's a definite relationship between the two.

"Much of it is subconscious, but it doesn't alter the fact that it's there."



● Channel 1/4 provides "hands-on" experience for Visual Arts students under the guidance of noted film-director Peter Watkins, pictured right.

## New man in command



● The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Lance Endersbee, left, was one of a number of Monash staff who attended a recent parade for the changeover of commanding officers at the Monash University Regiment's depot in Mt Waverley. Long-serving commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Slater, right, is pictured handing over Sir John Monash's sword to Lieutenant-Colonel Ross Warfe as a symbol of the change in leadership.



● *Dreamtime* was the theme for the 21st Special Schools Music Review held at Robert Blackwood Hall last month. More than 270 students aged between five and 16 from Special Schools around Melbourne took part in the concert, the third time it has been presented at the university.

Photo — Tony Miller

## Exchange students dine with Rotary hosts



● The Rotary Club of Springvale welcomed some of the university's exchange students to dinner at a local restaurant last month. Pictured from left are Terence David of the University of British Columbia (MBA, Monash), Ginger Verneuil of the University of California at Davis (3rd year Electrical Engineering) and Laura Gorodezky of University of California at Berkeley (3rd year Zoology). Springvale Rotary runs the Monash Rotary Host Scheme which provides homes for overseas and country students.

## Problems for new trade unions

Trade unions in many southwest Pacific nations are experiencing the kinds of problems associated with most nascent organisations.

At a meeting organised by the departments of Administrative Studies and Politics last month, the co-ordinator of the South Pacific Trade Union Education Project, Mr Michael Kinnane, said that many of the region's unions are characterised by low membership, limited financial resources and a very small number of full-time officials.

"The concept of trade unions, as we know them, is relatively new in the region," said Mr Kinnane.

"Most date to the early 1970s, and, in the case of Kiribati, to the 1980s. Except for unions in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Fiji, they are all in their formative stages of development."

Many national trade union centres have only been formed in the last six years, and have yet to be set up in some countries.

Since the Commonwealth Trade Union Council-sponsored project was established in April 1987, its primary aim has been to pass on educational skills to the region's trade unionists to

encourage greater self-reliance in union education.

The project currently advises on systems of education, conducts training courses for education officers and activists, and encourages the exchange of views and ideas about education among project countries.

The emphasis is on practical skills training, such as how to organise a union meeting.

Most of the funding for the Brisbane-based project comes from Australia, with contributions also being provided by New Zealand, the European Economic Community and Commonwealth nations.

Countries covered by the project are Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Western Samoa, Fiji and Tonga.

Union membership in the project countries ranges from 2900 workers in Kiribati's 12 unions to 84,000 workers in Papua New Guinea's 55 unions. The lowest membership occurs in Western Samoa where one union, the Western Samoan Public Service Association, comprises 2200 members.

# Population figures at your fingertips

Monash University's Main Library is the place to go for detailed information about your community.

The library has always had an excellent collection of Australian population and housing statistics in book form, and in recent years a lot more material has been made available on microfiche.

Now, with the purchase of the latest optical disc technology, there is an almost unlimited range of possibilities for the researcher.

By using a compact disc player con-

nected to a microcomputer, the data for areas as large as Australia or as small as a block of 200 houses can be retrieved and manipulated in various ways.

The new technology package, CData, is a comprehensive database of census information on CD-ROM (Compact Disc — Read Only Memory). It will be displayed on Open Day.

Subject librarian, Karen Tang, says discs for the system are produced in the same way as music compact discs, and have the same 'silvered look'.

Each has an immense storage capacity (540 megabytes) equivalent to 270,000 pages of printed information.

"The system has many advantages, especially when you need to find and combine information for several areas," says Ms Tang.

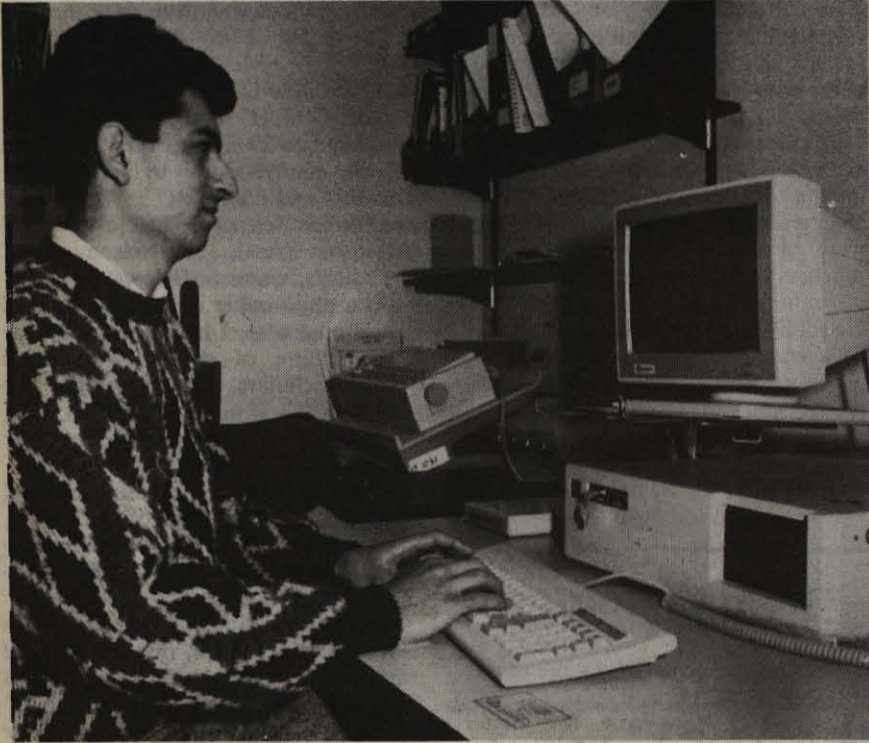
"It becomes easy to find, for example, the number of three, four and five-year-olds living in a particular area, and to express this as a proportion of the total population.

"For those involved in the planning of services this sort of information is vital."

The system allows the information to be presented as tables or colored maps.

One student recently produced a map of Melbourne showing whether suburbs had high, medium and low numbers of unemployed males. Another produced a table showing the "top 10" suburbs in terms of family income.

Inquiries about using CData should be directed to Ms Tang on 565 2659.



## Taking the pain out of library research

To ease the pain of searching for library resources, a Monash student has written a guidance system based on artificial intelligence.

The EELIAS system will be demonstrated at the Hargrave Library on Open Day.

Vafa Shams, a fourth-year student in the department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering, wrote the software for the project which was initiated by the department and the Hargrave Library.

• Vafa Shams at work in the Hargrave Library.

Librarian, Krystyna Thomas, who co-supervised Mr Shams' project, says that as well as helping users, EELIAS frees library staff from many routine inquiries.

"It is helping to improve library services in a time of decreasing budgets," she said.

The system operates only in the field of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering, but it is likely to be extended into other subject areas in the future.

It works by questioning users about their specific needs before directing them to key journals, abstracts and indexes, standards and manufacturers' catalogues.

It contains reading lists from faculty handbooks, and allows for items to be located by subject, course and year.

## A bookshop for addicts

There are several surprising things about the Monash University Bookshop: for a start it's surprisingly big, and it's full of interesting books at surprisingly low prices.

But, most surprising of all, says manager Jim McGrath, is the fact that everyone can shop there.

If you ask some of the 19 staff members to name the bookshop's areas of greatest strength you get a bewildering variety of answers: children's books; adult paperback fiction; Australiana; science; the social sciences; cookery; science fiction or popular psychology.

"Running the bookshop is a bit like running a pub in a town full of alcoholics," Mr McGrath says.

"We have thousands of addicted readers to satisfy.

"Most customers aren't rich and the university doesn't want to make money out of them.

"It wants us to keep prices down, so we give a 10 per cent discount off the price of nearly every book over \$6. If the book is over \$50 the discount is 15 per cent.

"We scrounge bargains from publishers' warehouses here and overseas so we can run a bargain sale for nine months of the year, and we also keep stationery prices down," he says.

The bookshop, together with two banks and several other shops, is in the Union Building at the centre of the university. (Take note for Open Day.)

It is open between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm from Monday to Friday.

"Customers who aren't connected with the university are very welcome," says Mr McGrath.

"Monash has about 1000 visitors a day. It is well aware that it is owned by the taxpayer and the public is invited to use as many university facilities as possible."



## Easy listening

Forget about academic libraries on campus — the John Medley Library is different! We have about 3500 LPs and 69 CDs for listening through 38 headphones, and 7000 books for the use of library visitors. This is where songs are sung (not always happy listening) and where humor brings out even odder sounds from listeners. Others have been known to slumber gently in the corner of the reading section. Nevertheless, we are all alive and well. So drop into the library on the first floor of the Union Building and visit us on Open Day.

## Skywalking

See members of the Bushwalking Club abseiling down the walls of the Main Library between 12 noon and 2 pm. Then follow them to the ornamental lake southwest of the Halls of Residence for a canoe-polo demonstration. Sporting clubs putting on a show will include Volleyball (2-4 pm), Softball (11 am-1 pm), Judo (12 noon-1 pm), Kei Shin Kan Karate-Do (1-1.40 pm), Tae Kwon Do (12 noon-2 pm), Fencing (all day), Basketball (10.30 am to 12 noon), Hockey (all join in: 11 am-4 pm) and Badminton (have a hit: 2-4 pm).

## Free swim

Entry will be free to the swimming pool at the Monash Sports and Recreation Centre. The pool will be open to everyone from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. (A charge will still apply for the spa and sauna.) The Underwater Club will give scuba demonstrations at the pool from 10.30 am to 2 pm and visitors will have the opportunity to use scuba equipment under close supervision.

## Make the Earth move

Visit a geological field camp, try some camp cooking and join in a search for gold on Open Day at the Earth Sciences department's display on the lawns in front of the Mathematics Building.

Through the Fossil Casting Workshop and Pluto the Seismograph, visitors to Earth Sciences will be able to test their

powers and take home the results: dinosaur footprints and readings of miniature earthquakes.

There will also be opportunities to learn about the geology of Victoria, dinosaurs, the break-up of Gondwanaland, continental drift and the causes of markings on rocks.



# Covers can hide author's intention

"Never judge a book by its cover." Your reviewer of my book *The Ends of Science* (*Monash Reporter*, 8 June) seems to have either forgotten or wishes to flout this time-honored adage.

He writes:

Those who are familiar with the sociology of scientific knowledge may take objection to Redner's claim that "the 'politics' of science has not yet received adequate theoretical treatment despite some creditable empirical endeavours" (p.122). One might argue to the contrary, what we need is not more social theoretical discussions, but just the opposite, more empirical studies of power relations operating in the technical domains of science . . . Many historians and sociologists of science will also object to this book's self-acclaim as "path-breaking", and "a tour de force on

several levels", for in many ways, it is following a path that has been, and continues to be, blazed by many analysts of contemporary science.

The words "path-breaking" and "a tour de force on several levels" in the second of the quoted sentences are not in the text of the book itself; they are drawn from the blurb on the dust-jacket.

Either your reviewer is ignorant of the conventions of book publication or he is being deliberately disingenuous. Anyone used to dealing with books knows that the words on a dust-jacket are not the author's but the publisher's, over which the author has frequently no control. These words are no more my own "self-acclaim" than the words "one of the more innovative analyses of modern science" which also appear on the cover and which your reviewer could not



ascribe to me as they are a quotation from Everett Mendelsohn of Harvard University.

To review a book by spinning out the words in the blurb is an old trick of reviewers in a hurry, but to rely on these to cast ad hominem aspersions on the author is a cheap way of scoring a point where no other opening presents itself.

The words in the first quoted sentence are indeed my own, conveniently located in the opening sentence of a long chapter. They state a simple and obvious truth of fact on which your reviewer practises the other hoary reviewing trick of feigning to disagree without really doing so. My statement that "the 'politics' of science has not as yet received adequate theoretical treatment . . ." is in no way contradicted by your reviewer's opinion that "what we need is not more social theoretical discussion, but just the opposite, more empirical studies . . ." Nothing in my statement, or elsewhere

in my book, would imply that I wish to deny that more empirical study is called for or that adequate theoretical treatment is possible without it. Who in his right mind would wish to deny that?

