

Monash Reporter

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Forging links with local government

MONASH University has agreed to establish and manage an innovative training and development program for staff at Dandenong Council

The program, organised by the Office of Continuing Education (OCE), aims to provide up to five days of training a year for each of the Council's 170 executive, administrative and clerical staff.

The OCE, in conjunction with Council staff, will identify the training and development needs of particular employee groups and plan appropriate workshops. These would be conducted by Monash academics at the Dandenong Council offices.

The deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay officially launched the program at last week's workshop. This first workshop, designed for managers, senior administrators and councillors was held over two days.

It was concerned with the demographic and economic environment of Dandenong and development issues. The workshop leaders were Dr Kevin O'Connor, senior lecturer in geography, and Mr John McGregor, an economist from Westpac.

Topics covered included Government policy regarding business district centres and transport, and likely regional futures looking at population, industry mix, service activity, competition with other centres and the Very Fast Train.

Acting Director of OCE, Mick O'Brien said the program provided an excellent opportunity for an exchange of ideas between Monash and local government.

"It's an innovative and compre-

hensive staff development program which will have lasting benefits for Dandenong and its residents," he said.

"But it is not only a case of our academic staff giving 'words of wisdom' to people working in Dandenong. The academics will also receive feedback and knowledge from one of the university's important local areas.

"This is a positive instance of Monash moving out to exchange ideas rather than sitting back and waiting for people to come to us.

"If successful, this will become an annual program and there is every prospect that other councils will seek assistance from Monash in inaugurating programs of their own."

Dandenong Council personnel officer, Keith Brydon said training



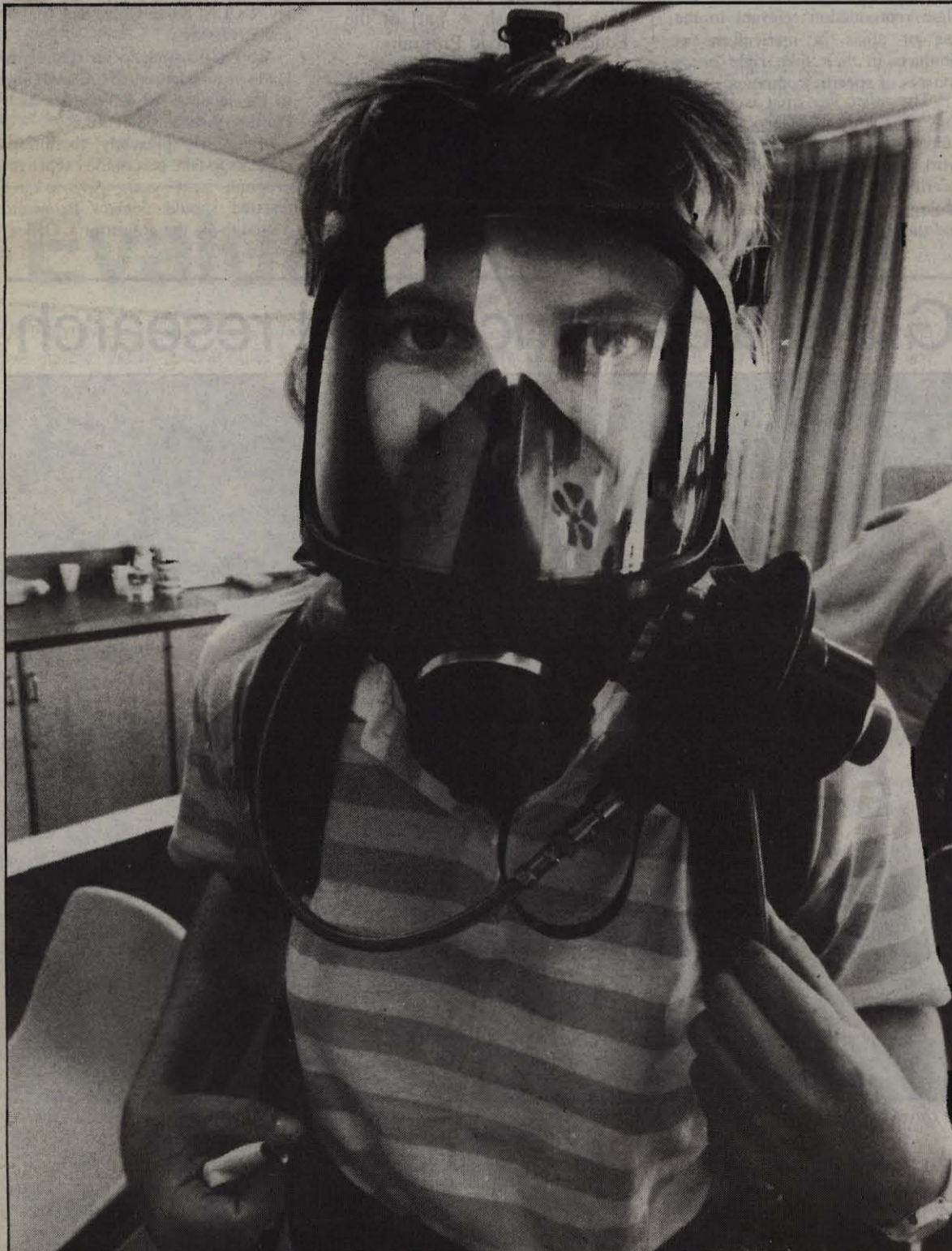
Some of the Dandenong Council staff who will be taking part in the new training and development program.

workshops would be held every week at the Council from April through to November.

"We see a need to improve and keep up-to-date the skills of the people we employ," he said.

"If we provide a good quality training and development opportunity then there is a likelihood our people would stay longer and be better equipped to take up promotion opportunities."

Facing life at Monash



Who was that masked woman? Staff members donned breathing apparatus equipment earlier this month, as part of a Breathing Apparatus Initial Training course organised by the Occupational Health and Safety Branch. Picture: TONY MILLER. For full story see Page 4.

Universities gain new base for marine research

THE nature of marine research in Victoria is set to change with the construction of a new laboratory complex on Port Phillip Bay.

Built beside one of the region's richest aquatic environments, the Queenscliff Marine Station will provide tertiary students and researchers with the kind of facilities that are usually the preserve of their counterparts in the United States.

The new station was established with a grant of \$500,000 from Monash, the University of Melbourne, RMIT and the Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS). It is expected to be fully operational by the middle of the year.

For the past seven years, the VIMS laboratory at Queenscliff has given primary and secondary students a first-hand look at aquatic life and environments.

In 1986, VIMS director Dr Laurie Hammond, the former dean of science at Monash and the university's representative on the station's management committee, Professor Bill Muntz, and the dean of science at the University of Melbourne, Professor Tom Healy began investigating the possibility of establishing a joint marine station that would cater specifically for the needs of tertiary students and researchers.

Three years and several planning permission problems later, work began on the site next to the VIMS laboratories and the State Government's Marine Studies Centre.

Dr Hammond said: "The station has been designed to provide facilities that do not exist anywhere in south-eastern Australia, such as offices for visiting researchers, laboratory space, high quality aquaria and access to the field.

"Fortunately, Queenscliff has a great range of marine habitats, from rocky shores to sea grass meadows, sheltered bays and open coastline. There's a whole diversity of habitats in one."

Professor Muntz believes the station's proximity to Port Phillip Bay and the scientific expertise next door will make it one of the most important outfits of its kind in southern Australia.

"We have a concentration of some very expert people in one place, which is important from a research point of view, particularly as the bay needs some care and attention at the moment," Professor Muntz said.

Although it is still incomplete, two Monash researchers have already taught classes on the site of the new station.

Last month, lecturer in zoology, Dr Gerry Quinn conducted a five-day field course at Queenscliff for 51 students in aquatic ecology.

In keeping with the new laboratory's spirit of co-operation, it was taught in conjunction with academics from the University of Melbourne and Adelaide University.

Reader in Botany, Dr Margaret Clayton, also has taken a class at the new laboratory. Like Dr Quinn, she hopes that her week-long course in marine biology will become an annual event.

Dr Clayton said: "Previously we worked out of caravans and tents which had very little effective bench space. Now we can run proper courses with lectures, audio-visuals and facilities for guest speakers.

"It's so much better for the students. They usually began work at nine o'clock in the morning, and didn't finish until nine at night, so involved were they in their work.

"Above all, it certainly improves the impact of teaching to have a laboratory down by the sea."

Continued on Page 2

Honesty — best policy

LAST month's gathering of university information services staff at the University of Tasmania for their fifth national conference was a good illustration of one impact of the rapid and far-reaching changes in tertiary education in Australia.

Universities are beginning to take their public face very seriously. About 50 delegates attended from 25 universities and a couple of colleges. Two years ago, there were only 19 universities.

And those attending came from increasingly diverse backgrounds. They included journalists, public relations personnel, alumni officers, administrators, marketers and fund-raisers.

The matters that were discussed ranged from the practical, such as the use of electronic information services and external art houses, to the theoretical, such as how universities should approach public relations and what role PR should play in decision-making.

There were sessions on marketing, fund-raising, foreign students and liaison with industry.

The following is a report on the address given by keynote speaker Professor John Wicklein of Ohio State University's School of Journalism. In it he argued that honesty is always the best public relations policy:

TELLING the truth was not only the best policy in public relations, it was the only practical policy. Professor John Wicklein told the conference.

"Once a public relations person lies to a reporter, that person, and the institution he or she represents are finished," he said.

For the past five years Professor Wicklein has served as Kiplinger Professor at the Ohio State University School of Journalism. This follows a distinguished career in print and electronic journalism and academia.

He recently won a national freedom of information award for an article on government and corporate efforts to influence journalistic content, and is presently on a Fulbright Scholarship at Charles Sturt University researching journalistic freedom in Australia.

Professor Wicklein argued that as representatives of a "community of scholars in search of truth", university public relations practitioners should be in the business of open and honest communication within their

institution and between that institution and its publics.

In fact, he said, it was part of the public relations role to serve as the conscience of the institution, demonstrating to administrators that telling the truth can help them achieve their objectives and increase the institution's credibility.

"It is standard practice to withhold information from the public while decisions are being made. I would invite the public to join in, elicit public opinion. Such open discussion leads to sound informed decision-making."

Wicklein said an important responsibility of public relations personnel was to give feedback to top administrators. "The public relations adviser should be included in the management team as policies are discussed, because he or she has knowledge of what's going on around the university."

He said even investigative reporting had a place in the role of information officer, because it allowed him or her to spot potential problems and remedy or plan for them.

"In this way public relations people can act as problem solvers. A story only becomes a scandal when you don't get out in front of it."



Students from the University of California pose for our photographer, TONY MILLER, at the picturesque Monash pond.

Exchange program

SEVEN students from the University of California will be spending the 1990 academic year at Monash as part of the Education Abroad Program.

The exchange program, run by the University of California, enables students to complete part of their degree at a university overseas. The students do not receive any qualification from Monash but the subjects taken here are credited towards their degree in California.

All the students are in their third

year and represent five of the nine campuses that comprise the University of California including Berkeley, UCLA, Santa Cruz, San Diego and Riverside.

Most of the students are staying in Halls of Residence and are studying in the faculties of Economics and Politics, Arts and Science.

Monash is presently recruiting students to take part in the exchange program next year. Anyone interested should contact Bronwen Meredith in the Registrar's Office on ext 2020.