The truth of my simple assertion, which your reviewer does not controvert, is amply borne out by other independent sources. As recently as 1987, in an essay that comments on a collection of 26 contributions by outstanding scientists and scholars (*The Rhetoric of the Human Sciences*, The University of Wisconsin Press), John Nelson, one of the editors, writes as follows:

As a philosopher of inquiry, political and otherwise, I have been struck by the failure of epistemologists and other scholars to acknowledge the presence — if not the propriety — of politics in collective inquiries of every kind. A few historians and sociologists of science follow a few political themes as minor parts of their work, but altogether even their attention to the politics of inquiry remains scattered and unsophisticated.

Professor Nelson has since acknowledged that my book, published in the same year, goes some of the way toward remedying this lack.

Harry Redner  
Politics

## Pedal power

Monash Cyclists are on the move.

Thirty students and staff attended a Cyclists' Pow-Wow for Better Parking last month and, following a survey, a series of recommendations have been made.

These are open for discussion and all cyclists are urged to attend Monash Cyclists' meetings on Thursdays at 1.10 pm (see Daily News for venues) to make sure their needs are catered for.

Inquiries can be directed to Andrew Black on 543 8227 after hours.

## A new true blue motto

Now that we have a bright new university color, what about our motto? 'Ancora imparo' is surely too diffident and self-effacing: an admission of failure, in fact. Let us now say that we've made it: 'Expertus sum!' — which even the non-linguists will understand.

Harry Stainsby,  
Philosophy

## Progressive school

As treasurer of the council of Monash Primary School, I would like to draw the attention of the university and the community to the advantages offered at this progressive school.

It caters for all children including high and low achievers and its experienced staff includes specialists in library, physical education, music and special needs.

Monash Primary has access to expertise and facilities at the university and at nearby Rusden College, and it takes part in a co-operative program of instrumental music tuition through the neighboring Monash High School.

The school occupies a series of spacious split-level classroom units, and it offers an after-school care program from 3.30 to 6pm each weeknight.

Interested people should contact the principal, Mr Ron Smart, on 560 5841, to arrange for an interview and tour of inspection.

Don Hutton  
Department of Physics



● *Taking Stock* — *Feminism Reviewed* was the title of a symposium held at the university's city offices last month where speakers from tertiary institutions throughout Australia discussed how feminism had affected their lives over the last decade. The symposium was co-hosted by the Centre for Women's Studies and the Monash University Gallery.



● Before his recent departure to take up a lectureship at James Cook University, Dr John Leonard of the department of English gave a series of seminars to Year 12 teachers on the teaching of poetry. Dr Leonard is the editor of *Seven Centuries of Poetry in English*, which is now the prescribed textbook for VCE students. He is pictured with one seminar group which met at Monash. Other seminars were held in country towns. Photo — Tony Miller.

# Galah Creek was not so little

Heavy rains in the Mt Isa region caught the Monash Earth Science Survey 1988 by surprise, says expedition leader, Professor Gordon Lister.

After a night of steady rain, a torrential downpour flooded Little Galah Creek where one group had set up its swags.

Floodwaters rose 30cm in about 20

minutes and efforts to divert the creek into a side channel around the camp failed, he said.

But once their swags, tarpaulins and blankets were safe, the students were not at all reluctant to brave the rising waters for a refreshing wash and swim after four days of heat and humidity.

The 16-member survey team was the

second from Monash to take part in the five-week exercise around Mt Isa, which is organised each year by the Bureau of Mineral Resources in Canberra for mapping purposes.

The team splits into four groups for week-long forays, and at weekends all groups return to the semi-permanent base camp near Mt Isa.

Professor Lister says Monash already has a contract with the bureau to take part in next year's exercise.

He says it is a great opportunity for senior students to gain field experience, with much of the cost being met by the bureau and "excellent logistics support" including the use of four fully-equipped four-wheel-drive vehicles.

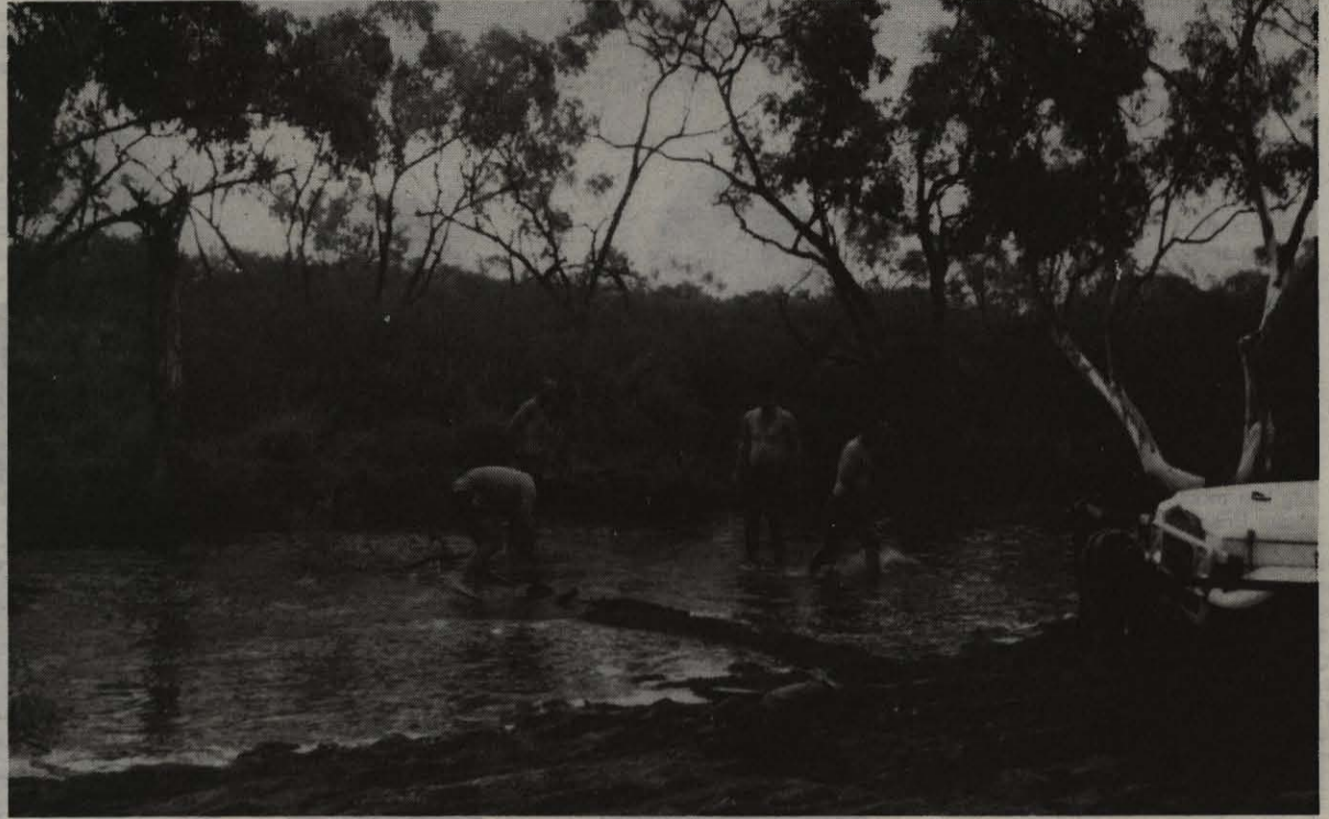
## Ideas sought on reforms

The Senate Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training is calling for submissions on priorities for reform in higher education.

The committee, chaired by Senator Terry Aulich, is seeking the public's views on those matters covered by the Dawkins Green Paper and the subsequent White Paper, as well as on other aspects of higher education.

Contributions are welcome from those within or outside the higher education sector and the committee will hold a series of public hearings on the issues raised. A report will be subsequently tabled in the Senate.

Submissions should be sent, by 30 September 1988, to: The Secretary, Senate Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600. Inquiries can be directed to Mr Derek Allan, secretary to the committee, on (062) 77 3520.



● Professor Gordon Lister, right, and members of his team are caught by rising flood waters.

## There once was a laser named Tinkerbell . . .

In December 1970 the first theatrical production in the world to incorporate a laser beam was staged at the university's Alexander Theatre.

The occasion was the first children's production at the Alex, now recognised as one of Melbourne's foremost venues for children's theatre.

Memories of those halcyon days came flooding back as theatre manager, Mr Phil A'Vard, stood in the foyer last month distributing pre-booked tickets to the musical, *The Ark of Oz*.

To his surprise, he found himself face-to-face with one of the actresses from that initial production — kindergarten teacher, Joanne Kloster,

who had played Wendy in J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*.

Ms Kloster was one of a cast of amateurs and professionals in Marie Cumisky's original pantomime that had, in Mr A'Vard's words, "put the theatre on the map".

In those days the director of the Alex was Dr Gordon Troup, Reader in Physics. It was through his ingenuity that the world was introduced to the first laser Tinkerbell.

The audience was so entranced by the display that certain changes of scenery could be made without even lowering the stage lights.

Sadly, 11 years later, the laser tube died during a revival of the production. So moved were some by the loss of their high-tech Tinkerbell that murmurings of a wake were heard around the theatre's office.



● Joanne Kloster

MONASH REPORTER

## People's resistance articulated

A series of strikingly unusual paintings and drawings that accompanied a Ph.D thesis submitted recently in the department of Politics will be exhibited at the university next month.

The thesis, by Mrs Aurora Keon, is about a northern Philippines mountain people who kept the Spanish colonial forces at bay from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

In her field research conducted in the mountain heartland, Mrs Keon became aware of an intense visual presence that she believed had a very strong bonding

effect over the people's decision-making.

Noted author and art historian, Dr Richard Haese, of La Trobe University, says of her work: "There is a refreshingly direct and vital expression of feeling — and in the best drawings a graphic spontaneity and boldness of gesture . . . this is artwork that is marked with a strong sense of an authentic and articulate sensibility."

The exhibition will be held at the Arts and Craft Centre from 5 September to 16 September.

## CAE class at Monash

● An arrangement between Monash and the Council of Adult Education has given CAE students studying Australian fossils the opportunity to learn in a university setting. Their 10-week course, *Ancient Australian Animals*, is actually the second term of the Vertebrate Palaeontology course conducted by Dr Pat Rich of the department of Earth Sciences. Here, demonstrator Natalie Schroeder explains plate tectonics to CAE students, from left, Zena Hafner, Mary Walters and Jack Lawrence.

# Centre acknowledges a debt to Europe

Monash is the first tertiary institution in Australia to provide courses and programs that acknowledge the vital importance to Australia of a new, united Europe.

Established in 1987, the Centre for European Studies is staffed by teachers from 10 departments in the faculties of Arts, Economics and Politics, and Law, and offers multi-disciplinary courses on modern Europe at BA and MA levels.

Undergraduates spend the first two years of their course studying an overview of cultural, economic and political developments in Europe.

In their third year, they undertake more detailed area studies, focusing on a particular period, country or region, or specialising in specific areas of language, culture, economics, politics or law.

The MA in Modern European Studies includes a range of courses covering the

basic socio-political facts, economic and business developments and cultural characteristics of contemporary Europe. Both programs contain substantial elements of practical language training,

designed to equip students with a high level of spoken and written competence in one or more of the commercial languages of Europe.

The centre is also keen to create and

reinforce links between the university and the community through the organisation of conferences, lectures and seminars that stimulate interest in European studies.



● Prizes for excellence in French were presented at ceremonies held at the university last month. Pictured at right are Professor Brian Nelson, director of the Centre for European Studies, left, and Mr Patrick Coustance, director of the Alliance Francaise de Melbourne, congratulating the joint recipients of the Alliance Francaise Prize for excellence in first year French. They are Fiona Perry, second from left, and Susan Barkehall-Thomas. The French-Australian Association of Victoria Prize for excellence in second year French was won by Patricia Gormley. The award was presented by president of the association, Mr Noel Deschamps.

## Putting Spain on the map

● Right: Paul McGann, Ph.D. candidate in Spanish is Australia's first winner of an International Teaching Fellowship to Spain. With his wife, Dawn McGann (also pictured) a fourth year Honors student in the Music department, he will spend the next 12 months in Madrid teaching English and researching contemporary Spanish literature. The fellowship is part of an agreement to be signed between the Victorian and Spanish governments to formally ratify the exchange of teachers. Mr McGann, a mature age student with a long career in teaching, was awarded First Class Honors in Spanish after completing his studies part-time on a Not For Degree basis.

● Below: Jose Tomas Diaz (left) and Lourdes Gomez, primary school teachers from Spain, spend seven hours a week at Monash holding conversation classes for senior students. They are visiting Australia under an exchange scheme sponsored by the Spanish government to promote the teaching of Spanish in state schools. About 20 teachers come to Australia each year under the scheme, which operates in Victoria, NSW, ACT, South Australia and Queensland.



## Language becomes a community issue

Language departments at Monash are using community groups to help with their teaching.

The extent of this interaction will be examined next week in an Information Exchange Forum organised by the departments of German and Japanese Studies.

Speakers from the German department will discuss the familiarisation of students with the German community in Melbourne, their introduction to Ger-

man speakers and German Week at Monash.

Those from the Japanese department will talk about immersion courses in Japanese, bringing Japanese speakers into the classroom, participation in Japanese business functions and the recording of situations, interviews and other activities.

The forum will be held from 1pm to 2.15 on Tuesday 9 August in R3 (Rotunda). Everybody is welcome. Inquiries to Helen Marriott on 565 2272.

Your June 10 edition carried two pages of comments from three students on tertiary tax.

I didn't bother reading them.

If I am to get an informed opinion from a professional person then surely that person could wear a tie.

— M. Mayle, MIEAust  
Bylands, Vic

— from Engineers Australia, 8 July 1988

# School holiday centre meets ongoing need



I wish to draw the attention of the total Monash community to the excellent child care program which was arranged for the children of Monash staff and students for the recent school holidays.

The program was organised by Ms Bernadette Muir, the Child Care Co-ordinator, who worked extremely hard.

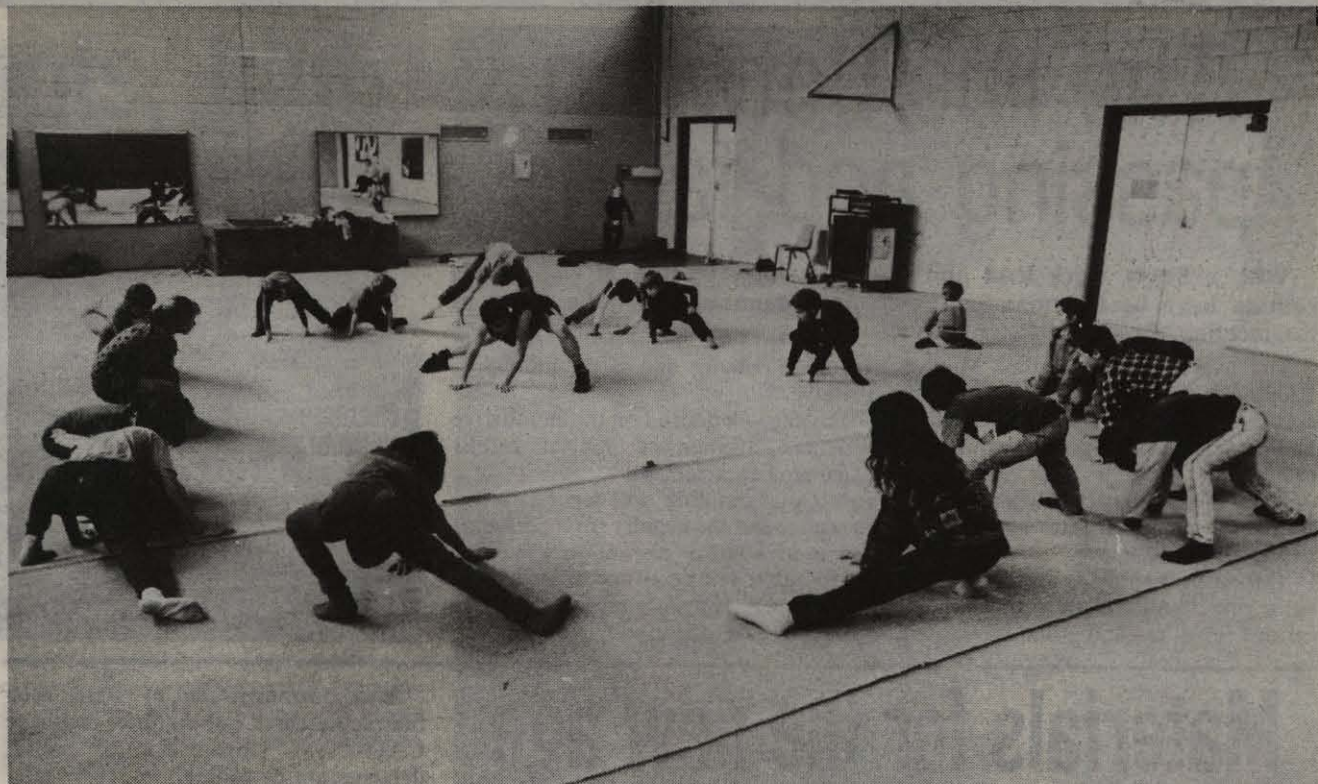
That there actually was a child care co-ordinator and a holiday program was due to the efforts of a number of people over an extended period of time, particularly the Equal Opportunity Co-ordinator, Dr Margaret James and the Student Welfare Officer, Ms Sally Willox.

The staff need for school holiday child care is an ongoing one. The change in school term times in 1987 created a situation where student parents were in the position of having lectures and tutorials to attend while their children were home on holiday. This led to a dramatic increase in the number of students approaching the welfare officer for help in finding affordable child care.

Sally prepared a paper to the Vice-Chancellor outlining the need. A child care forum involving interested representative groups was held in the office of the Warden of the Union, Mr Graeme Sweeney.

The outcome was that the Equal Opportunity Co-ordinator and the Warden wrote to the Vice-Chancellor requesting the appointment of a part-time child care co-ordinator to investigate the whole issue of child care at Monash, including the possible initiation of a holiday child care program. (Successful programs were already operating at Melbourne and La Trobe universities.)

The result was positive and the position of .5 child care co-ordinator was created as part of the Monash Equal Opportunity Program, funded out of the Vice-Chancellor's Special Fund. Bernadette started work at the beginning of 1988. She also works as .5 assistant to



● Older children take part in the Exercises to Music segment of the School Holiday Program. The program, held for the first time this year (see story at left), was divided into three age groups: 5-7 (based in the Elwyn Morey kindergarten), 8-10 (Rugby pavilion) and 11-13 (Tennis pavilion). Organiser Bernadette Muir says there was such a big demand for the original 60 places that the number had to be increased, and the program ended up catering for 160 children on a full- or part-time basis. Even so, there were more than 40 children still on the waiting list. The three age groups had similar programs which were highly structured and included such activities as cooking, swimming, singing along with adult guitar accompaniment, story time, sock hockey, guest speakers, and making items such as fruit loop jewellery and terracotta mugs. Enrolments for the September School Holiday Program will be held from 1pm to 3pm on Monday 8 August in the Guy Manton Rooms, ground floor, Menzies Building. Photo — Scott Fitzpatrick

the welfare officers, funded by the Union.

As a Monash staff member and parent I was very pleased when notice came out that a child care program would be offered in the second school holiday period of 1988.

I have one child still in the primary school age group and it was a great relief to know that I could have him cared for reliably and affordably for the first week of the holidays. The fact that the program was accommodated right on campus was especially pleasing.

Apart from the convenience factor, parents of young children feel more comfortable knowing that their children are close by. This was not easy to achieve considering that there is a severe shortage of accommodation generally at

Monash and the university was in full operation.

The program offered a good mix of energetic physical activity, creative pursuits and entertainment. The group leaders were friendly and competent, with a genuine rapport with their charges. My son enjoyed himself so much that he made his own inquiries about booking in for the second week even though other plans had been made. He is enthusiastically looking forward to next time.

The holiday program was a great success. It was also fully self-funding. It was not a drain on university resources but quite the opposite. It would have ensured that the parent users were fully productive during the period and that parent staff members were not seeking

to take leave at a time inconvenient to their departments.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the child care co-ordinator position is for one year only at this stage. Planning for 1989 must start soon.

It would be a great pity if this centre for higher learning did not afford child care the priority it deserves both philosophically and practically.

I urge all Monash people, whether they require child care or not, to support the continuation of this very worthwhile initiative for students and staff, so that Monash can be seen to be truly an Equal Opportunity University.

**Margaret Sloan**  
Project Officer  
Monash Association of  
Graduate Students

## End of chapter for Brian Southwell

Present and former Monash staff members, and colleagues from other major libraries, gathered recently to farewell the University Librarian, Brian Southwell. At the gathering in the Conference Room of the Main Library building, a number of speakers paid tribute to Mr Southwell's achievements during his 16 years as chief officer.

"Although Brian Southwell came to Monash from Angus and Robertson, he had worked for nearly 20 years in Sydney University's Fisher Library," said Professor Ron Keightley, chairman of the General Library Committee.

"Fifteen of those years were spent in Acquisitions, an experience which served him well at Monash.

"During his 15 years at the helm, the stock of 524,000 volumes he inherited was more than doubled, passing the one million mark late in 1979.

"Not that quantity has been allowed to override quality: Monash has been fortunate to be able to acquire outstanding special collections such as the Swift and the Lindesay Clark children's literature collections, and these have been en-

riched over the past 16 years through further purchases and donations," he said.

"The periodicals holdings remain among the best in Australia, despite recent funding problems.

"The one millionth volume entered the collection less than 20 years after the foundation of the library," Professor Keightley said.

The next speaker, Mr Denis Richardson, University of Melbourne Librarian, said Victoria's senior university had taken more than 120 years to achieve the same level — and that Monash had reached the target first.

Mr Richardson also spoke about Brian Southwell's encouragement of technological developments in library



● Mr Southwell, right, with Mr Denis Richardson, University of Melbourne Librarian.

equipment and processing, where Monash had taken an early lead in Australia.

Monash had, in 1976, initiated the Periodical and Monograph Cost Indexes as a service to academic libraries.

"These figures were used by CTEC (now defunct) to index the book and

periodical component of recurrent grant to all Australian universities," Mr Richardson said.

Mr Peter Mitchell (now Acting Librarian) stressed the value Brian Southwell attached to the standard of service offered by the Library to the university and the community.

## The line between passing and failing

With a heavy work load and rigid structure, traditional engineering courses have been demanding, and often daunting, says the Dean of Engineering, Professor Peter Darvall.

To overcome this, the Monash Faculty of Engineering is offering its courses by semester, with all teaching and examinations done within the semester.

"The faculty expects higher progression and completion rates as a result," Professor Darvall says.

"Monash is already recognised as being one of Australia's premier engineering faculties and this move will

ensure it remains one of the most progressive."

Passing will depend on the cumulative weighted average of subject results calculated each semester.

"'Good standing' will depend on this measure, and the penalty for a period of low motivation or disruption will more likely be the failing of one or some subjects rather than an entire year," says Professor Darvall.



## Materials for the new age

Open Day in the department of Materials Engineering will feature a number of outstanding displays highlighting advanced materials, modern materials processing and characterization, and advanced materials applications.

Displays will be complemented by invited contributions from major industrial and government organisations prominent in the development of new materials technology.

Featured exhibits will include:

- a display, in conjunction with Telecom Australia, of optical fibre technology for application in advanced telecommunications networks,
- a display, in collaboration with the Gliding Club of Victoria, of a modern

sailplane, demonstrating advanced glass-fibre reinforced composite construction,

- a display and demonstration featuring the new, high-temperature ceramic superconductors,
- a biomaterials display featuring advanced orthopaedic and dental implants,
- a display by ICI Australia Operations Pty Ltd of their involvement with advanced polymers and ceramics,

- a demonstration by BHP Melbourne Research Laboratories featuring CAD-CAM simulation of metal deformation by rolling,

- production of ultra-fine ceramic powders by high frequency plasma spraying,

- a display featuring activities of the CSIRO's Division of Materials Science and Technology,

- a display by the Materials Research Laboratories (Department of Defence) of advanced materials applications in the defence industries,

- a display by the Australian Corrosion Association of the causes and prevention of corrosion.