New marine research base

Continued from Page 1

From a research point of view, according to Dr Hammond, the Queenscliff Marine Station will play an important role in solving problems faced by both the private sector and government.

"There are a lot of programs relevant to industry in the management of the environment, such as the con-

trol of oil spills, the effects of contaminants, what constitutes pollution, and how pollution affects marine life."

Two key areas of research at Monash will be partly conducted at Queenscliff, Dr Hammond said.

"One is work being done in biology by Margaret Clayton and others on algal problems, including

algal reproduction relevant to the use of algae in mariculture as products in their own right or as sources of specific compounds.

"The other key area is in zoology. The work that Gerry Quinn is doing meshes nicely with the sort of work being done at Melbourne University describing the natural ecology of the marine environment and the impact that humans have on it."

Travel grant

NOMINATIONS are invited for the Rudi Lemberg Travelling Fellowship in 1991-92.

The Fellowship commemorates the contributions of Professor M.R. Lemberg, FAA FRS to science in Australia.

The Lemberg Fellow may be drawn from any field of biology but special consideration will be given to the areas of biochemistry, conservation and the Australian flora.

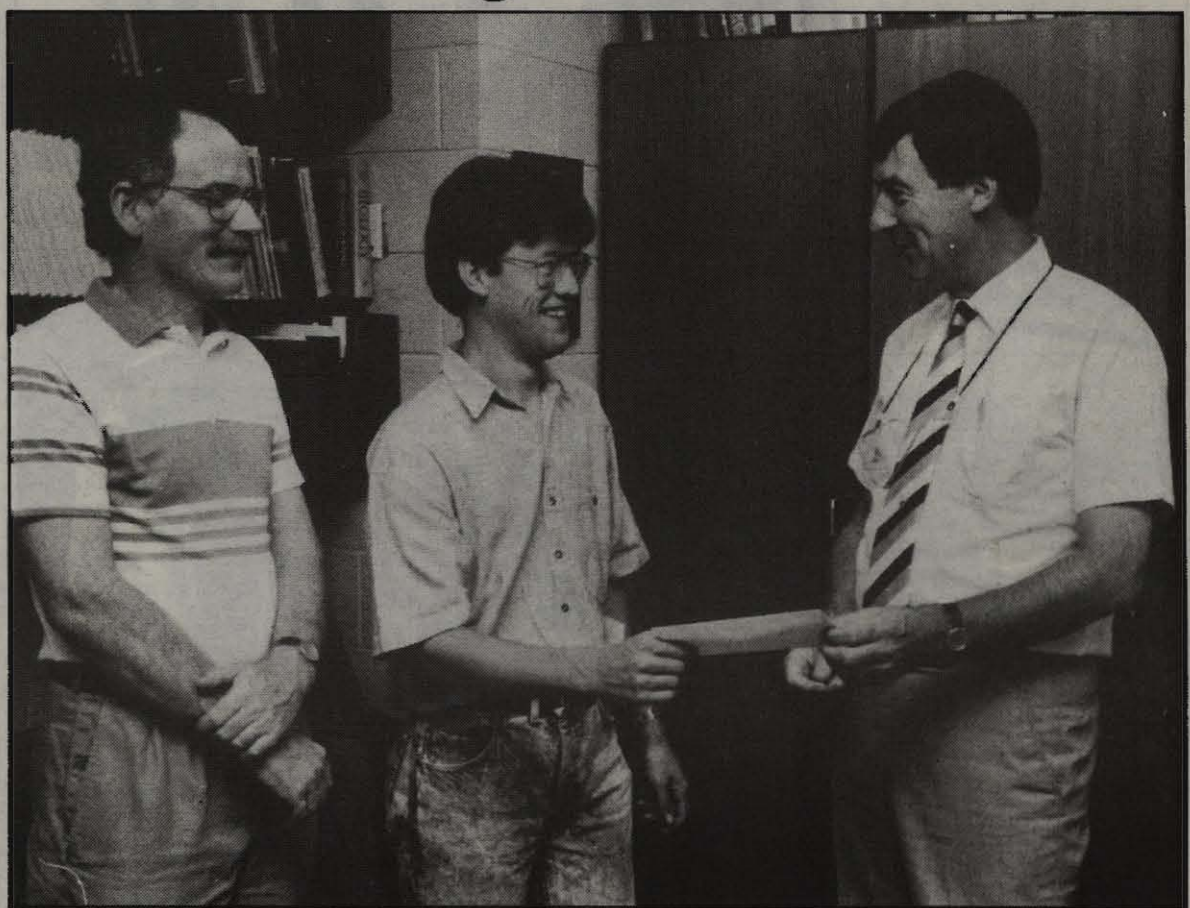
The Australian Academy of Science awards fellowships to enable Australian and overseas scientists of standing to visit each other's countries to deliver lectures to scientists and to the general public.

The fellowships are tenable for visits to and within Australia of not less than two weeks and not more than three months. Overseas and domestic air fares and a daily allowance are provided.

Nomination forms are available from the Academy secretariat. Nominations should include a publications list, a detailed curriculum vitae and a proposed itinerary.

Applications are confidential and should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Australian Academy of Science, GPO Box 783, Canberra ACT 2601. Telephone inquiries should be made to Mrs Faye Nicholas (062) 47 5777. Nominations should be lodged by 30 April.

Grant aids agricultural research



Dr David Smyth (left) even supervises Cameron Johnson (centre) as he receives the scholarship grant from the Dean of Science, Professor Ian Rae.

A PhD student in the Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology received the inaugural Phyllis Hillgrove Scholarship for agricultural science research.

Cameron Johnson received the three-year scholarship for \$9000

and a departmental grant of \$2500 for his work in the area of plant genetics and molecular biology.

Under the supervision of senior lecturer in the department, Dr David Smyth, Cameron is looking at genes which control flower develop-

ment in a model plant. This plant, *Arabidopsis thaliana*, is a small mustard species which has been adopted to grow in the laboratory.

Findings from the study could be used to improve the production of crop species.

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Montech begins to profit the university

THREE years after its establishment, at a time when many companies are under financial stress, Montech Pty Ltd has made its first donation to Monash.

The \$10,000 donation from the company's profits will be used to assist on-going research at the university.

From a gross income of about \$3 million since February 1987, the university's commercial company has placed contracts worth nearly \$2 million within Monash.

Montech's board of directors has calculated that just under half this income would not have flowed into the university without the company's assistance. It also estimates that the company has increased the value of contracts by about 30 per cent.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, told Council that the donation showed Montech had operated successfully as a business. "In addition, Montech has provided advice and contact with industry which has opened up opportunities for the university," he said.

Montech's managing director, Dr Paul Hudson, said: "The university took a hardnosed business approach in setting up Montech. It gave only a basic minimum of support, which meant the company has had to survive on its own wits. It was meant to be entrepreneurial.

"The philosophy was a very good one. After all if Montech could not operate in the real commercial world, there would be little point in having it.

"Most businesses fail in the first three years. Montech has made a small profit. In our second three years we want to expand. We aim to double our turnover, and expect to continue to make donations to the university."

He said the task of operating as a university company was particularly difficult. "There are problems matching universities with the commercial world. Academics are concerned primarily with teaching and research. Undertaking activity with business has to be a third priority."

Added to which, he said, the economy had turned down during the past three years, and the Victorian Government had done a complete about-face in its attitude towards supporting technology in response to the losses of the VEDC.

He gave two examples of Montech's success, a research contract between the Pharmacology department and the pharmaceutical company Upjohn Pty Ltd to improve the effectiveness of one of its products and another between the Centre for

Advanced Materials Technology and Pacific Dunlop Pty Ltd to examine the materials engineering of the new Pulsar battery.

"Both were six-figure contract jobs. Both companies are extremely pleased with the results. Both worked to timetable and provided a top performance at a commercial price," Dr Hudson said.

Besides straight financial benefits, Dr Hudson said Montech provided a means for the transfer of technology and expertise between the university and industry, and it was also a tangible demonstration to government of the university's desire to become more relevant to business.

The benefits and services Montech could provide academics included commercial accounting, technology management, project management, commercial infrastructure, market databases, and advice on licensing agreements.

"We need to market ourselves better to business on behalf of Monash, and to the Monash community across all campuses. This year, we have budgeted \$20,000 for that purpose.

"So far, the greatest range of projects has come from the Faculty of Engineering, Medicine and Economics and Politics have also been successful in generating business."



MaryAnne Aitken with her first child, Thomas, at the Monash creche.

Researcher reaps fruits of her labor

A MONASH PhD student has recently won a grant to continue her work in the field of perinatology; the study of the period immediately before and after birth.

MaryAnne Aitken was awarded the 1990 Glyn White Research Fellowship by The Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Research Foundation.

The two-year scholarship of up to \$30,000 annually is to promote research in perinatal medicine.

Mrs Aitken is currently studying in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Monash Medical Centre under the supervision of Dr Shaun Brønnecke and Dr Greg Rice.

Her work involves the study of premature labour using the techniques of molecular biology.

"Previously people have looked at labor from the psychological and

clinical aspects but I'm going back to basics and looking at gene expression of certain enzymes involved in the onset of labor," she said.

"The regulation of gene expression in the placenta should provide an insight into what triggers off spontaneous labor. If we can determine what turns labor on then hopefully it can also be switched off if it is pre-term labor."

In order to carry out her research, Mrs Aitken had to set up a molecular biology laboratory at the medical centre and most of the grant has gone towards the purchase of new equipment.

Mrs Aitken is a qualified nurse and midwife with a First Class Bachelor of Science honours degree in genetics. Related to her present work, though somewhat closer to home, Mrs Aitken also gave birth to her first child, Thomas, in December.

Evaluating science

AUSTRALIAN scientists are renowned for research into early human development, yet in several other Western countries such investigation is banned or severely limited on moral grounds.

What are the limits to science, and what is its relation to philosophy and religion?

Come and hear the views of three distinguished speakers — the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency Dr Davis McCaughey AC, the president of the Australian Law Reform Commission, the Honorable Justice Elizabeth Evatt AO and the chairman of the Australian Film Commission, Mr Phillip Adams — talking from their own varied perspectives in the Alexander Theatre at Monash University at 8 pm on Wednesday 4 April.

They will be taking part in the Oscar Mendelsohn Lectures Symposium entitled *Science and its Alternatives: Does science leave room for values and religion?*

The lectures were founded in 1970 and are named for the late Mr Oscar Mendelsohn, a celebrated writer, musician and humanist.

The university accepted a donation from Mr Mendelsohn "for the purpose of presenting in perpetuity a free public lecture, or short series of lectures, not less frequently than once every three years, to promote the study of humanism, materialism, positivism and other effects of the application of the scientific attitude to human affairs and thought".

Past speakers have included Nobel Prize winner, Sir Macfarlane Burnet; historian, Emeritus Professor Manning Clark; physicist, Sir Mark Oliphant; former premier of South Australia, Mr Don Dunstan; lawyer, Professor Louis Waller; former Monash Vice-Chancellor, Sir Louis Matheson and Aboriginal educator, Mr Eric Willmot.

An American education

THE Management and Policy Studies Centre (MAPS), which is the training and consulting arm of the University of Canberra, is offering a study tour to North America for professional educators.

The tour is being organised in conjunction with Dr Michael Gaffney, lecturer in Educational Administration in the Faculty of Education.