- Materials engineers are involved in projects like this large telescope mirror, made from a "glass ceramic".

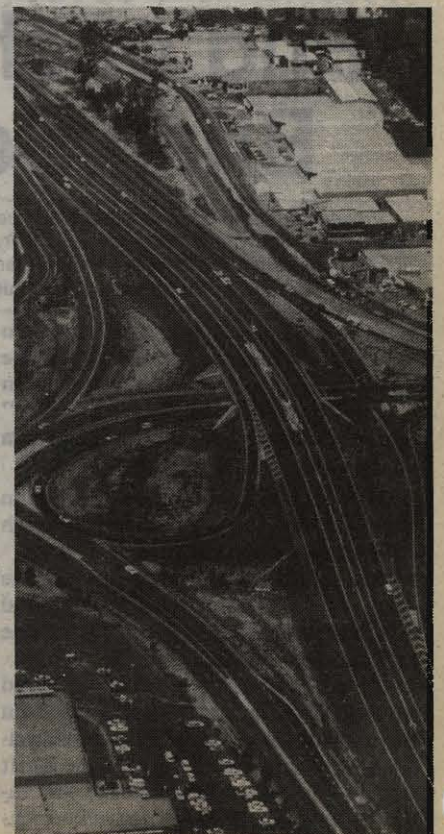
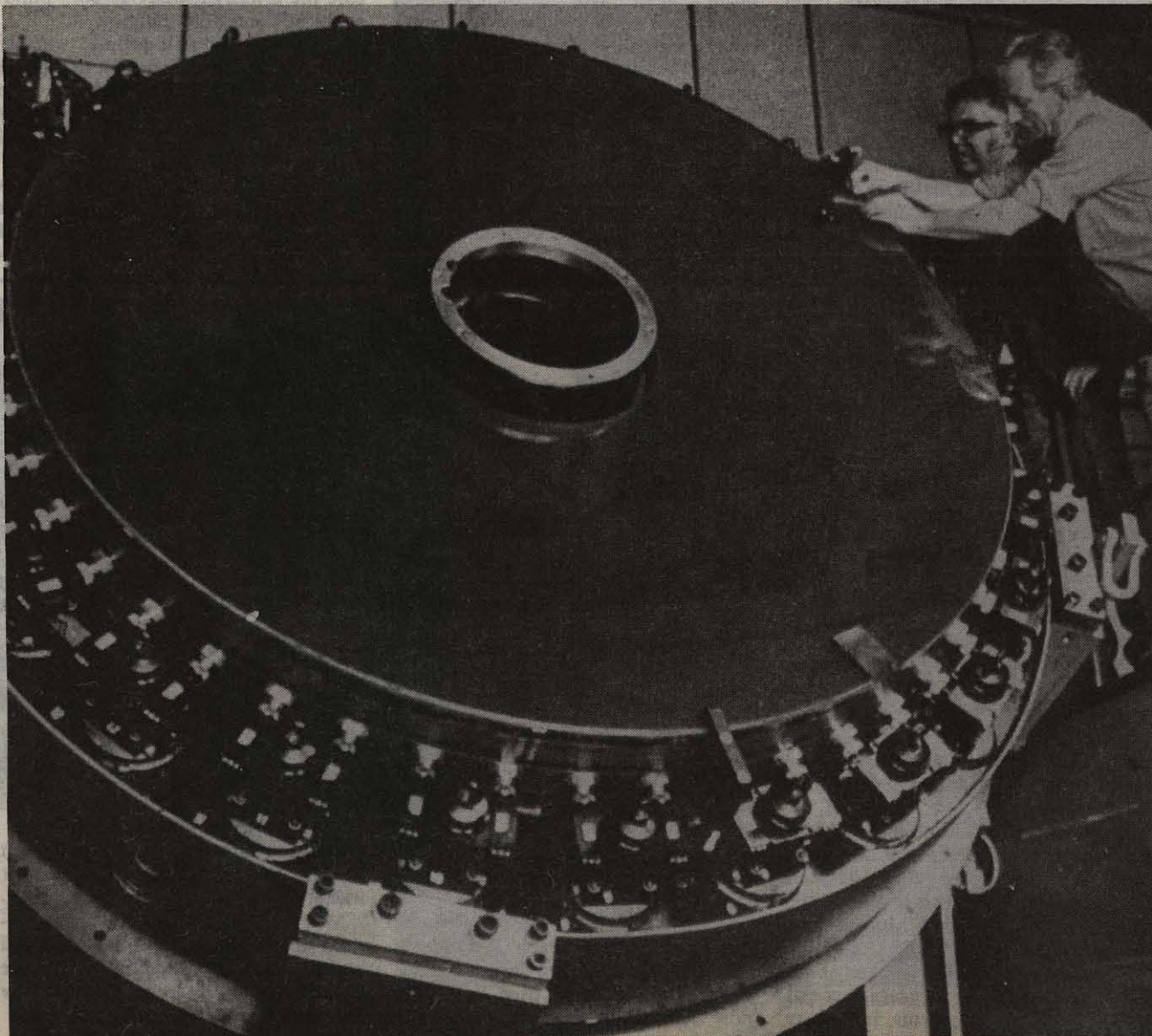
## Graphics show what high-tech is all about

Lecturers in the department of Civil Engineering are making an extra effort this year to show Open Day visitors what high technology civil engineering is all about.

The emphasis is on computer graphics and dynamic experiments where objects will be moving either on a screen in color or in a laboratory experiment on and under the floor.

Planned demonstrations include: computer simulation of terrain modelling and road excavation, frame analysis design using a PC graphics screen and mouse, stress analysis using animated color graphics, slope stability collapse simulation, again using color animation, experimental fatigue tests, moving load testing rig, impact tube crushing tests, and computer simulation of transport related problems.

● Above and below: Civil engineering presents its everyday aspects.





## Smart robots, high voltage sparks and hi-fi go on display

Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering will have a wide range of displays and equipment relating to both the educational and research activities of the department.

An Intelligent Robotics Research Centre was recently established within the department and some of the work associated with it will be on view. This work relates to vision and tactile sensing, mobile robotics as well as the development of robust navigation systems for robots.

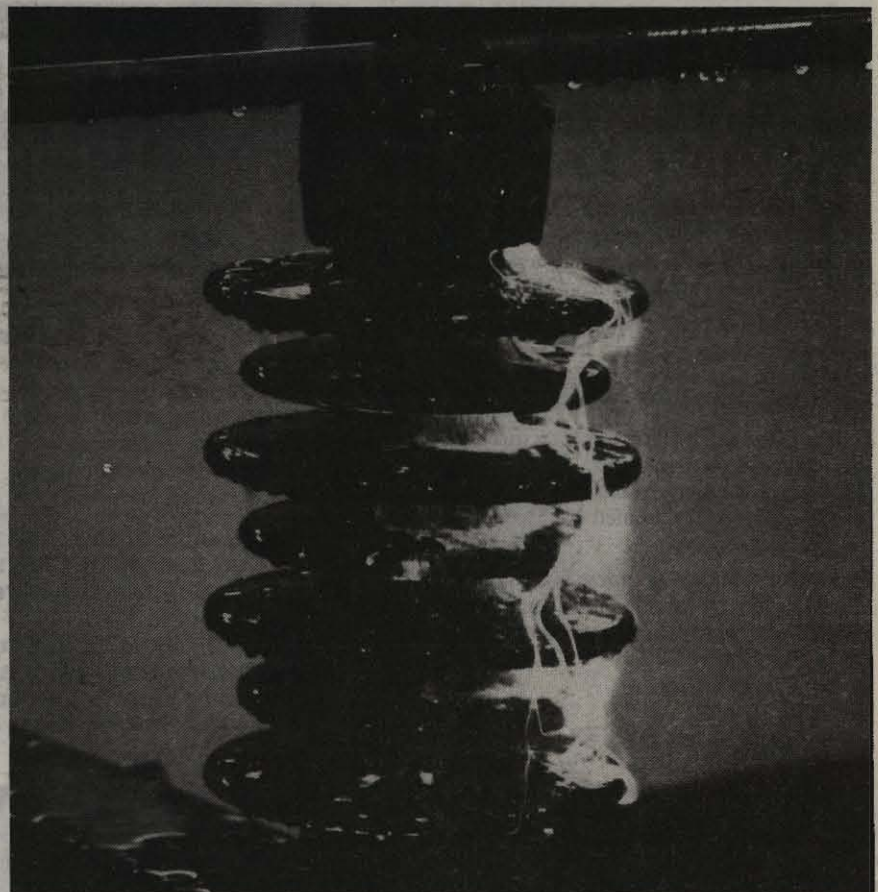
In the High Voltage Laboratory, the operation of the Tesla Coil and the Impulse Generator will be demonstrated. These displays deal with the production of high voltages which are used for experimentation and testing.

The Computer Laboratory will feature displays of electric and electronic equipment which is used for teaching and research within the department. The

displays on view in the Electronics Laboratory will include logic circuitry as well as hi-fi audio equipment. This laboratory will also feature weather satellite receiving equipment.

Design techniques for VLSI systems will be demonstrated in the Engineering Faculty Computer Laboratory. Also, as a demonstration of an Expert System, a computer-based adviser will be available in this laboratory for helping students when making career decisions relating to Electrical Engineering.

The Electrical Machine Laboratory will include displays of electrical power apparatus, electromagnetic devices and power electronics as applied to machine speed control.



# OPEN DAY 88

## Who's the clever one?

Who can lead a team that converts:

- sea-salt into chlorine and caustic soda
  - sand into glass
  - crude oil into petrol and plastics
  - natural gas into domestic fuel and plastics
  - hematite into steel
  - bauxite into aluminium
  - barley into beer ???
- ... a chemical engineer can.

So what is chemical engineering? Come and see dynamic displays and videos and films that try to give some idea about this on Open Day, August 7.

The displays will include a model of a real life natural gas treatment plant, distillation columns, liquid-liquid extraction units, bubble columns (if you think bubbles are always spherical, come and see these), mixing in stirred vessels, funny fluids, fermenters, a waste sludge treatment unit, and spiral separators to separate mineral particles and a host of other things.

The films will tell you what a chemical engineer does, how a petroleum refinery works, and what problems static electricity can cause in a chemical plant.



● Fred the Rock Eater is a family favorite. Peter Froud, technical officer in Chemical Engineering, has the monster tamed.

## Winds, waves—and some sleuthing work, too

Mechanical Engineering lights the way — can you?

Mechanical Engineering invites you to light up the words 'Mechanical Engineering' using your own 'pedal power'. Various other mechanisms will also be on display.

● SEE the models of major cities that have their buildings tested in the wind tunnel in the department.

● INSPECT the largest wave flume in Australia which is capable of producing one metre waves. The wave flume has been used to test various off-shore structures and pipelines.

● FIND OUT how the four seasons arise from the Orrey Model, and check whether your house is well designed with respect to the solar angle from the Dwelling Model.

● WORRIED about hearing loss due to excessive noise? Apparatus will be set up for the determination of hearing loss. A cable which will vibrate in a definite shape will also be shown.

● OPERATE a robot. The operation of robots will be demonstrated and

a video on automation will be shown.

- DETECTIVE work in Engineering

— the detection of machinery failure by the examination of wear debris will be

explained, and a low speed gear test facility will be on display.



● Fourth year Mechanical Engineering student, Jean Lim, helps a 'Smart Arms' robot go through its paces on Open Day 1985.

# Ramayana presented as world first

One of the great epic poems of India will be the subject of a world-first at Robert Blackwood Hall next month, when South Indian, Thai and Javanese versions of sections of the *Ramayana* saga will be performed at the same concert.

The performances will consist of dance-drama accompanied by the appropriate regional music played by authentic instrumental ensembles.

The South Indian dance will be led by Tara Rajkumar and her troupe, to an ensemble of a stringed instrument, cymbals, drums and vocal music.

The Thai performance will be directed by well-known musician, Chalernsak Pikulsri, currently teaching in the department, accompanied by Monash's mahori orchestra.

The university's Javanese gamelan orchestra, led by senior tutor in Music, Poedijono, will provide the setting for



## Australia's musical history

Teaching in Australian music history has been totally neglected, according to Reader in Music, Dr Margaret Kartomi.

However, Monash will rectify this academic oversight next year when the Music Department introduces the country's first course in its own music history.

Students studying for their Masters in Music or Music Education will be able to examine the panoply of musical Australiana, from Aboriginal music to modern rock.

The course will consist of lectures on Australian composers from the 19th century to the present day, Australian folk music, jazz and rock, and Aboriginal music.

Lecturers will include Dr Kartomi (the course co-ordinator), Dr Kay Dreyfuss (curator of the Grainger Museum at Melbourne University), Mr Laughton Harris, Dr Shirley Trembath, Dr Harold Love and Dr Therese Radic.

Australian music history is set to become a more important part of secondary teaching in 1991 with the introduction of a new VCE course into Victorian high schools.

In Year 11 alone, the half-year subject, Music in Australia, will take up 50 to 60 hours of study.

There are few teachers qualified to teach Australian music history, and Dr Kartomi expects that a number of teachers will be enrolling in the new Monash course.

As part of their research project, students will work with the massive collection of uncatalogued concert programs, scores and books at the La Trobe Library.

# MUSIC AT MONASH

the Javanese version of the saga.

Thought to have been written about 2400 years ago by the Indian poet Valmiki, the *Ramayana* has been compared to Homer's *Odyssey* in its breadth and subject matter.

Its 24,000 verses describe the adventures

of the young Prince Rama who was banished from his kingdom and forced to wander the wilderness of southern India.

Although the story was originally set in India, the Hindu cultures of Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia

The presentation of the *Ramayana* coincides with the Monash-sponsored Symposium of the International Musicological Society (28 August-2 September) directed by Reader in Music, Dr Margaret Kartomi.

A Festival of Music being run in conjunction with the symposium will feature a series of lunchtime and evening concerts of Aboriginal, contemporary, medieval, Asian, baroque and jazz music. For further information, contact the Music Department on 565 3233.



Senior tutor in the department of Music, Poedijono, as Hanoman, one of the characters from the *Ramayana*.

and Burma were quick to adopt the adventures of Rama and re-tell them in local dance and music.

In Indonesia, the story is often told in the form of wayang kulit, the leather puppet shadow-play, and a form of dance-drama called wayang wong. The Monash performance will feature both styles.

The people of Thailand tell Rama's tale in the theatrical mask-play known as the khon, and in India it is performed in the kathakali dance style from the country's south.

Characters from this classic love story appear in temple murals and the sculptures in each of these countries.

The performance will take place at Robert Blackwood Hall at 8.15pm on 1 September. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. Telephone bookings: 544 5448.



## Vespers by Jan Dismas Zelenka

One of the highlights of the symposium of the International Musicological Society will be a performance of a rarely heard vespers written by the Bohemian baroque composer, Jan Dismas Zelenka.

Some of the compositions that will be presented in the Religious Centre between 5 and 6pm on 1 September have not been performed in more than 200 years.

Much of the music, which fortunately survived the bombing of Dresden during the Second World War, is still unpublished, but has been specially prepared for the service from the original manuscripts by Zelenka specialist, Mrs Jan Stockigt.

According to Mrs Stockigt, a consultant to the Australian Music Examinations Board who is writing a thesis on the life and works of the 18th century composer, it is unlikely that all the works would have been performed together in the German court of Dresden where Zelenka was a leading composer.

The service will include performances of Zelenka's settings for the vesper psalms, Dixit Dominus, Laudate pueri, Laetatus sum, Nisi Dominus and Lauda Jerusalem, and the Magnificat, Salve Regina, and the hymn, Ave Maris Stella.

The soloists, chorus and orchestra will be under the direction of John O'Donnell of the School of Music at Victorian College of the Arts, who is resident organist adviser at Robert Blackwood Hall.

The presiding priest will be Monash Chaplain, Father Ephraem Chifley.

# Rare display of Indian instruments

The British Raj left more than a legacy of railways and a bloated bureaucracy on the Indian sub-continent, judging by the appearance of some of the newest additions to the university's music archive.

Among a recently acquired collection of old Indian musical instruments are a number of "hybrids" which highlight an unusual aspect of the assimilation of Western and Indian cultures.

One of the most interesting examples is the nadeschwar, which looks like a cross between an Indian sitar and a violin, with a cello headpiece to add to the confusion of styles.

The collection of 40 stringed and wind instruments dating from the 19th century is on permanent loan to the Music Department from the National Gallery of Victoria.

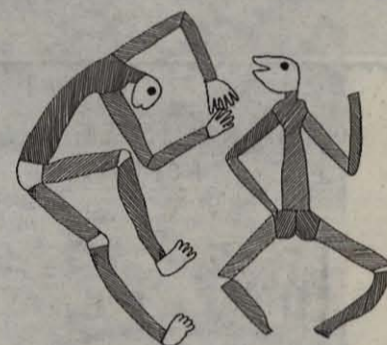
Originally a gift from Raja Surendra Mohun Tagore of Calcutta, the instruments were brought to Melbourne for the International Exhibition held to mark the opening of the Royal Exhibition Buildings in 1880.

At the end of the display they were repacked in crates, and they were discovered only recently after spending more than 100 years in storage.

According to the Music Department's archivist, Manolete Mora, and post-graduate student in music, Adrian McNeil, only three such collections remain in existence.

As well as highlighting the cultural exchanges that took place between India and Australia during the last century, the instruments will be immensely valuable to students of Indian music.

Although most items are in surprisingly good condition, it is hoped that eventually they will all be restored. Meanwhile, students in the department have begun the process of cataloguing the collection.



The collection will be on display in the gallery of the Arts and Crafts Centre from Open Day (7 August) until 2 September. It will be open daily to the public from 9am to 5pm and admission is free.

Accompanying the exhibition will be a catalogue containing information on music in Calcutta in the late 19th century, and background on the original exhibition in 1881.

## Workshop looks at culture

Members of the university and the community are invited to attend all or part of a two-day workshop on *Contemporary Theories of Culture*, to be held at Monash on Friday 12 August and Saturday 13 August.

The workshop has been organised and sponsored by a number of groups at Monash to coincide with a visit by Professor Ferenc Feher and Professor Agnes Heller from the New School for Social Research in New York.

Papers to be presented include *Culture and Imaginary Significations* (Johann Arnason), *The Political Relevance of Hermeneutics* (Ferenc Feher), *Open and Closed Concepts of Culture* (Paul Harrison), *Emotional Culture* (Agnes Heller), *Culture as Production?* (George Markus) and *Changing Paradigms in Cultural Theory* (John Rundell).

The workshop is free and bookings are not necessary. It will be held in the Theatre, Gallery Building, from 10.30 am to 5 pm both days.

Programs can be obtained from the departmental office in Anthropology and Sociology, 10th floor, Menzies Building, telephone 565 2977. For further information, contact Dr David Roberts on 565 2243 or Dr John Rundell on 565 2965.



● Manolete Mora, left, his son, Emilio, and Adrian McNeil inspect a *bin*, one of the Indian music archive's latest acquisitions. Photo — Tony Miller



● The Japanese Music Archive is presenting a series of performances and lectures at the university. Pictured is pianist Shimada Lili, who gave a concert in the Music Department's Auditorium last month. Program details for Japanese musical items in September, October and November will be published at a later date.



## Lunchtime concerts at RBH

The Le Roy-Reynolds Duo (baritone and pianist) will present the finale on Monday 8 August of the Robert Blackwood Hall Lunchtime Concerts for 1988. The performance, which begins at 1.15 pm, is free and open to the public.

From next month, a new series of free lunchtime concerts will be presented at the hall, this time by Monash students.

The program will begin on Thursday 8 September with the Monash University Orchestra, and on the following Thursday 15 September, there will be jazz with the Julian Driscoll Quartet.

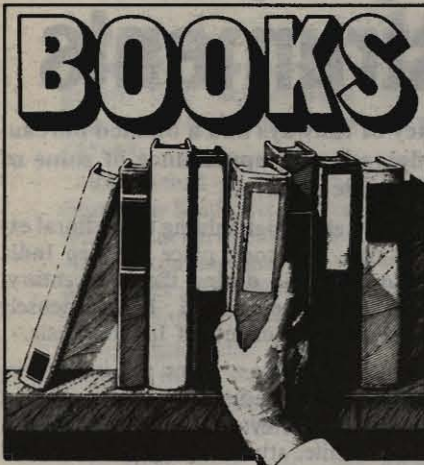
The program on Thursday 22 September will be presented by the Music department, and a final concert on Thursday 6 October will feature the Monash University Choral Society.

The concerts will be held from 1-2 pm and everyone is welcome. Further information can be obtained from Jackie Harrison on 898 1122.



● Recent performers in the Religious Centre's lunchtime recital series were the Trio Muzikschulle Havlickuv Brod, a Czech woodwind trio whose average age is 14. The group's Australian tour was sponsored by the Czech government and the Czech Music Fund.

# Seeking the basis of Koori economics



## IN REVIEW

**Aboriginal Economy: Patterns of Experience**  
by Tony Dingle  
McPhee Gribble/Penguin Books, Melbourne, RRP \$9.95

There has been a flood of treatises, in the last decade, examining the Koori lifestyle, wellbeing, and survival, challenging the notions which have derided and denigrated the status of Koori culture. Dingle's book is among the best.

His discussion is most certainly not blinkered by cultural preconceptions. His is a real attempt to explain the fabric of Koori economic systems as a plausible and reasonable development to maintain a "sense of affluence" by a society which desired little more than essentially an adequate diet and the minimum of tools and weapons.

And the achievements of the Koori system are highlighted to show that the maintenance of this affluence was basic to a "society which was well fed, had a highly developed preference for leisure and had no difficulty combining the two".

It is ironic that a book of this calibre, describing but not extolling the virtues of a harmonious lifestyle, appears in 1988, 200 years after Captain James Cook wrote that the Koori lifestyle was such "that they live in a Tranquillity which is not disturb'd by the Inequality of Conditions . . . that in my opinion . . . they think themselves provided with all the necessaries of Life and that they have no superfluities". Since Cook, there has been such deliberate con-

trivance to put down this lifestyle through philosophical, religious, moral and direct physical abuse.

Dingle does provide comparative discussion on the development of both European society and Koori society, highlighting the former's concentration on the development of technologies for acquiring food whereas the Koori paid more attention to improving their human skills in the use of simple tools.

His comparison of the intent of trade within each society is plausible, showing the Europeans attempted to look for a reflection of their own commercial trading habits and search for profits which, to this writer, may have blinkered their recognition of the Koori form of trade which was prompted more by social and ceremonial exchange than by commercial motivation.

Dingle does provide for the reader detailed summaries of other authors who have researched or speculated on specific conditions of the Koori. The discussion on population before 1788 is absorbing and disturbing in that the data to date is not likely to be resolved on known European documentation. But it is interesting to now observe the emergence of another discipline, Economics, providing a reasonable explanation of the possible status of the Koori population levels before the invasion.

There is however, no attempt to indicate that perhaps the Koori people, in their oral histories, may have their own explanations or discussion of the circumstance either before and particularly during the early years of occupation when there was major reduction of the Koori population.

This is an easy-to-read and detailed text on the Koori lifestyle and economic system. It is marred by some incidences of a lack of editorial scrutiny, particularly in footnotes and reference.

But this book does give credence to the achievements of Koori people who, as Kevin Gilbert, a Koori author, has written, may face the denial of their Aboriginality but not their human dignity.

Isaac Brown  
MOSA (Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines)

### Beach-house

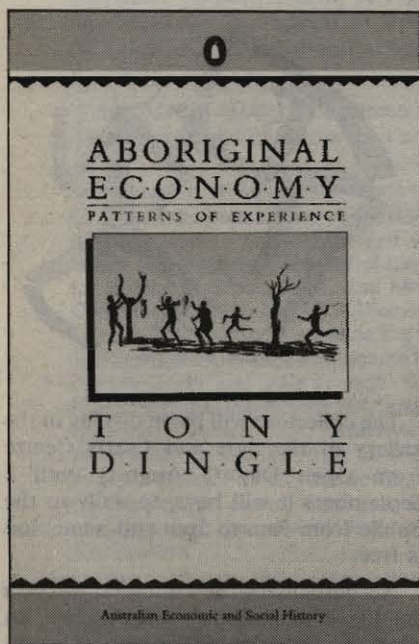
Arriving late Friday nights, the empty house filling with us and board games, the shells collected last time dry and white as sand, the ghoulish rabbit traps suspended on strings in the shed, the sleep-out hiding huntsman, ti-tree tangling through roof where we found a bat once.