It will be held from 29 June to 15 July 1990 and focus on contemporary issues in the study and practice of educational leadership, school-based management, educational innovation and school improvement.

The tour will visit Vancouver and Edmonton in Canada, and Los Angeles, San Francisco and Honolulu in the US. It will include:

- visits to selected state and local government education offices to observe policy processes;
 - meetings with school and system-level executives to discuss the technicalities of school-based management and system-level performance indicators;
 - seminars at educational research institutions internationally recognised for their work in the fields of educational leadership and school improvement;
 - discussions with leaders in the study and practice of school-based management and the implementation of educational change.
- The tour has been arranged so that the expenses incurred should qualify for treatment as a tax deduction.
- For further information, contact the study tour director, Patricia McNamara at the MAPS Centre, P.O. Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2616 or (062) 52 2598.

MONASH UNIVERSITY

THE OSCAR MENDELSON LECTURES

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Governor of Victoria

The Honorable Justice Elizabeth Evatt, AO
President of the Australian Law Reform Commission

Mr Phillip Adams
Chairman of the Australian Film Commission

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Merger mayhem

IN the fading autumn light, two university gardeners sat at the lake's edge talking. They spoke of the election and their families, before summoning up the courage to turn a serious eye to their future at Monash.

The gardener from Flower Beds pulled a dog-eared copy of *Merger News* from his coat pocket and read the front page headline aloud. His friend from Lawns and Sprinklers half-closed his eyes. He knew what was coming.

"Beds, Lawns to cultivate new links." They had thought it a joke at first. But that was last week, before management called a meeting of ground staff to confirm the report.

As Flower Beds and Lawns were no longer considered binary, they were told, the two sections were to be unified in a new department that would combine cutting and mowing with spadework and increased amounts of fertiliser. Within minutes, the department had been nicknamed Bedlam.

The merger was to take place on 2 April (the official changeover date had been the first of the month until someone in Eucalypts quietly pointed out that this was a Sunday).

Anticipating a barrage of questions and clenched fists, departmental photocopiers produced a snowstorm of memoranda, updates, bulletins and announcements.

But staff remained strangely silent, all except for two men who now sat gazing across the water towards the towering Menzies Building.

"The question is, will it improve the way I mow the lawn? Will it make your flowers look any better?"

The other gardener shrugged. "All I foresee are shared garden tools and sheds. And loan books and arguments."

"And missing garden tools and sheds. And even more loan books and arguments." Both men nodded sagely.

They looked up as a formation of squabbling ducks suddenly swooped low over the lake. The birds appeared to be discussing who had landing rights, but none seemed game enough to be the first to dunk a foot in the water.

As the gardeners gazed in bemusement, the ducks performed a lazy circuit over the lake before breaking up and disappearing over the campus. Their loud quacking could still be heard long after they were gone.

"I think that's what you might call a flying metaphor," observed the gardener from Beds.



Their rumination was interrupted by a rumbling from the lawns near the Halls of Residence. One of the men pointed dismissively at its source. "That's your Bedlam for you," he said.

They watched as a bucking rotary hoe tore through the grass before jumping a rockery into a bed of young plants. A tractor trailing a length of sprinkler system pursued it over the garden before cornering the slower vehicle against a wall. In no time the drivers were trading blows.

Just then a phalanx of spade-toting apprentices from Flower Beds rounded the corner of Richardson Hall chased by a squadron of sit-down mowers.

The gardener from Lawns looked at his friend and sighed ruefully. "Seems you and I are the only two from opposing sides still talking, mate."

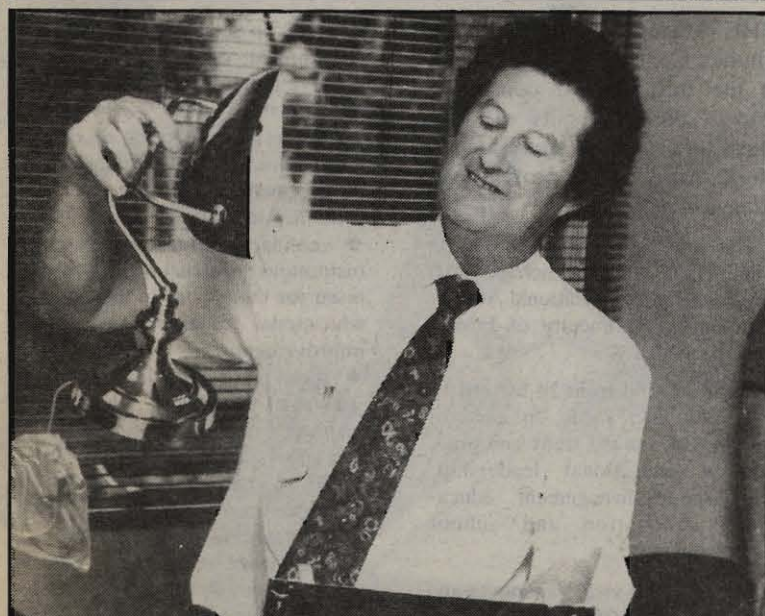
Their peace and their working lives had been shattered. Every window of opportunity in their little outdoor kingdom had been broken.

They were the victims of mergeritis, a rampant and incurable new disease.

The head of Beds-Lawns, who displayed all the symptoms, was at that very moment drafting the next newsletter. His opening paragraph showed just how far his condition had advanced. It was pure mergerese.

With only two weeks to go to the official changeover, may I take this opportunity to congratulate all staff on their patience and understanding. The next few months will not be easy; there's a hard road to hoe but I know these seeds we plant will eventually bear fruit and

He could go no further. The hemispheres of his brain had fused. The Coroner's Report, handed down the following week, was brief: Merged.



Senior Assistant Registrar, Mr George Joyce, unpacks his parting present and finally sees the light.

Learning to live with noxious chemicals

THE Occupational Health and Safety Branch are organising training for staff in the use of breathing apparatus so they can handle minor incidents that occur on campus.

According to the safety adviser, Alan Wilson, about three minor incidents, usually involving chemical spills, happen every year at Monash.

"We have a number of breathing apparatus sets throughout the university in case there is a chemical spill, a gas leak or perhaps if someone is overcome by fumes in a laboratory," he said.

"People who have been trained in the use of breathing apparatus sets can then go into those areas and take whatever corrective action is necessary or possible."

Mr Wilson said people are usually selected for training in the use of breathing apparatus sets on the basis of their special knowledge and expertise within their own areas. This ensures that the people sent in to clean up a particular problem are familiar with the substance they are dealing with and can take the necessary precautions.

"We don't expect people we train to tackle major incidents, only

minor problems where they have the particular knowledge and expertise to be able to control it," he said.

"In the case of a major chemical spill, outside expert assistance, for example the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade, will be called in to deal with the situation."

The Occupational Health and Safety Branch in conjunction with a leading company in the field, Fire Fighting Equipment, are running courses at two levels in the use of breathing apparatus.

The Breathing Apparatus Initial Training course is designed to train staff in the basic use of compressed air breathing apparatus.

This includes practical use of breathing apparatus, care and maintenance of the equipment, and emergency search and rescue techniques.

Mr Wilson said the three-hour course was designed to train people to cope with the "worst case scenarios".

"Although most incidents have occurred in daylight, part of the training is conducted in a semi-dark environment; both in a training room where visibility is limited and in the basement tunnels of the university," he said.

"One of the exercises in the tunnels involves locating 'leaking

drums of chemicals' in the dark and then bringing the drums outside.

"While these exercises are underway there is always a qualified safety officer present who knows the area and ensures no one is put at risk."

Breathing Apparatus Refresher Training courses are also held throughout the year to enable trained staff to renew their basic skills every six months.

The 90-minute refresher courses are primarily devoted to practical exercises but also review the donning, wearing and use of breathing apparatus equipment and breathing apparatus test procedures.

Since the courses started operating in September 1988, about 100 people have been trained in the use of breathing apparatus on campus. Most of the people came from the faculties of Medicine, Engineering and Science, Central Services and maintenance and in particular areas where there are laboratories and workshops.

The Occupational Health and Safety Branch has arranged two initial breathing apparatus courses this year and 12 refresher courses. For details contact Mrs Denise Mudie on ext 5006.



Getting down to business at the OHS Breathing Apparatus Initial Training Course.

Goodbye, hello to George

THE Senior Assistant Registrar for the Science Faculty, Mr George Joyce, received a true "Claytons" farewell when he resigned from his job at Monash University earlier this month.

Mr Joyce has been appointed Assistant Director (Administration) at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, which will merge with Monash from 1 July.

At a special farewell gathering Mr Jim Leicester (Assistant Registrar) said: "I don't know why we're here, actually, because we're not

saying farewell. George is, in fact, not leaving Monash, he's going to Monash."

Mr Joyce has been at Monash for 20 years (and one day, he points out), having started working in March 1970 as an examinations officer.

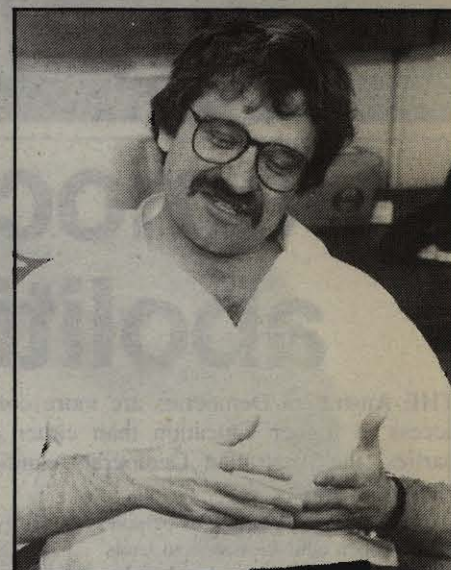
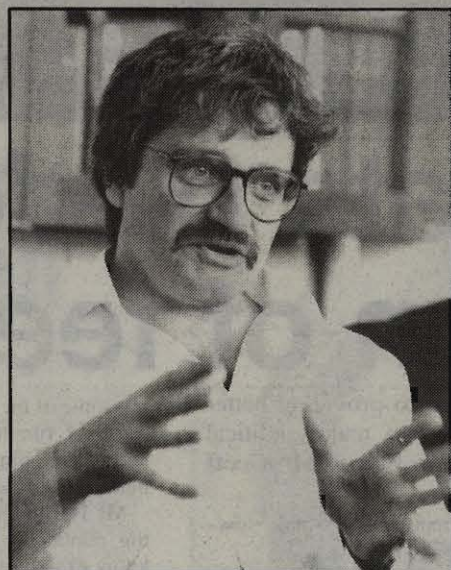
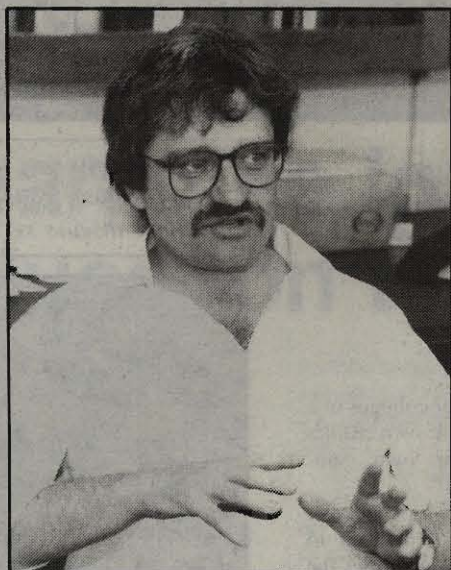
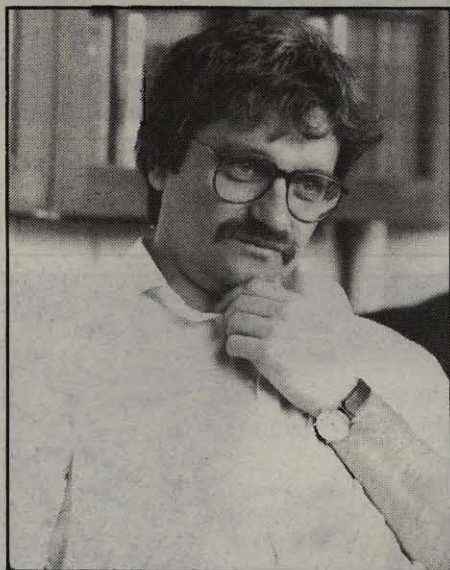
He later worked in the Faculty of Arts before transferring to Student Records (now Student Administration) where he spent the longest time from 1976 to 1989. He took up the position of Senior Assistant Registrar for the Science Faculty in May last year.