And the house would be alive with cooking and cricket outside and the shelves of 'Reader's Digests' with familiar stories of drama in real life, and bull-ants huge and red would stalk in the buffalo grass and hide in our towels.

Driving past years later, the 'Hideaway' sign has gone, but the fibro walls are still, as bleached and firm as ever and I wonder how we all fitted in.

Warrick Wynne

From *Poetry Monash No 23*, published by the English department (\$5 subscription for three issues yearly, post free, from Dr Dennis Davison, Department of English, Monash University, Clayton 3168).



## Monash scone-buffs on the loose in The Dandenongs

Monash must take a large part of the blame for *Off Our Scones*, a bold new concept in food guides.

It was the need for airy contemplation that sent Mark Civitella and Peter Nugent into the hills (they were doing degrees in Philosophy) and the need to stretch their student dollars that led to a critical examination of local sustenance.

And it was their experience on student publications, including the editorship of *Lot's Wife*, that led them to believe they could produce a book.

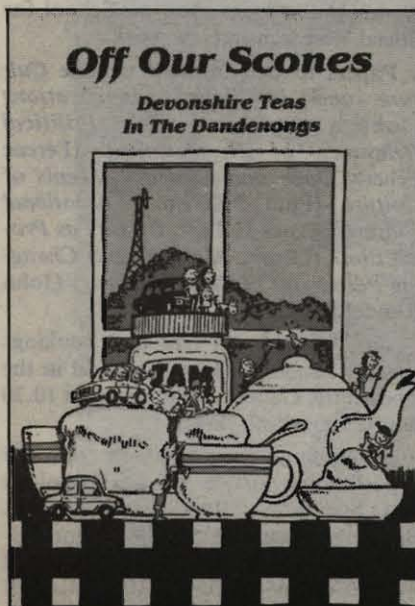
At \$4.95, *Off Our Scones: Devonshire Teas in The Dandenongs* (published by the authors under the imprint, Bold Concept) is a steal.

It rates places without fear or favor on a scale from five scones, indicating an exceptional batch, to one if the product falls flat.

It also contains a mountainous collection of facts about afternoon teas, including their origins and role in the meaning of life.

*Off Our Scones* is available from the Monash University Bookshop, Collins Bookstores and many outlets in the Dandenongs.

● Mark Civitella, left, and co-author Peter Nugent.



## Student's work goes on show

An exhibition of works by final-year Arts student, Maxine Foot, is being held at the William Mora Galleries, 19 Windsor Place, Melbourne.

The exhibition, *Etchings, Aquatints and Drypoint*, will continue until 11 August. Gallery hours are from 10am - 5.30pm Tuesday to Friday, and 10am - 5pm Saturday. Inquiries: 654 4655.



# A hundred years old — but what of the future?

## IN REVIEW

The Commonwealth of Science: ANZAAS and the Scientific Enterprise in Australasia, 1888-1988

ed. Roy MacLeod

Oxford University Press, Melbourne, RRP \$30

ANZAAS has celebrated its centenary in style.

While the association is a shadow of its former self and uncertain about future directions, it can be proud of its contribution to Australian intellectual life since its formation as the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science in 1888.

ANZAAS (the name was changed in 1930 to include New Zealand) has often disappointed those who have seen it primarily as a way of linking science and a wider society, but it has been prodigious in spinning off academic disciplines and to a lesser extent in encouraging interdisciplinary contact.

The association's present condition is in large part a direct consequence of the generally healthy state of Australian science.

This book is important for the additional reason that it makes a significant contribution to a growing scholarly stream. Suddenly there is a body of historical writing on Australian science and technology to add to numerous policy studies.

*The Making of Australian Science* edited by Professor Rod Home of the University of Melbourne, the Australian Academy of Science's contribution to the bicentenary, is to be published shortly by Cambridge University Press.

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering has also weighed in with a massive volume *Technology in Australia 1788-1988*, published by the academy itself, which consists of a series of long essays by experts in the various technologies.

Together with other recent publications such as Ann Moyal's *A Bright and Savage Land*, my own *Shaping Science and Industry* and the periodical *Historical Records of Australian Science*, it is now possible with reasonable confidence to make generalisations about Australian science and technology, and to work towards an integration of the subject with mainstream history and policy studies.

The collection of essays under review, each by a well known authority, has been imaginatively arranged by Roy MacLeod, professor of history at the University of Sydney.

Three essays by MacLeod and James Davenport, founding editor of *Search*, trace the fluctuating fortunes of AAAS and ANZAAS from the pioneering efforts by Archibald Liversidge to the more recent generalist conferences.

About half of the book is composed of more specialised essays on most of the major disciplinary groupings. A notable omission is economics, represented at the original conference in 1888 as section G.

The final group of rather disparate essays deal with the relations between science and society in both an historical and contemporary context.

The overall result is a little like an ANZAAS congress itself: scholarly, often stimulating and offering many new insights, lacking in linkages between the parts and the whole,

somewhat repetitious, and still grappling with the task of integration.

MacLeod's opening chapters are superbly written and finely textured accounts of the struggle to establish serious scientific research in this country and of the difficulties of forming the association.

The hero, of course, is Archibald Liversidge, a chemist at the University of Sydney, who from the 1870s moved mountains to create linkages between the disparate and often cantankerous outposts in the colonies.

MacLeod writes with that rare quality described by Sir Keith Hancock as 'span' — the ability to illuminate the details of history by deft use of analogy and comparison.

The problems of the association were evident almost from the outset. Meeting as it did every 18 months or so (with long breaks during the two world wars), the gaps were too long to maintain vibrant disciplinary discourse.

There was a strong tendency to neglect the central purpose of the association and to submit to the fissiparous characteristics of scientific knowledge.

Time and again section meetings were used to launch specialist societies that would meet occasionally in conjunction with congress but more often separately.

In his excellent account of section A (mathematics, physics, astronomy), Professor Home describes the successful manoeuvring of A.D. Ross (foundation professor of mathematics and physics at the University of Western Australia) to use section meetings to form an Australian branch of the Institute of Physics as a way of enhancing the status of physics as a profession.

The physicists were soon followed by the chemists discussed by Ian Rae; the interwar drift to specialisation and professionalisation became overpowering in the 1950s and 1960s.

James Davenport is understandably disgruntled at the increasingly insular and unworldly tendency within the scientific community. Scientific statesmanship is almost a lost art. There are few today who could compare with Liversidge, Masson, Rivett, Madsen and Clunies Ross.

It seems that modern science is so demanding and specialised that there is no time left to acquire a broad understanding of economics, politics and human affairs.

Davenport laments that ANZAAS provided a forum but that few used it in a constructive manner. One suspects that congress is not the right forum to convince the economic rationalists that science deserves continuing support.

What is needed is unremitting economic assessment of the broad social and technological benefits of investment in science. ASTEC, CSIRO and perhaps the universities are more likely to provide such a template for accountability.

The authors of the disciplinary chapters were given an imposing commission. Within 20 pages or so they were asked to sum up intellectual trends over

a century and include something on the nature of their professional groups.

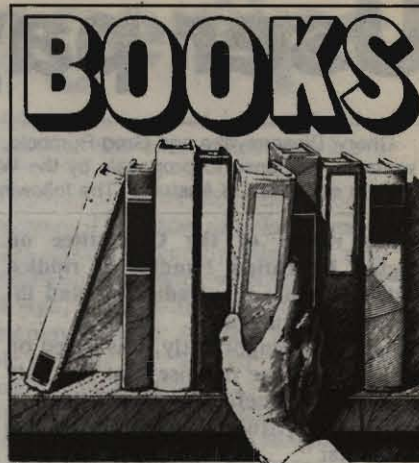
The task required a rare combination of disciplinary knowledge and historical understanding, and for the most part has been accomplished admirably. Perhaps more use could have been made of historical generalisation and comparison, but this is a quibble.

What shines through is the importance of the local environment in stimulating original and creative science: observation of the southern sky and radio transmission in physics, research on native flora and fauna in biology, and on mineral processing and natural products in chemistry.

The chapters under the heading 'serving society' in the final part of the book bear the marks of having been written about two years ago during the deep gloom about Australia's economic prospects.

Despite the excellence of much of Australian science, technological performance has been inadequate outside agriculture and mining. Technological pessimism is reflected in the essays by Ted Wheelwright and Greg Crouch, and to a certain extent by Professors Ron Johnston and Sol Encel.

Johnston's essay is a perceptive short history of changing fashions in science policy over the past two decades, but Encel's sociological musing lacks clarity or direction. Joe Powell contributes an



elegant and at times elusive essay on the varying relationship between science and the natural environment.

My favourite neologism is in a heading used by J.M. Powles — post-affluent hygiene!

The phrase refers to our contemporary concern with afflictions such as heart disease, obesity, drug addiction and cancer. But why *post-affluent*?

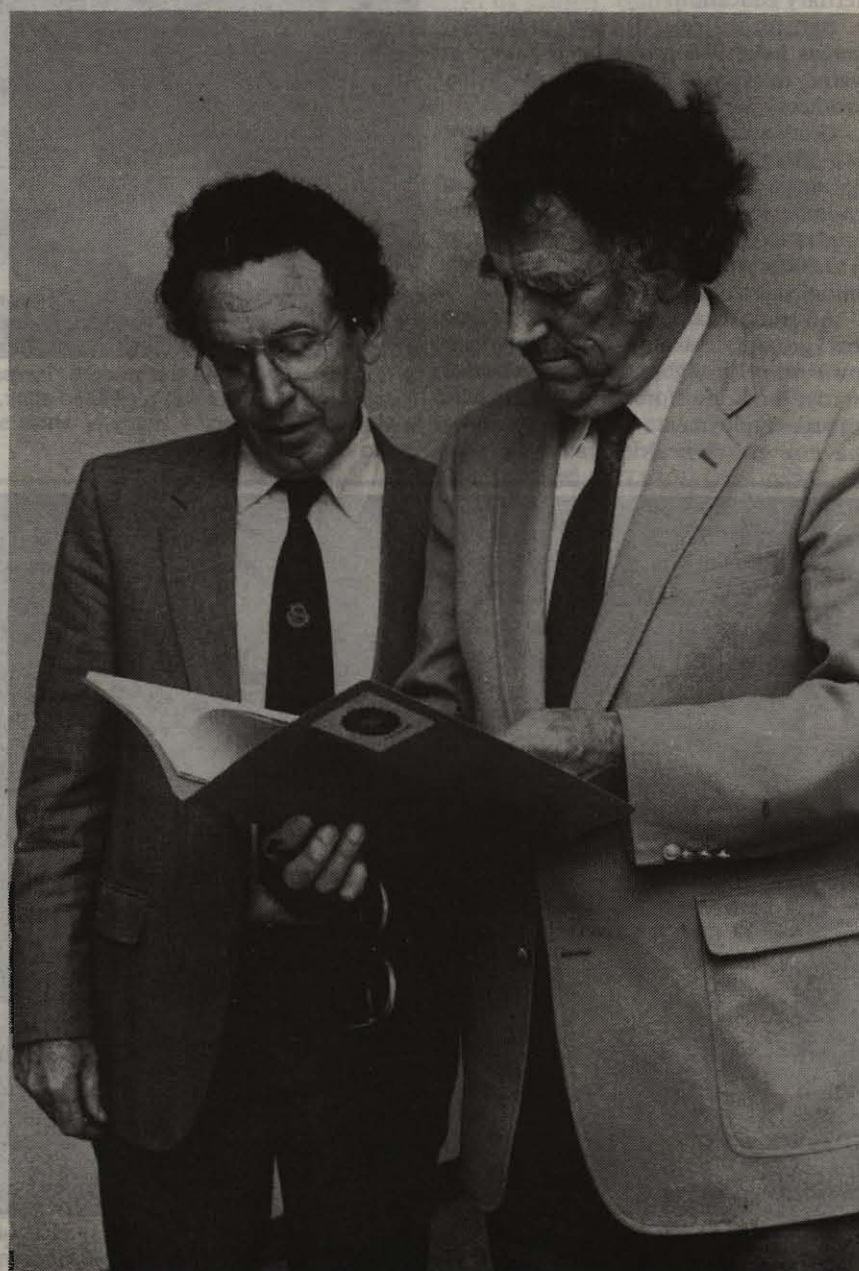
One topic that is missing is the future of ANZAAS.