In student records, he was instru-

mental in getting the place computerised and introducing the student database known as MOSIS.

Mr Joyce said his new position would involve a much broader range of responsibilities. These included personnel, student administration, academic secretariat, Equal Employment Opportunity, student services, Freedom of Information, the computing centre and community services.

"I am looking forward to living in Gippsland because it will be such a different lifestyle. No more city for me," he said.



Lecturer tackles the great divide

THE scientist who has uncovered a substance which controls the timing of division in cells thinks universities should concentrate on basic research.

Professor Paul Nurse (above), the Iveagh Professor of Microbiology at Oxford University, whose work may lead to better cancer therapy and more useful crop plants, says industry is the proper place for the development of any application of his research.

"I think governments should support basic research. Industry will soon take over what can be developed into products.

"It's a great mistake for government to direct research, to try to predict the future. That way, only the mediocre and obvious are supported.

"In contrast, governments should be encouraging truly innovative research to come up with new solutions. Besides which, basic research is very good training for those involved in development."

Professor Nurse is touring Australia delivering the 1990 Florey Lecture in Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane.

The Melbourne lecture was organised by the Dean of Medicine, Professor Bob Porter and Dr Phillip Nagley, reader in Biochemistry. It was given in the Alexander Theatre to an audience of about 180 people. This is the first time the lecture has been hosted by Monash.

Professor Nurse said he became interested in the regulation of the cell division cycle because the rate at which cells divide underlies all growth and development in plants and animals. Cancer involves uncontrolled cell division.

For the bulk of the work, Pro-

fessor Nurse's research team decided to use yeast cells, as they were easy to grow and manipulate. "They have all the characteristics of mammalian cells, but are much simpler, and have fewer genes," he said.

First, the group identified which part of the genetic material had to be present to allow cell division to take place. Using mutations which disable single ones, the researchers were able to identify individual genes necessary for cell division.

"But that tells us little about control," Professor Nurse said. "For that we needed to look at genes which determine the timing of cell division."

He used the analogy of a clock. Many parts of the mechanism could go wrong and stop its operation, he said, but there were only a few control components which could malfunction to affect the timing, that is, make the clock go fast or slow.

To crack the problem of timing, the team found a group of four mutant genes which led to early cell division, that is, division before the cell had grown to its normal size. These genes contained the plans for a group of four enzymes (protein catalysts) which were linked so that three of them each regulated the other one.

This critical fourth enzyme, known as CDC-2, happens to activate other proteins. And its own activity rises to a peak at cell division.

The research group then found a gene for a human protein similar to CDC-2. This gene the researchers

were able to clone and introduce into yeast cells with defective CDC-2 genes. The resultant cell functioned normally.

This interchange of human and yeast genes shows that the cell division control system has been conserved over the hundreds of millions of years between the evolution of yeast and humans. "The process is controlled in the same way in yeast as in humans and everything in between," Nurse said.

It also makes yeast a useful model for the operation of human cells. "So now we can do the human genetics in yeast, which allows us a quick and rapid experimental approach."

The research team hopes to do more work on the details of the control mechanism.

In order to divide, a cell must be in the right condition. The genetic material inside must already have divided and the cell itself must be of an appropriate size.

So somehow the cell must have a means of determining whether its chromosomes have replicated and when it is the right mass or volume for division. The research group is investigating how it does this.

Professor Nurse said that cancer occurs when the processes of both growth and division are out of control. Cells which divide without growing can only have a limited impact on an organism; and cells which grow without dividing are liable to burst.

"The control of cell growth is very complicated. There are maybe 50 to 100 ways it could go wrong, so there are many, many ways cancer can be initiated. But what we have found is that cell replication is

controlled in one particular way, so at that point all development is funnelled through a single pathway.

"This means our work might be of use to devise some way of blocking cell division, providing temporary respite when applied to malignant (cancer) cells. This could give doctors time to sort out the real problem causing the cancer."

He said the research might also provide an opportunity to manipulate development in plants by shifting the balance between dividing and non-dividing cells. For instance, it might enable scientists to come up with a different shape of tuber, such as a potato, or change the ratio of flowering to non-flowering parts.

Selling safety

"WELL organised," "excellent", "instructive", "a very rounded concise overview of OHS" — these were some of the comments received at the end of OHS Zone Committee training courses conducted in December last year.

The two courses, for members of the 27 Zone OHS Committees established across the various university campuses, were attended by a wide variety of staff ranging from academics, technical and general staff holding positions on their Zone OHS Committee such as chairpersons, safety officers, radiation safety officers, health and safety representatives and first aid coordinators.

The aims of the courses were to inform the participants of the current legislation; the functions of Zone OHS committees, safety officers, and health and safety representatives; accident causation; WorkCare; and office safety.

The two-day courses were opened Callum, from the Law School. Mr Associate Professor Ron McCallum, from the Law School. Dr McCallum outlined, in an enlighten-

ing and entertaining way, the Victorian OHS Act and its application in the workplace. He traced the development of the Act and gave some interesting examples of how the Act works.

Mr Graham Briscoe, Director, Counselling Service conducted a session on dealing with OHS issues. Mr Briscoe showed an extremely amusing video featuring Penelope Keith and John Alderton.

Two members of the Occupational Health & Safety Branch also presented sessions. Dr Cheryll Tillman spoke about the role of occupational health and safety and its administrative structure at Monash. She also gave details of WorkCare and its impact at Monash. Most participants were surprised at the high financial cost of accidents at Monash.

The University Safety Adviser, Mr Alan Wilson, spoke about office safety and the causes of accidents.

Zone OHS Committee training courses available this year will be held on 29 and 30 March, 7 and 8 May, and 5 and 6 June. Further information is available from Denise Mudie, OHS Branch, ext 5006.

Unis fail to tap millions

AUSTRALIAN universities could be losing millions of dollars by letting their most lucrative supporters slip through their fingers, according to a national survey on charitable donations.

In a national poll of more than 1000 Australians in all states, research group, O'Keefe, Panas and Partners, found that only one in six people donate to an education or research group.

The total donations in the sector was \$93 million a year, putting education well behind religious organisations (\$252 million), social welfare (\$187 million), health and hospitals (\$130 million) and international aid (\$121 million).

Managing director of O'Keefe, Panas and Partners, Brian O'Keefe said universities in particular had the potential during the 1990s to become "fundraising giants". But, he said, too many at the moment

were crippling their future fundraising potential by losing contact with former students.

"Ex-students are the obvious ultimate supporters for an institution. Our study found that 44 per cent of donors to education gave because of 'personal involvement'," he said.

Mr O'Keefe said long established universities could pave the way for large gifts by encouraging endowments from ex-student benefactors.

The study found that the average donation to educational institutions was \$52. However, with more targeted ex-student plans and endowment programs, it is expected this figure will rise considerably over the next 10 years.

In overall results, the study found that Australians give \$869 million to charities every year. In the generosity stakes this places Australians well short of the Americans but ahead of the Europeans.



Florey lecturer, Professor Paul Nurse (right) tells the Dean of Medicine, Professor Bob Porter (left) and reader in biochemistry, Dr Phillip Nagley, about the grant that got away.

ELECTION 90 ELECTION 90 ELECTION 90

Democrats pledge abolition of fees

THE Australian Democrats are more committed to providing better access to higher education than either of the two major political parties, the Australian Democrats candidate for Bruce, Mr Geoff Herbert, claims.

The Australian Democrats believe a more open education system leads to greater equality and opportunity and economic independence, he said.

"Education is human development and should provide skills, all-round capacity, initiative, social responsibility and a commitment to democracy. Access to this process must be available at all ages and at any time in life."

Under the Australian Democrats' education policy, there will be no tertiary tax or fees and AUSTUDY would be increased to 120 per cent of the poverty line.

migrant, mature-age and low-income tertiary students.

"Higher education should be funded out of the fair and equitable taxation of people," he said.

"The Labor Government came to office in 1983 and spent billions on defence equipment. The Democrats believe education should be given a higher priority."

Mr Herbert said the Democrats were opposed to senseless or financially contrived amalgamations of education institutions. He said his Party believed reforms, amalgamations or expansion proposals should

ing some of the smaller colleges of a sense of running their own affairs and developing their own campuses," he said.

Mr Herbert said, as a member of the public he found it difficult to know exactly what communities the amalgamated institutions would be serving.

Included in the Democrats' higher education policy is the introduction of legislative guarantees of academic freedom and Australia-wide tenure status.

"A new development at universities is that lecturers and tutors are being employed to meet increasing demand and then put off because of financial constraints," he said.

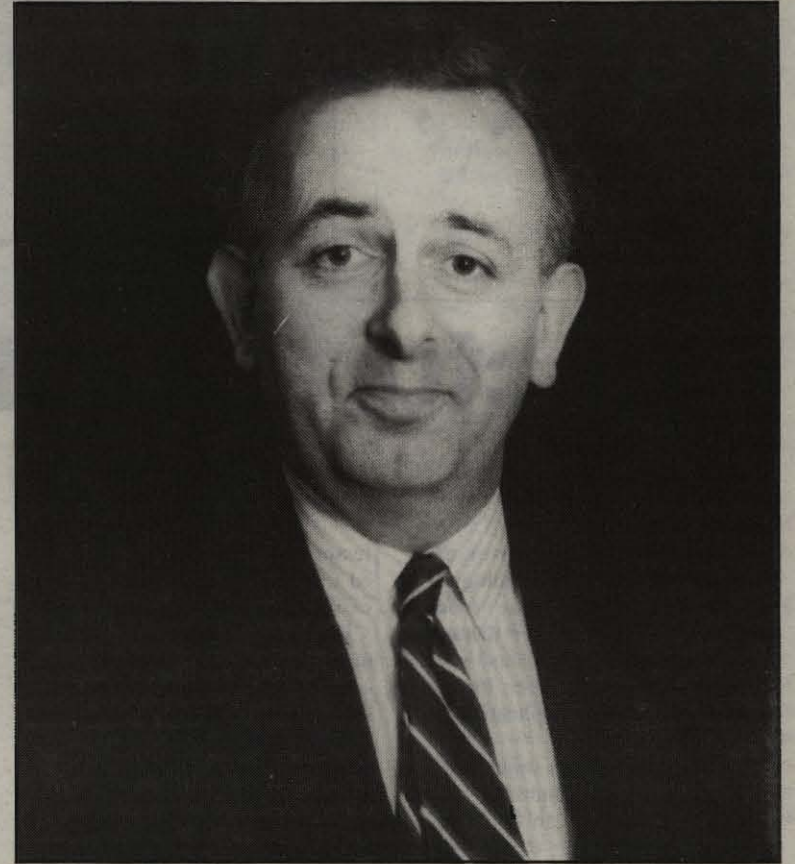
"This is against the idea of the university as a body which is free from interference and of academics working without fear of their tenure being cut short by those who pull the purse strings."

Mr Herbert said the Democrats would give priority to a major capital works program aimed at providing adequate buildings and facilities for university staff and students.

The Democrats' policy, however, does not give details about how these projects would be funded.

According to Mr Herbert, high

Monash University is situated in the Federal electorate of Bruce. Here the four candidates contesting the seat in the forthcoming election discuss recent changes to the higher education system.



The Australian Democrats candidate for Bruce, Mr Geoff Herbert.

interest rates is the major problem facing many people in Australia today. He said the Democrats would reduce the interest burden on people who could not afford it.

"The Hawke-Keating Government has got us into this mess and all the business failures and high mortgage rates are tied up with their economic policies," he said.

AUSTRALIAN
DEMOCRATS

Mr Herbert said the Australian Democrats were the only party to vote against the reintroduction of fees, a measure which he said disadvantaged women, part-time,

be instituted only after an open inquiry involving the institutions concerned.

"These amalgamations are robb-

Call to boost reading, writing and arithmetic

THE Call To Australia candidate for Bruce, Mr Peter Olney, says he wants to see some real value restored to our education system.

Mr Olney believes education standards have dropped over the past 18 years and thinks there should be more emphasis placed on developing basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills.

"In the context of higher education we need to encourage a scholarship system so those less fortunate, but who have the capacity, can win through," he said.

Mr Olney said he believed university students should pay something towards the cost of their education.

"I see tertiary education as a part of our society that needs some payment for the enormous amount of work that goes into it."

Mr Olney said he had mixed feel-

ings towards the Federal Government's plan to merge colleges and universities into a Unified National System.

"If the Government is looking to amalgamate tertiary institutions to bring about a more efficient economy then I see that move as being essential. But if all these amalgamations achieve is the shuffle of paper and jobs then the whole exercise is a waste of time," he said.

Mr Olney has been actively involved in the CTA Party since 1983 and said he was concerned to see the country running smoothly, carefully and sensibly, in a God-fearing manner.

"My main motivation for running

is to let the two parties know there is a growing concern out there for family and Christian values that are good, right and wholesome," he said.



"We want people to have high moral standards but that doesn't mean everyone has to be a Christian."

Mr Olney said he was particularly concerned about the destruction of the family unit under the present Labor Government.

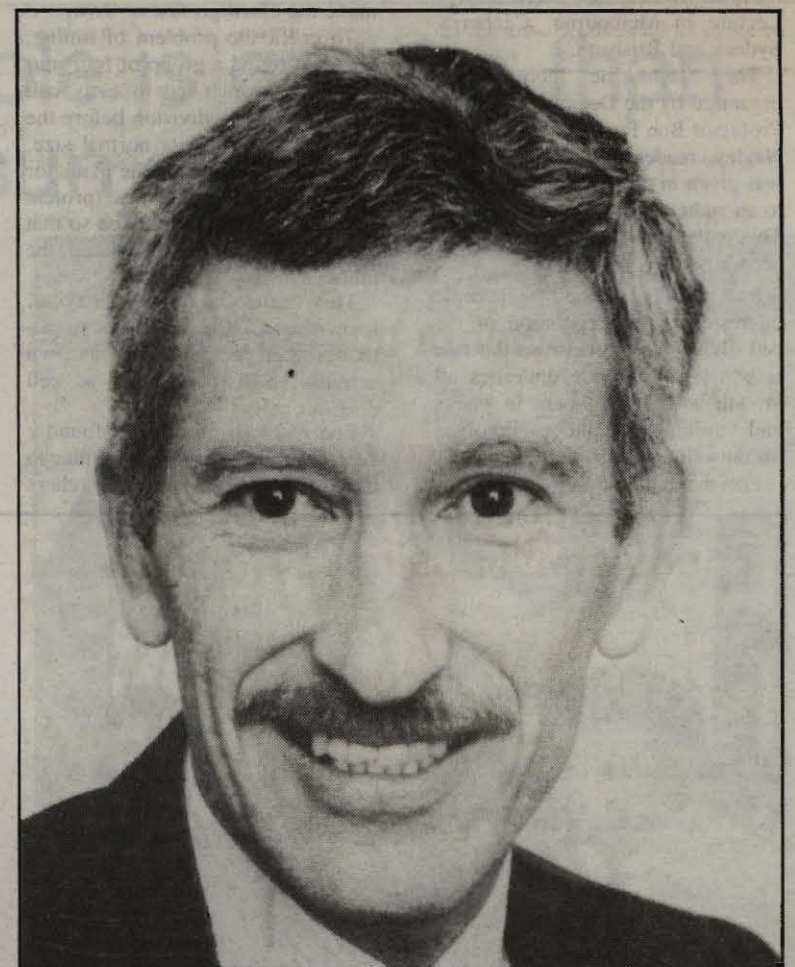
"I look at the number of family breakdowns that occur these days and see a large part of the responsibility rests with the Family Law Act," he said.

"On the one hand it emphasises that marriage is a commitment for life and on the other hand it makes it so easy for that commitment to be broken.

"The Family Law Act has made it so easy for divorce to occur and has created a lack of understanding about how to solve problems with your partner.

"As a politician I have an opportunity to address those facts because that is where the laws start from. If you have bad laws the country will run poorly, but if you have good laws there is a chance for the country to run effectively."

Mr Olney said he was also oppos-



The Call to Australia candidate for Bruce, Mr Peter Olney.

ed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"The Government is being placed in a position of judgement over the family and is being given the power to decide whether the punishment a parent dishes out to a child is appropriate," he said.

"I believe it is my right as a parent to administer the appropriate punishment to my child. There are so many holes in this document as to

who is the authority in these situations and yet the ALP want to bring it in without altering it at all."

Mr Olney said he was also concerned with the way the Federal Government was handling the economy and Australia's balance of payments problem.

"Labor has shown a lack of control in accruing the worst overseas debt we have ever had as a nation and I find that unforgivable," he said.

Roll on March 24



Tweedledee and Tweedledum argue about who has the right to hang their sign on the tree. They proved the parties were not poles apart however, by camping next to each other during Orientation Week.

ELECTION 90 ELECTION 90 ELECTION 90

Liberals guarantee loans to open education to all

A LARGER, better and more effective higher education system was needed for Australia's economic advancement, cultural enrichment and social development, according to the Liberal candidate for Bruce, Mr Julian Beale.

Mr Beale said the Government's policies had created turmoil in higher education and resulted in a loss in morale by administration, academics and students.

"Under our policy it will be a more open, more competitive and more vibrant higher education system with consequent benefits not only to the students, which is the primary benefit, but to the institutions as well," he said.

Mr Beale dismissed reports that the Liberal Party's plans to introduce tertiary fees and a student loan scheme were doomed to failure.

Under a coalition government education policy, students would be required to pay an annual fee of \$1200, half of which would be due at the start of each semester. Scholarships would be offered to at least one in four students and the rest would be eligible to apply for financial assistance through a loans scheme.

Mr Beale said the coalition had pledged to guarantee all loans to ensure that no student was denied an education because of financial hardship.

"Our spokesman on education has made it clear that he has had discussions with the commercial banks and they are, as they were in 1982, very receptive to this (loans scheme)," he said.

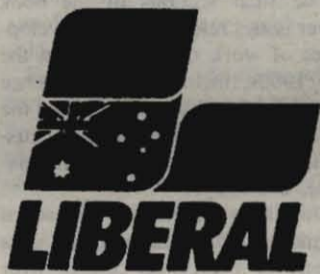
"But we have undertaken in our policy to facilitate those commercial

loan arrangements, if necessary by government guarantee."

Mr Beale said the American experience, where almost \$2 billion was owed by students who had failed to repay their loans, was not relevant to Australia.

"My understanding of the American situation is that it is completely different from Australia," he said.

"We do not see that partially reported American experience as a significant drawback to doing what we want to do to ensure the financially disadvantaged have access to higher education."



Mr Beale said the Liberal Party had undertaken to fund the same number of student places as projected in the Government's 1988 budget.

"We would also permit institutions to offer additional places on any basis they see fit," he said. "And we are also going to encourage institutions and corporations,

statutory authorities, businesses and individual donors to provide funds for scholarships and additional places."

Mr Beale strongly criticised the Australian Research Council (ARC) set up under the Labor Government to administer research funding programs to tertiary institutions.

He said the ARC was "politically motivated" and had been designed for Labor Party patronage.

"Our objections to the ARC arise because we do not believe that Government and bodies that are politically motivated can properly determine where funds for research should go," he said.

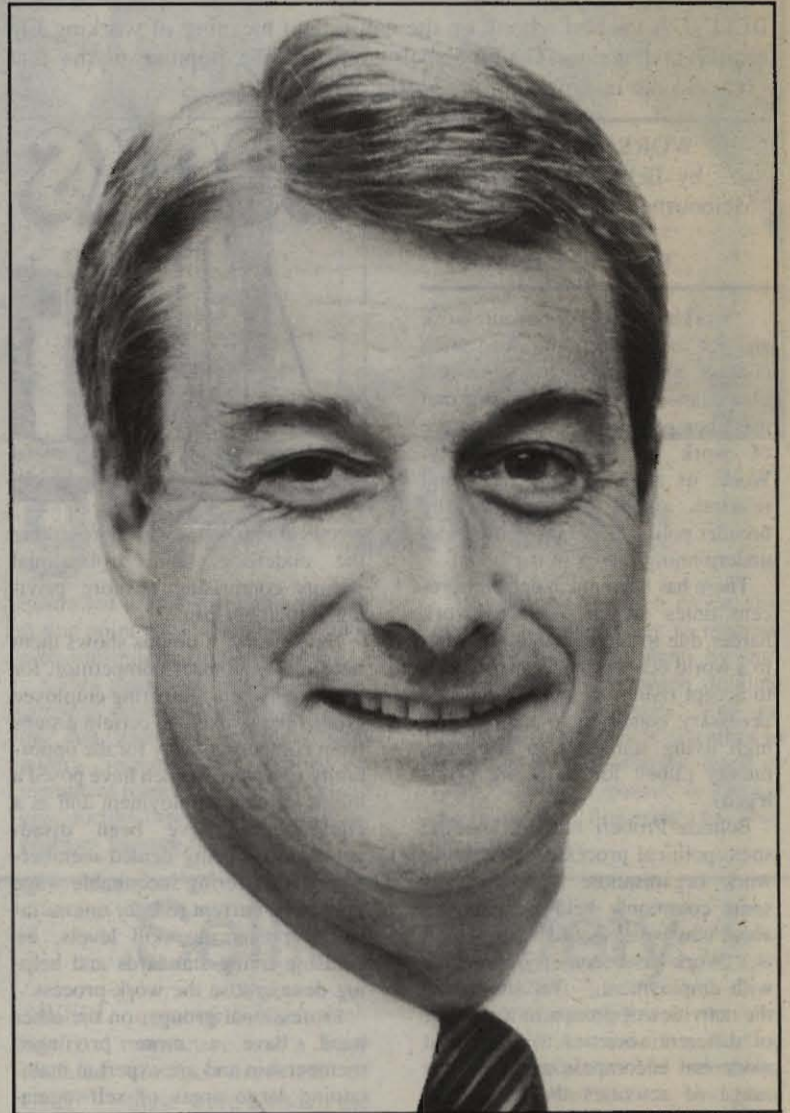
"We want to establish a system that will reduce bureaucratic interference and ensure that excellence in research is supported to the full extent of the community's ability to pay."