There is clearly a continuing need for dialogue between the practice of science itself and the social concerns that it generates.

Preparation of this book presented an opportunity to explore the options but it has not been taken.

The thrust of the more general essays suggest that our successors will not be celebrating the association's bicentenary.

**Boris Schedvin**  
Professor of Economic History  
University of Melbourne



● ANZAAS was presented at Monash in 1985 as a Festival of Science. Pictured are the festival's president, Sir Edmund Hillary, right, and director, Professor John Swan.

# User pays: A postgraduate view

Cheryl Dissanayake and Greg Rumbold, postgraduate students in Psychology, have written a response to proposals by the Wran committee for a "user-pay" system of tertiary education in Australia. The following is an edited version:

**The report of the Committee on Higher Education Funding is riddled with anomalies, contradictions and ill-conceived arguments.**

But, more importantly, it is based on a blatantly false premise that the only people who benefit from higher education are the students. The committee states that "... most taxpayers are not privileged members of the society and neither use nor directly benefit from higher education".

It is ludicrous to suggest that most taxpayers do not benefit from higher education.

Imagine the scenario where qualified graduates did not exist. Who would educate the taxpayers' children? Who would care for their health? Who would protect their legal rights?

The standard of living of every Australian depends directly on graduates' contributions to the productivity and the skills base of the workforce.

Therefore it is only fair that all taxpayers should share the burden of the cost.

The "user-pay" scheme proposed in the Wran Report should mean just that — the users, the entire community, should pay for higher education, as they do now!

The main justification for imposing a tax on graduates is that "considerable private benefits accrue to those who have the opportunity to participate" in tertiary education.

But, for the past 10 years, graduates' wages have been steadily declining in value relative to the wages of other workers.

Graduates' starting wages are now less than 90 per cent of average weekly earnings. In addition, students forgo on average \$60,000 in earnings while they study, and accumulate debts of up to \$10,000 which have to be repaid in their initial years of employment.

All students are NOT from privileged backgrounds. Most have to pay their own way throughout their period of study, and are forced to enter paid casual employment. The vast majority have severe difficulties in coping with

the financial costs accrued during this period.

The fact that we have "free" education does not mean that tertiary education is not without its costs. Students have to finance the ever increasing costs of union fees, text books and equipment, stationery, transport and many other associated expenses.

At least one third of all tertiary students have to borrow money at some time from a lending institution to survive.

The report recognises the plight of students from low income families, and proposes to reduce the "financial barriers" to tertiary education by subsidis-

ing disadvantaged students through increased funding of AUSTUDY.

The current level of support received through AUSTUDY does little to ease the financial burden faced by students.

The report proposes a pitiful 7 per cent increase in the proportion of full-time students eligible for some form of income support over the next 10 years.

This would merely restore the availability of student assistance to the 1983 level, and, as such, would not even alleviate the financial difficulties faced by present-day students, much less those faced by students in 1998, who would have the added burden of a graduate tax.

The report assumes that fees are the only barrier to tertiary education for people from low income groups. It fails to acknowledge the powerful social factors which act to dissuade such people

from entering the higher education system.

It is only when the benefits of higher education are perceived that they are sought. When a good income can be earned in a trade, where the monetary benefits are immediate, no need is seen for higher education.

We should look to the decline in the standards of living for waged workers, in funding to the state secondary schools, and in student incomes over the last decade as additional factors which continue to mitigate against working class participation.

The graduate tax will only exacerbate this situation.

It appears from recent press reports that the government is considering making some modifications to the Wran committee's proposals.

While some of the modifications may soften the blow to graduates when they enter the work force, they do little to alter the underlying inequities upon which the proposal is based.

The introduction of a graduate tax in any form will have disastrous consequences for the higher education system and the entire community.

As graduate students who are involved in teaching undergraduates, we have contact with a wide range of students.

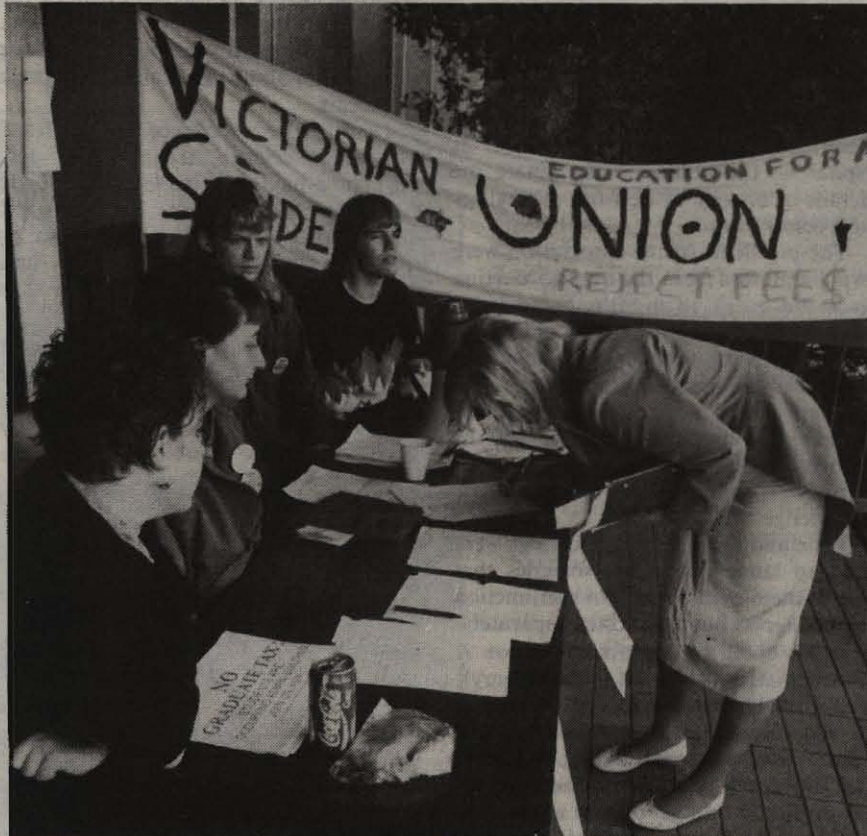
As such, we are aware of the detrimental effects that the imposition of a graduate tax would have on the individual within the education system and on the system itself.

Undergraduates are angry and discontented, and this feeling is shared by many staff members and researchers.

Given that traditionally, the education system is a population of Labor supporters, the Labor Party can ill afford to lose the support of this group.

A National Opinion Poll conducted by McNair Anderson on behalf of the Higher Education Round Table has found that a quarter of ALP voters and 34 per cent of people aged between 18 to 24 years are prepared to switch their votes over the issue.

Clearly the Labor Government faces electoral disaster if it abandons its traditional policy of free education to implement the ill-conceived recommendations of the Wran Committee.



● Last month saw the first student "invasion" of Admin. for many years. The occupation lasted three days, but was a civilised affair, with the students establishing an easy rapport with staff and visitors — many of whom signed the students' anti-graduate tax petition. Photo — Tony Miller.



● Contenders in the first heat of the University Challenge auditions at Monash pictured with Leah Andrew, right, former Pick-a-Box champion, who was their quizmaster, and Warren Batchelor, a member of the Monash team which took part in the challenge last year. The final Monash team has a good chance of being one of 10 selected for this year out of teams from Australia's 21 universities. The program is run by ABC television in Hobart.

## MONASH HIGH

Monash High School is inviting enrolments for next year.

The school is vertically structured from Years 7-11 enabling students in general to progress at their own rates.

A wide range of VCE options is available and excellent results have been achieved.

The school takes special pride in its diverse extra-curricular program; in an extensive instrumental musical program (all students in Year 7 learn to play an instrument); and in a unique and innovative special interest program designed to provide students with the opportunity to work on creative and collaborative projects related to high technology. Links are maintained on several levels with Monash University and Victoria College Rusden, and with local industry.

Visitors are always welcome. To make inquiries or an appointment, please ring 560 9477.

## Monash Reporter

The next issue will be published in the first week of September, 1988.

Copy deadline is Friday, 26 August, and early copy is much appreciated.

Contributions (letters, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor, Lisa Kelly, Information Office, Gallery Building, or ring ext. 2085.

# Australia: an overview

The development of Australia from pre-history to modern multi-cultural society will be examined at a major Bicentennial Conference on the Humanities to be held this month in Sydney and Canberra.

*Terra Australis to Australia* has been organised by the Australian Academy of the Humanities and sponsored by Esso Australia.

There will be more than 30 speakers for sessions which will cover the history of the continent, the coming of the Aborigines, early Asian contacts, European settlement, the spread of colonisation and the development of multi-cultural society.

The principal speaker, Professor Bernard Bailyn of Harvard University, a former president of the American Historical Society, will deliver the Esso Public Lecture.

*Terra Australis to Australia* will be opened by the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen, at the State Theatre, Sydney, on 14 August, with sessions held on the following five days at Sydney University. The following week the conference moves to the Academy of Science in Canberra (21-25 August).

Conference registration is available by writing to Terra Australis to Australia, Box 93, Canberra 2600. Further information can be obtained from Mrs Pat Waters on (062) 48 7744.

## Typing made easy

Learn to touch-type in just four hours at a special course being introduced in the Arts and Crafts Centre's Spring Program.

The crash typing course will give you the basics in two two-hour sessions.

It is one of many popular courses being offered to the university community and the public in the Spring Program, which will be published in a brochure next month.

Others are porcelain doll-making, pottery, calligraphy, classic guitar, painting and drawing, folk guitar, harmonica, picture framing and photography.

Inquiries should be directed to the centre (located behind the Union Building) on 565 3180.



● Mr Geoff Dober, chairman of the Victorian branch of the Australian Computer Society, left, presents the society's Student of the year Award for 1987 to Tan Thow Keng, top third year student in Computer Science at Monash.

# AUGUST DIARY

## ALEXANDER THEATRE

6: CHILDREN'S MUSICAL — "Wombat, Murphy and his Bush Band". 11.30am, 2.30pm. Adults \$8.50, conc \$5.50. Bookings and inquiries: ext. 3992.

10: MUSICAL — "West Side Story" presented by Mazenod College. 8pm. Until 13. Bookings and inquiries: 560 0911.

13: SATURDAY CLUB — "Land of Oogoo Tree" presented by Franciscus Henri. 11.30am, 2.30pm. Also on 27 August. Bookings and inquiries: ext. 3992.

18: MUSICAL — "Chicago" presented by Strathcona Baptist Girls' Grammar School. Bookings and inquiries: 836 1611.

24: MUSICAL — "West Side Story" presented by Toorak College. Bookings and inquiries: 787 4133.

## ROBERT BLACKWOOD HALL

6: EVENING CONCERT — The National Boys' Choir, The Kobe Youth Choir and The Taipei Christian Children's Chorus present a program of works by Purcell, Bach, Schubert, Rutten and Quilten with Australian songs and excerpts from Les Misérables. 8pm. Post bookings: PO Box 45, Blackburn, 3130. Tickets and inquiries: 435 7245.

7: OPEN DAY — 10.30am-4.30pm Academic Dress Display; 10.30am-11.45am taped music; 12-12.30pm Monash University Choral Society; 1-1.30pm Monash University Orchestra; 1.30pm-2.45pm Organ Recital by Harold Fabrikant; 3pm-4pm Monash University Jazz Club, Monash Big Band.

8: LUNCHTIME CONCERT American duo — Edmund LeRoy (baritone) and Brent Runnels (piano). 1.15pm. Admission free.

13: EVENING CONCERT — Melbourne Youth Musical Council presents The Margaret Sutherland Strings, Melbourne Youth Choir, Junior Strings and The John Antill Youth Band. 8pm. Tickets available at the door. Inquiries: 690 8624.