On the issue of amalgamations, Mr Beale said: "If institutions on a voluntary basis want to enter into arrangements that will assist their students and them, then we are not opposed to it."

"What we are opposed to is the Dawkins coercive plan where he is forcing institutions to merge, bribing them to do so and withholding funds if they don't. It is a massive exercise in the creation of a corporate state in education and we are utterly opposed to it."

Mr Beale said he welcomed the fact that Monash was located in the electorate and planned to visit the university to address students.

"They (the students) and their



The Liberal candidate for Bruce, Mr Julian Beale.

parents are my constituents and the things that concern them are the same sorts of things that concern people all over Australia," he said.

"The major thing which is concerning people is the high level of interest rates... and that is hurting families and young people and students all over."

And how does Mr Beale expect he and the Liberal Party will fare in the forthcoming election?

"The margin is Bruce is now about 4.5 per cent and I expect we will win it with eight per cent or more. And I expect the coalition will win government comfortably," he said.

Unis should support industry, Labor says

LABOR believes education should be relevant to contemporary society and the economy as well as the needs and aspirations of individuals, according to the ALP candidate for Bruce, Mr Philip Cottier.

Mr Cottier said he believed in fostering closer links between higher education and industry but wanted to see independent research, particularly in the humanities, preserved.

"The Federal Government places high premium on the education system supporting industry, so we can be more effective as an economic force," he said.

"Our export industries have to be modern and up-to-date and we have to have the best people in there with the best education."

"But at the same time, if you have an educational system which is totally geared towards providing industry needs then you end up producing a very narrow graduate."

"I think you need to make sure the education system is a balanced one and it is up to the students and academics to make sure the traditional liberal arts are preserved."

Mr Cottier said the Australian Research Council, established by the Government in 1988, aimed to improve both the quality of research and its relevance to national, social and economic goals.

Despite strong opposition to the Government's Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) when it was introduced in 1989, Mr Cottier said it had now been accepted by most students and was in place and working.

Under the scheme, students are required to pay 20 per cent of the

cost of their course once they start earning an average wage.

"With the HECS you only pay once you graduate and even then your income has to be above the weekly earnings of an average Australian worker," he said.

"The money raised by the scheme is put straight back into the higher education system to create more places for the disadvantaged."

Mr Cottier criticised the Liberal Party's plan to replace the tertiary-tax system with an annual \$1200 fee, claiming it would be a financial barrier for many potential students.



"You really couldn't do more to discourage students embarking on a course. It would literally force students into taking up high interest loans to get through and they will be paying them back for years to come," he said.

"The Liberals say they are going to make savings of \$205 million by introducing this up-front fee but they don't say whether they are going to redirect those savings back into the education system."

Mr Cottier said he was totally opposed to any proposal to tighten

the eligibility criteria for AUSTUDY.

"Our policy has been to increase AUSTUDY when we have had the opportunity because we want to encourage people to go on to higher education," he said.

Under the Federal Labor Government the transformation of the higher education system over the past 18 months is undeniable. According to Mr Cottier it is still too early to predict the outcome of the amalgamations.

"If the effect of the amalgamations is to create further choice for students in terms of subjects offered and accessibility to courses, and if it increases the quality of teaching then it will undoubtedly be good for students," he said.

"We are at the beginning of a new journey in education in this country and on some things we will just have to wait and see how it works out."

After several weeks of door knocking in the electorate, Mr Cottier said there were a number of issues which people expressed some concern. These included the retention of Medicare, Industrial Relations, public transport, the environment and interest rates, although in Bruce there was more concern over the effect of high interest rates on business than housing, he said.

On his chances of winning Bruce, Mr Cottier said: "Bruce has historically not been a Labor seat, but there has been a redistribution recently and I think that always allows some flexibility in the result next time."

And what about the Government's



The ALP candidate for Bruce, Mr Philip Cottier.

chances of retaining office? "I think Hawke will get back. It will be close, but I think people will on balance

decide that in a lot of areas the Hawke Government has strong records of achievement," he said.

A working portrait of Australia

BELINDA Probert's book on the nature and meaning of working life clearly and unequivocally dispels some of the popular myths that surround the inequities in the world of work.

WORKING LIFE

by Belinda Probert
Melbourne: McPhee Gribble,
1989
Price: \$11.99

"Working Life" is about work and its meaning in the Australian context. She explains in a clear and understandable way the impact that the labor process has on the nature of work in Australian society. Work, its associated activities and relations are a reflection of the broader political economy: this is an underpinning theme in the book.

There has been much debate in recent times on the need to work harder due to the demands of being in a world economy and on the need to accept rising unemployment as a necessary condition to maintaining high living standards in the community (albeit for the more privileged).

Belinda Probert makes clear the socio/political processes underlying work organisation, and unmasks some commonly held assumptions about why work should be the way it is. "Work has become synonymous with employment." Yet she traces the activities of groups in a number of different societies to show that work can encompass an enormous range of activities that have lost status and importance in our society.

Everyone who engages in work, from managers to housewives, have their statuses conferred and are themselves shaped by the work that they do. The work of modern society and our social organisation have their roots clearly in the origins of the factory forms of production.

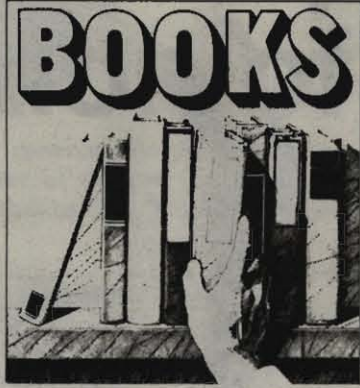
She identifies the most salient features of the factory production system which have contributed to work as a fragmented and alienating experience for many people.

A major feature of the text is the range of topics covered, all of which are highly relevant to an understanding of the Australian work experience. These include the historical developments of work practices, the role of technology and technological change, and a selection of special areas such as professionalism and women at work.

An enlightening discussion of housework as occupation is of particular interest and is just one of the areas where she develops the theme of the broader notion of work.

For readers wishing to examine the current economic and socio/political environment more closely, there are sections on Australia as a member of the world economy and some future projections of work issues based on current trends.

The author discusses two groups which represent quite different in-



terests at work: unions, representing the underdog, and professional groups comprising a more privileged membership.

Her history of unions shows them not only to control competition for wages between competing employee groups but to exclude certain groups from competing fairly for the opportunity to work. Women have posed a threat to male employment and as a consequence have been disadvantaged by being denied membership and suffering inequitable wage rates. The current role for unions includes preserving skill levels, increasing living standards and helping democratise the work process.

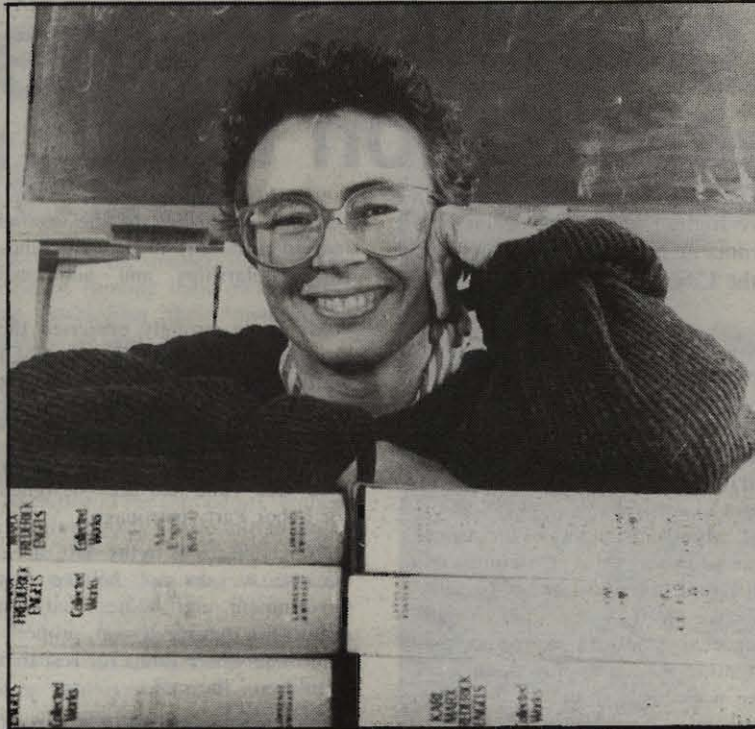
Professional groups, on the other hand, have a more privileged membership and are expert at maintaining large areas of self-regulation. Medical doctors are cited as being extremely good at this.

While professions can sanction large areas for high income they are contrasted with more ordinary work relations where management use their "prerogative" to enforce many types of control over workers. She shows that management control is the basis of our current work relations.

The experience of two disadvantaged groups in the workforce are presented: women and migrant workers. There are many popular issues and justifications for inequities. These are discussed but the conclusion is that these particular groups have been exploited as cheap forms of labor.

Legislative changes are shown to account for some of the ways in which women's work has been fashioned. The wage fixing system in Australia established men as the breadwinners. It was not until the early 1970s, soon after wage equality, that great numbers of women entered the workforce, yet the majority of women are still employed in the lower echelons.

Migrant workers also suffer discrimination. Southern Europeans have skills and a great desire to work but have filled the more unpleasant factory jobs vacated by Australian and British born workers. There is evidence in the



Senior lecturer in Sociology, Dr Belinda Probert.

book that a large pool of the unemployed come from the ranks of migrant workers.

Apart from special issues such as inequity and disadvantage her book tackles issues which are not on the agenda of the more traditional texts on work. One such issue is the female occupation of housewife. It is unpaid and therefore "not real work."

There are several justifications for the fact that housework is a female rather than male role and for its low status, and these are discussed. Despite a growing belief by men that they now perform more of that role, real socio/gender changes need to take place in order to transform the occupation of housework.

The final sections of the book cover issues relevant to the development of work organisations in the late 1900s, including the influence of technological development on the changing nature of work, and Australia as a member of the international economy.

She draws attention to the use of technology by management as a means of exercising control over employees. Technology can reduce skill levels dramatically and can even bring about the destruction of unionised groups.

McCormick's, a manufacturer of reaping machinery in Chicago of the 1880s, is an example of management being prepared to reduce profitability in order to increase

their control over labor. Management used technological innovation which was less efficient and cost effective than skilled labor to bring about the destruction of the National Union of Iron Moulders.

This book gives a highly relevant portrayal of the role of foreign investment in Australia. This is helpful for understanding its influence on the development of manufacturing industry over the past 20 years and on creating a lack of competitiveness for Australian industry on the international market.

She finishes by outlining positive and negative predictions for the future of work in Australia and suggests that various appropriate political and social actions need to be used in order to help solve current problems and to meet the demands of a changing future.

The style that she uses in presenting this book is to draw on a pool of different and contrasting views on aspects of work and then offer insights after considering a number of points of view.

The conclusions always draw the reader back to a consideration of socio/political processes. She has deliberately moved away from an academic style in this publication and presents some very complex ideas with clarity, offering great readability and interest.

Working Life has appeal not only for the reader seeking a greater understanding of the connections between social process and the activity of work but to the introductory student and lay reader who will benefit richly from the clear insights into the nature of work in the modern Australian context.

Mr Chris Peterson
Sociology Department
La Trobe University

The whole is greater than the sun on its parts

MANY staff, students and visitors at Monash have tried to determine the time and date from the sundial, situated on the north wall of the union building.

While the careful reader can work out both, few people can say how the elaborate configuration of curves and loops was designed.

A small booklet produced by the Department of Mathematics sets out the calculations for the sundial while at the same time telling the reader something of its creator.

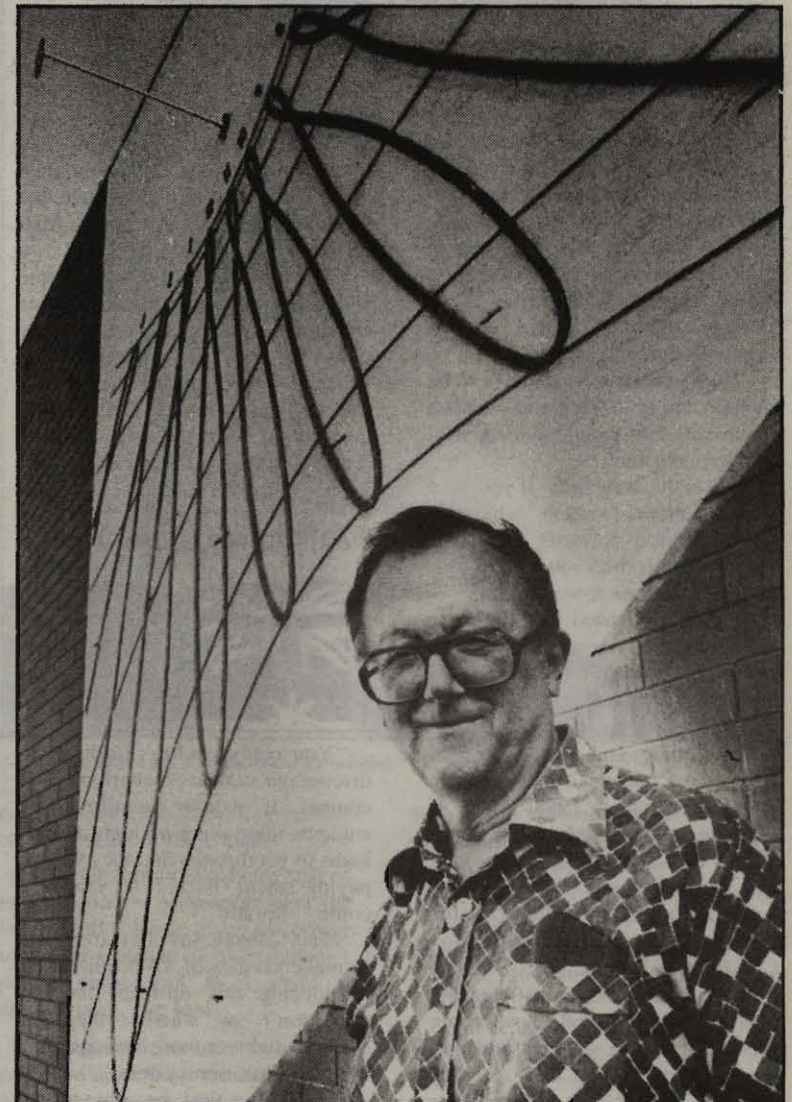
The design and construction of the sundial was the work of the late Carl Felix Moppert, a senior lecturer in the Department of Mathematics at Monash from 1967 until his death from leukaemia in 1984.

Carl Moppert believed the sundial should not just be a mere wonder to be gazed at but a device that should be understood and understood in mathematical terms, the book says.

"To this end, he produced a manuscript of some 70 pages, a manuscript he tried strenuously and unsuccessfully to see to publication. At the time of his death a highly condensed account had appeared in the Monash journal of school mathematics, *Function* (5 (5), 1981, 2-9) and that was all."

In tribute to his memory, the Mathematics Department reprinted his work, almost in its entirety.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of *The Monash Sundial* by Carl Moppert, should contact the Department of Mathematics on ext 4465.



The late Dr Carl Moppert with his sundial on the wall of the Union Building.

Do-it-yourself classics

THE Classical Studies Department at Monash is providing stimulating text books for those who want to study Latin and Ancient Greek themselves.

To enable people to key into the literature and culture of these two great civilisations, Associate Professor Gavin Betts approached Hodder & Stoughton, publishers of the internationally known *Teach Yourself* series.

His *Teach Yourself Latin* first appeared in 1986 and since then has sold some 20,000 copies around the world. *The Times Higher Education*

Supplement stated: "This course is eminently suitable for the dedicated student who needs to get a grip with Latin quickly."

Dr Betts, in association with the chairman of the Classical Studies Department, Professor Alan Henry, have recently published the second related book; *Teach Yourself Ancient Greek* (Hodder & Stoughton).

These initiatives are matched by further developments within the department which are aimed at encouraging archaeology and introducing Egyptology.

Alumni & Friends

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

Ms Jennifer Beck

A capital affair

ALUMNI groups keep a university in touch with the community and provide ideas and experiences which can have a major effect on the university, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, told the first Monash alumni reception to be held in Canberra.

About 70 graduates attended the reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor in November at Bruce Hall, Australian National University.

Monash University was endeavouring to build bridges, and one bridge was keeping in touch

with former students, Professor Logan said.

Professor Logan said he believed the present was a time for opportunity in higher education and Monash was enjoying this by combining with Chisholm Institute of Technology, Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education and with the sponsorship of the Canberra College of Advanced Education as the University of Canberra.

"Such a period of opportunity will not occur again for 20 years," he said.

Sydney celebration



Chatting before dinner at the Sydney alumni reunion in November were (left to right), Dr Paula Buckley (MBBS 1974), Professor Peter Leverett (PhD 1970), Mrs Anne Bridges-Webb, and Professor Charles Bridges-Webb (MD 1971).

THE work and achievements of Professor Ron Brown, appointed foundation Professor of Chemistry at Monash University in 1959 and still head of the department, have been an inspiration for one of his students.

Professor Peter Leverett, who graduated in 1970 with a PhD in chemistry, is at present Dean of the Science Faculty at the University of Western Sydney, Nepean.

"I moved from one new university to another," he said.

"And I am now doing precisely what my esteemed teacher, Professor Brown, was doing 30 years ago, creating a science and technology tradition. One has to build

from the ground up and it is very challenging indeed."

Professor Leverett maintains that graduates of the University of Western Sydney are highly employable, in part due to the links between the university and industry.

Departments recognised for their strength were: physics, computing, industrial maths and electrical engineering, he said.

While at Monash, Professor Leverett met his future wife, Paula Buckley, then a medical student.

She graduated in 1974 and later specialised in family medicine, becoming a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The couple have two small children.

A social network

THE Monash Social Work Network had a very busy start to the year.

The opportunity to host functions with the English social work writer and practitioner, Kieran O'Hagan, has mobilised the network into feverish activity.

Mr O'Hagan is known internationally for his writings and work in both crisis intervention and child abuse. He is currently principal social worker (child abuse) with Leeds City Council and continues to carry his own case load.

His recent book "Working with Child Sexual Abuse" stands out amongst a stream of recent publications on this topic. He presents controversial and challenging viewpoints and extends beyond the theory to practical assistance to practitioners.

The first function of the group is a wine and cheese night on Friday 30

March at 7.30pm. It will be held at the Arts and Crafts Centre at Monash University and the cost is \$8 a person.

Mr O'Hagan will be guest speaker and address the topic of "Crisis Intervention".

For further information phone Jo Blenkinsop (nee O'Neill) on 509 0604 (H) or 797 5777 (W).

A three day workshop has also been organised in conjunction with Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education on child abuse.

The workshop will provide practitioners in the field with both theoretical input and practical guidelines in all areas of child abuse.

It will be held from 1 to 3 May at Mannix College and the cost is \$150 a person. For further information phone Carmel Laragy on 232 3395 (H).



ABOUT 50 Monash Alumni met in January for a buffet supper at The Royal Bangkok Sports Club. Pictured here in discussion (from right to left) are the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, His Excellency Mr Richard Butler, Australian Ambassador to Thailand and Monash honorary graduate, Dr Mechai Viravaidya.

Alumni ID card

ALUMNI ID CARD

APPLY now for a Monash Alumni ID card and enjoy these entitlements:

- Eligibility to apply for a Monash University Library Card at the special rate of \$50 a year.
 - Quarterly editions of *Monash Reporter*.
 - Eligibility to apply for Special Membership of Monash University Club at only \$30 a year.
 - Savings on Thomas Cook Travel Products through Monash Alumni Thomas Cook Travel Club — discounts on holidays within Australia, international airfares, cruises, insurances and commission free travellers' cheques
 - Bonus card rates at Southern Pacific Hotels, The Parkroyal Collection, Travelodge. Bonus card rates can save you 10 per cent, 20 per cent and even 40 per cent a night on your hotel accommodation.
 - Special rate for Monash Alumni at the Hyatt on Collins, Melbourne.
 - Monash Alumni rates at hotels of The Victoria Holdings Limited: The Sheraton Hotel, Melbourne; The Victoria Hotel, Melbourne; the Grosvenor Hotel, Adelaide.
- Simply send in a \$10 fee, together with your name, address, degree and year of graduation to the Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs, Clayton 3168.

Coming Alumni events

BRISBANE

A get together of Monash graduates will be held in Brisbane on the evening of Friday 27 April.

Further details: Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs, (03) 565 2044 or Mr Christopher Joy (07) 369 6499 (bh).

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

The Chancellor will host a buffet supper for Monash graduates on Saturday 28 April at the North Queensland Club, Townsville.

Further details: Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs, (03) 565 2044 or Mr Doug Turnbull (077) 21 2421.

MEDICINE

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner of the Association of Monash Medical Graduates will be held on Friday 18 May at Tudor Court.

Guest Speaker: Associate Professor Eric Glasgow.

Further details: Janette Elderton 898 3385 (ah) or Elaine Young, Faculty of Medicine 565 4305 (bh).

BANQUET

THE annual Chinese Banquet organised by the Friends of Monash University Inc. will be held on Saturday 28 April at 7pm at the Beijing Palace Restaurant, Tooronga Road, Hawthorn.

Professor Ross Day, Chairman of the Department of Psychology, will be the guest speaker.

All members of the university community, staff, students, alumni and friends are cordially invited to attend.

Tickets are \$30 a head, and BYO drinks. To book a place, contact the Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs on 565 2044 or the secretary of the Friends of Monash Inc., Mr Bruce Adams, on 877 2579.