15: EVENING CONCERT — Friends of Avila Music presents The Royal Australian Air Force Band and the Avila College Orchestra. 8pm. Adults \$10, conc \$5. Tickets and inquiries: 807 6677.

21: LECTURES — VCE (HSC) students. Presented by the Department of Economics. 10am-4.30pm. Admission free.

26: SECOND AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC CONFERENCE — Registration fee: Adults \$15, students \$8, family \$40, until 28 August. Tickets and inquiries: 542 2356 (BH), 561 7864 (AH).

## LECTURES, SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS

3: MONASH PLAYERS — "Weather is Nice, Wish you were Dead": The 1988 Monash Revue. 3-6 August, 10-13 August, 8pm. Matinee 1pm, 10 August. \$5 (conc), \$8 (non-conc). Union Theatre. Credit card bookings: ext 3992. Inquiries: ext 3108/4128.

3: ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE — "Environmental Ethics in Professional Practice" by Denni Greene. GSES Seminar Rm. 5.15pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4620.

GENERAL AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE LECTURE — "The Novel and Post Histoire" by Ferenc Feher. 3.15pm. Rm 310 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2159.

4: ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE — "Koorie Experience of Racism and the Race Discrimination Act" by Ms Eve Fesl. 1pm. R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 3244.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR — "The Intelligence State of Indonesia" by Richard Tanter. 11.15am. Rm 515 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993.

RELIGIOUS CENTRE RECITAL — David Aitchison Smith piano-forte recital. 1.10pm. Large chapel. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 3160.

7: ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTRE — Demonstrations and displays of paintings/drawings, textiles and many more. Dept. of Music will display rediscovered historic Indian musical instruments. Inquiries: ext 3180.

9: DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN AND JAPANESE STUDIES FORUM — "Use of Community Resources in Language Teaching" by Assoc. Prof. Michael Clyne, Ms Jane Bennett, Dr Akito Ozaki and Ms Helen Marriott. R3. 1pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2245.

10: DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY SEMINAR — "Disaster management in Victoria: An alternative model" by Philip Buckle. 1pm. S119 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2929.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE — A Music Forum by Monash Environmental Students Association. 5.15pm. Music Auditorium. 8th Floor Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4620.

EUROPEAN STUDIES/INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT LECTURE — "Crisis and Crisis-Solving in Soviet-type Societies under Gorbachev", by Ferenc Feher. 4.15pm. Manton Rooms, Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2159.

11: SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR — "Writing the Past: The limits of realism in contemporary Indonesian literature" by Paul Tickell. 11.15am. Rm 515 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993.

RELIGIOUS CENTRE RECITAL — "The Faculty Brass Quintet" from Melbourne University Music Faculty. 1.10pm. Large Chapel. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 3160.

ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE — "Koories and the Criminal Law" by Ms Greta Bird. 1pm. R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 3244.

11: CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP — "Developing strategies for enabling intellectually disabled children to remain in the community" 9am. Inquiries and registration: ext 4718.

12: SOCIOLOGY, GENERAL AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, THESIS ELEVEN WORKSHOP — "Contemporary Theories of Culture" with Agnes Heller and Ferenc Feher. 10.30am, Gallery Bldg. Inquiries: ext 2159.

13: SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE — Speaker: Prof Fasseur. 9am. Rm 556. Menzies Bldg. Inquiries: ext 4993.

18: DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ACADS — "Knowledge-Based Systems in Civil Engineering Symposium". Until 19 August. Registration: ext 4718. Inquiries: ext 4983/4949.

AUSTRALIAN-INDONESIAN ASSOCIATION/SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES LECTURE — "Alternative development strategies for Indonesia" by Dr Chris Manning and Kenneth Thomas. 7.30pm. Rm

457 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR — "The Anti-Marcos Movement after Marcos" by Max Lane. 11.15am. Rm 515 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993.

DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS LECTURE — "Nutrition Cultism" by Prof Victor Herbert. Main Lecture Theatre, Monash Medical Centre. 12.30pm. Admission free. Inquiries: 550 4497.

19: DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS MEETING — Annual Scientific Meeting with Prof Victor Herbert as a guest of the Australian Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. Until 21 August. Inquiries: 550 4497.

22: FACULTY OF EDUCATION — "Becoming better parents and teachers" by Prof Maurice Balson. Alexander Theatre. 8pm. Tickets and inquiries: ext 2889.

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKSHOP — "Traffic Analysis". Until 24 August. Registration: ext 4718. Inquiries: ext 4959.

23: CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP — "Services for older people". \$52. Inquiries and registration: ext 4718.

24: DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKSHOP — "Microcomputers in Traffic Systems Design". Registration: ext 4718. Inquiries: ext 4959.

25: AUSTRALIAN-INDONESIAN ASSOCIATION/SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES LECTURE — "Issues in Indonesian Technology Policy" by Assoc Prof Sangkot Marzuki and Dr Robert Rice. 7.30pm. R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993.

31: AUSTRALIAN-INDONESIAN ASSOCIATION/SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES LECTURE — "Small scale enterprise development" by Dr Joan Hardjono and Dr Lea Jellinek. 7.30pm. R7. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993.

MONASH UNIVERSITY GALLERY 8: EXHIBITION — Monash University Collection Show. Until 27 August. Gallery Bldg. Tues-Fri 10-5pm, Sat 1-5pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4217.

14: EXHIBITION — Celia Rosser Banksia Watercolours. Until 10 September. Gallery Bldg. Tues-Fri 10-5pm, Sat 1-5pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4217.

# Theatresports is close to home

Theatresports fans don't need to travel into the city to take part in this zany activity, held at the Playhouse Theatre on Sunday nights.

There's a great competition going much closer to home, at Monash, where the Student Theatre has a licence from Sydney's Belvoir Street Theatre to conduct its own *Theatresports*.

Anybody can take part in the show, which usually plays to a full house in the Union Theatre from about 1pm on Tuesdays.

However, players need to be familiar with the games, and a workshop is held each Wednesday between 12 noon and 2pm (cost: \$2) to prepare for the following week.

*Theatresports* at Monash was very successful last year, drawing bigger audiences on a regular basis than any other student theatre activity.

It was helped on its way by Playhouse Theatre, but is now branching out on its own with a former player, Stef Torok, taking over as host from an outside professional, Kate Herbert.

Student Theatre Co-ordinator, Jemma, says the idea is to get the players running the program themselves to give them wider theatrical experience.

For those who don't want to part, the \$1 entry fee will buy a cheap hour's entertainment. The Theatre is located just inside the Building and inquiries should be directed to Jemma on 565 3108.

● *Theatresports* players, right, in the titled *Expert Double Figures*.



## Exposing the Venetian error

Senior lecturer in English, Dr Alan Dilnot, reviews two recent theatrical productions at Monash. The first is *The Merchant of Venice*.

The value of good players in minor Shakespearean parts was never better illustrated than by Angelo Sellan as Tubal.

Here was a Jew — wise, discreet, generous with his time and money, not vindictive, and quietly able to spot and place the arrogance of Shylock's 'the curse never fell upon our Nation till now'.

Here was a performance that helped expose the Venetian error of seeing all Jews as one and the same, and so issued a challenge to those who would see the play itself as anti-semitic.

Sandra Kanis's Nerissa was equally valuable. Properly deferential to Portia's pre-eminence, Nerissa was her intimate, tremulously excited about the world of men to which they must shortly commit their lives (a world of men, that is, as far as sixteenth-century Venice goes, for the casting indicated that in the twentieth-century Monash men are hard to find). Later Nerissa was Portia's equal in resenting the apparent slighting by their men of the bond of wedlock.

The doubling of Gratiano and Lancelot Gobbo was not one of those pairings of minor parts that really illuminates a play, but it made efficient use of a talented performer. Fiona Blair supplied some agreeable clowning as Gobbo, keeping up an authentic accent. As Gratiano she switched convincingly to quite a different style, a forthright mettlesome blood.

Steven Miller and Deborah Rothfield set before us the never-ending mystery of love in making credible the attraction of a cheery, chuckle-headed Lorenzo for a sullen and sultry Jessica.

Paul Griffin's Antonio was certainly adequate, though understated. In my reading of the play he could afford to be more emphatic, more interested in his predicament.

I hesitate to class Bassanio with the subsidiary parts, since in Tom Bradley's assured performance this was clearly something more, the thread upon which the rings of the play were strung. The world that had such creatures in it was fresh to this Bassanio and immensely

interesting, and he helped the audience think likewise.

Portia is one of Shakespeare's great roles, but it proved quite within Sue Dodd's powers. She moved gracefully, and rendered the verse clearly and intelligently. Girlish alone with Nerissa, she still made clear that Portia had all the talents to succeed her brilliantly in the legal profession — from which the law debarred her. I hope we soon see Sue Dodd perform again.

Richard Pannell's Shylock was a constant pleasure, renewing the great speeches. Delightful touches included his entrance into the courtroom, eager, confident, yet naive; his grief over the loss of Leah's ring, his emotions beyond disentangling; and his handling of the initial bargain with Antonio, both casual and formal, genial and hard.

It was pleasing to see the Alexander Theatre used once more for Shakespeare, and the cast and crew handling the ampler conditions there quite comfortably. The quayside and the courtroom scenes alike benefited from the broad stage; and the casket scene, which often lacks tension being so predictable, was humorous and memorable for a disgruntled Morocco who seemed to have turned up at the wrong oasis.

In short this was an honest and entertaining production, dealing honourably with the weighty issues of mercy and justice, if just a little short of sparkle and romance.



● Toby Oates as Cathy in *Cloud Nine*. (See story at right.) He also played Clive.

## Going on a gender-bender

In *The Merchant of Venice* the limited pool of available actors required that women play men.

In Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine* the author's directions demand such gender role-swapping on a wide scale. Borrowing something from the conventions of pantomime with its blue-chinned dames and curvacious principal boys, *Cloud Nine* signals straight away that it is in the business of send-up.

In the first act the laughter comes pretty easily and fairly comfortably — the Empire is now a long way off in time and space, and we've known at least since Wilde and Shaw that all the Victorians were "other" and the pillars of Empire crooked.

The actors were sure of their bearings and for much of the time could play the first act with gusto as rather cheeky and outspoken farce.

Toby Oates set a cracking tempo as Clive, head of the family and representative of the Crown. The other characters are subordinated to Clive, and Toby Oates's creation of the bizarrely dedicated personality further twisting himself in the service of a grotesque ideal was constantly supplying the appropriate keynote to the rest.

Amongst these were some gems. Bill Orr revealed a great deadpan comic capacity as Harry Bagley, and Cameron Wood was weakly sweet as Betty, Clive's wife. As usual, Peter Fitzpatrick's casting was shrewd, bringing out something from the performer as well as in the part.

The first act's reserves of meaning, of course, only emerge through its coupling with Act Two. But the second act poses far greater challenges. The play's argument is that contemporary culture derives directly from the Victorian conditions satirised in the first act. Has

sickness given birth to health, or is there a British ethos which begets fresh monsters in each generation? Are we listening to the expression of a new and preferable idealism, or is this a platitudinous rhetoric which simply inverts imperialist attitudes?

A sign of the problem is the presence in the play of unassimilated material which necessitates, at least in this production, an addition to the cast to play Bill the soldier.

Uncertainty of purpose led to some faltering as the cast encountered current anxieties perhaps too painful for easy laughs. They had no difficulty in mocking the claims of "her-story", but they were less confident with new ideas about parenting — though certainly the child Cathy as played by Toby Oates would make any theory look pale. The audience tended to divide now, one or two scenes producing loud huzzahs from some, walk-outs from others.

On the whole the cast got through this minefield pretty smoothly.

Two performances stood out: those of Gillen Wood as Gerry, and Debra Jeffries as Betty. Gerry's "train-encounter" speech and Betty's "masturbation" soliloquy were models of sensitive presentation and control.

These moments were highlights, but each of the cast could be proud of the "doubling" achievements. The ensemble's rendering of the song "Cloud Nine" was also a triumph, too good not to bear repeating.

*Cloud Nine*, then, joins the sequence of Peter Fitzpatrick's productions which, against the general background of Monash theatre, are refreshingly innovative and experimental.