Hospitality in Hobart

THE Chancellor of Monash University, Sir George Lush, believes the university is poised for big changes with the merger with Chisholm Institute.

Sir George told a Monash Alumni reception in Hobart recently, that the demands of the Federal Government to amalgamate and merge tertiary institutions in Australia had affected all of the country's universities.

"The merger with Chisholm will see substantial change. They

will become part of Monash and will cease to exist as Chisholm Institute," Sir George said.

"Changes will have to be made to meet the challenges ahead."

It is expected that Monash's student population would swell from about 15,000 to between 23,000 and 25,000 students from 1 July 1990.

Two additional campuses at Caulfield and Frankston and three new faculties will result from the Monash/Chisholm merger.



THERE were no shortages of doctors in the house at the Monash Alumni reception in Hobart. Catching up were from left: Dr Poh Teck Yeo, Dr Bryan Walpole, Dr John Liddell and Dr David Crean. Dr Crean graduated in 1976 and is now a member of the House of Assembly in the Tasmanian Parliament. Dr Walpole graduated in 1967 and is a spokesperson for the Australian Medical Association in Tasmania. Dr Liddell graduated in 1982 and is now a neurosurgeon in Hobart. Dr Yeo graduated in 1971, received his PhD in 1976, and is working in Hobart as a consultant neurologist.

Entertainment and The Arts

A night at the opera

MONASH University Season 90 at the Alexander Theatre is off and running.

In early March, Lorraine Bayly graced the stage of the Alex in the comedy "Lipstick Dreams". It was nearly 20 years ago that she first performed at Monash in "We Bombed In New Haven" and now three Logies later she was given an enthusiastic welcome back.

"Lipstick Dreams" gave audiences an entertaining mix of hilarious moments, thought-provoking characters and the unforgettable music of the '60s.

This week the season continues with the Victoria State Opera's production of Rossini's "The Barber Of Seville"; an exciting event for Monash.

Under the baton of Richard Divall, the cast includes John Wood as Figaro, Michael Terry as Count

Almaviva, Ian Cousins as Dr Bartolo and Kathleen Southall-Casey as Rosina.

The innovative staging of this production is a result of young director, Barrie Kosky. Barrie received acclaim for his direction of Tippet's opera "The Knot Garden" as part of last year's Spoleto Festival. He will also be directing Robyn Archer in "Cafe Fledermaus" to be presented later in the Monash season.

Vacuum cleaners, ladders and lots of chairs are some of the unusual images that should make this full-scale production a feast for the eyes as well as the ears.

"The Barber of Seville" is already close to selling out but tickets are still available for other shows in the season. Following the opera in June, "Nonsense" the funny nunny musical comes to Monash, starring June Bronhill.

Andrew Dunn



The cast from the Victoria State Opera's production of "The Barber Of Seville".

Videos send Visual Arts courses long distance

THE traditional belief that you cannot learn art by distance education is being challenged by the School of Visual Arts at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education.

The Head of the School of Visual Arts, Norman Creighton recently announced that a new video package course in fine art drawing would be offered on a trial basis this year.

The course, **Mark & Image**, has been operating at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Canada for a number of years. It contains 10 hour-long videos, a comprehensive manual and all the materials needed for the student to undertake the course.

Students are assigned a tutor who receives the art work from the students by post, and sends it back with comments and suggestions for improvement.

The School has a growing list of units being offered by distance education including four units in art history and theory, also available for on-campus students.

Students studying art history and theory by distance education mode include mature students who want to develop a better understanding of the arts, students who want to begin a deeper study into art, or those who want to complement other external studies offered by the institute.

The distance education mode also enables the Graduate Diploma of Arts (in Visual Arts) to be taken by students, who because of work or other commitments, are not able to attend full- or part-time weekday studio sessions.

It is the first full course in Visual Arts in Australia to be made available by the off-campus mode.

In addition to its distance education courses, the School is one of the many art schools in Australia offering courses in practical studio art.

Mr Creighton said the Bachelor of Arts (in Visual Arts) course was a studio-based program of practical art work complemented by units in

art history and theory and professional practice.

"The course doesn't offer any crafts or design subjects but concentrates on the traditional fine art areas of painting, printmaking, sculpture and ceramics," he said.

"At Gippsland, the studio orientated course enables students to train to be practising artists or art teachers. This is different from BA students at Monash or Melbourne where students train to be

curators and critics."

The School of Visual Arts has four main studios and has developed a great deal of expertise over the almost 20 years since it first opened in 1972, using the studio method teaching.

"There are long periods of contact between the staff and students, with the staff and students often working six hours at a time in the studio," Mr Creighton said.



Head of the School of Visual Arts at GIAE, Norman Creighton watches as lecturer in print making, Kaye Green, demonstrates the art of print lithograph from a stone.

SWITCHBACK GALLERY

GALLERY CALENDAR 1990

THE schedule for the Switchback Gallery at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education features:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 23 March-11 April | William Young Paintings |
| 12 April-2 May | Jan Feder Collection |
| 4 May-24 May | GIAE Drawing Julie Adams Curator |
| 25 May-7 June | Dan Wollmering Sculptor Recent Work |
| 8 June-21 June | Exhibition to be announced |
| 22 June-12 July | Edward Ginger Sculpture & prints Dan Wollmering Curator |
| 13 July-26 July | Painting Studio Exhibition Christopher Coventry Curator |
| 27 July-16 August | Ceramics Studio Exhibition Hedley Potts Curator |
| 17 August-30 August | Printmaking Studio Exhibition Kaye Green Curator |
| 31 August-13 September | Owen Rye-Rodney Forbes Ceramics and Paintings |
| 14 September-27 September | Show Some Emulsion Photographs by GIAE Photography Students Susan Purdy Curator |
| 28 September-18 October | Wes Placek Photographer Susan Purdy Curator |
| 19 October-1 November | Sculpture Studio Exhibition Clive Murray-White Curator |
| 2 November-29 November | Masters & Postgraduate Examination Exhibitions Euan Heng Curator |
| 30 November-13 December | Exhibition to be announced |
| 14 December-Feb. 1991 | Summer Show |

Arts and Crafts Centre autumn program

DRAWING on the right side of the brain . . . not a handbook for neurosurgeons, but the title of



one of the new season's courses being offered by the Monash Arts and Crafts Centre.

The courses offered cover just about everything from astrology (a six-week course that looks at zodiac signs, houses, and planets and their relationship to the human body) to fiction writing.

Other courses include sculpting,



painting, cottage crafts, calligraphy, working with gemstones, folk guitar, harmonica, massage and photography.

And that strangely titled course? Apparently it is a special method for teaching those with absolutely no artistic background how to draw.

Courses range from one day to five weeks. For further information, contact the centre on ext 3180.

Entertainment and The Arts

Arts and Crafts quilt carries strong message

A QUILT made by Arts and Crafts Centre tutor, Susan Karoly, formed an impressive back drop at the Australian Creation Spirituality Conference held at La Trobe University recently.

It is presently on display at the Monash Arts and Crafts Centre to launch its autumn program which includes three quilt making classes.

The quilt was designed by Susan and Derek Pearse, who is widely known for his leadlighting of ecclesiastical windows. It took nearly three weeks to make and has been pieced and appliqued by machine, and hand and machine quilted.

Titled "Mother Earth" the quilt depicts our prehistoric beginnings using dark patches and shapes of dinosaurs, seaweed and jellyfish. As you move towards the top of the earth, the colors become brighter and the shapes of man, woman, tree, and other animals are easily discernible.

According to Susan, the quilt carries a strong message about the destructive nature of man/woman and the possibilities of harmony on earth through peace and conservation.

"If we look at the quilt as a whole you can see that man and woman are only a small part of the whole creation. We haven't been on earth for as long as the animal kingdom but we have done the most damage. So in the quilt the man and woman are not at the top," she said.

"We also wanted to get across that unless we have peace (symbolised in the quilt by a dove) and conservation (symbolised by a tree), then our future will not be bright.

"At the top of the quilt a bright future is represented by light pieces but there are no symbols because who knows what the future will bring."

On a less metaphysical level, the quilt also represents the successful combination of two art forms: designing and quilting. Susan said

she learnt a great deal from Derek about design and he in turn learnt a lot from her about using textiles.

"It has been a terrific learning experience and hopefully it will encourage other artists to do combined products," she said.

Susan has been making quilts since 1983 and has completed more than 24 quilts. She regards herself as a full-time quilter but has to work to supplement her income.

"Female crafts are too much related to domesticity and the true value of a woman's labor is never really given," she said.

"It is hard to make money on something people consider is simply a 'women's' craft. People think it is something to keep me occupied and they don't realise it is a career I'm trying to carve for myself."

Susan has recently spent 18 months in the US where she completed a quilt making course run by the National Quilting Association of America.

"The course teaches all the basic



Quilter, Susan Karoly displays the finished product to the designer, Derek Pearse.

requirements of quilt making and covers piecing, applique and quilting, but the emphasis is on being professional," she said.

"It teaches you how to become a professional teacher so you can take classes and successfully pass on your knowledge to others."

The three quilt making classes at the Arts and Crafts Centre include: Basic Quilt Making, Quilted Jacket or Vest and Contemporary Quilts. For times and dates of the classes check the centre's autumn program.

The centre is also running classes in the areas of ceramics, painting and drawing, music, craft, textiles, creative writing, personal well-being, culinary arts, home and garden, photography and study skills.

According to the centre's director, Irene Rofe, all classes are filling up quickly and people should book early to avoid disappointment.

For further information, phone the Arts and Crafts Centre on 565 3180.

Composing computer music

MONASH'S first composer in residence, Warren Burt is breaking new ground with his research into various forms of live musical performance with computers.

Mr Burt took up a six-month position as composer in residence with the Music Department, following a grant from the Performing Arts Board of Australia Council.

Since then he has written more than 30 pieces of music involving computers and electronics.

According to Mr Burt his research is concerned with reaching the limits of human perception and the limits of the current available music technology.

"I am concerned with pure research and trying to provide new information using the tools of the 20th century," he said.

"This involves learning and working with various computer programs to assist musical composition and improvisation."

In order to compose pieces of live computer music, Mr Burt was forced to learn more about computers, electronics and mathematics. His interest in experimental music led him to become involved for a short time with chaos mathematics.

"By looking at various random number systems and how they applied to music, we were able to work out a program that allowed you to improvise and compose in real time," he said.

One of the pieces written using this technique was performed at Monash in the Music Department auditorium this month, called "Anyway you can always put language down to experience".

The experimental concert involved poet and composer, Chris Mann reading rapidly a text he had written on the ethics of business, while Mr Burt adorned it with relevant sound materials.

One of the sounds he used was that of a piano which had been tuned to a scale quite different from the one on a normal piano. Other sounds were created through electronic modifications to the reader's voice.

"I might have his voice making chords with itself for a few seconds and then have it with an echo before changing it again," he said.

"Then on top of that we put in elements of an artificial language. To do this we pre-record Chris reading his piece then chop up his words and put them together in another way that isn't normal English. This is how we get what we call 'non-meaningful' sounds."

Although the Australian premiere of the piece was performed at Monash, Mr Burt and Chris Mann recently completed a European tour to promote their work. The piece was first performed at the Ars-Electronica in Linz, Austria — the biggest electronics music festival held in the world. It has also been performed at the V2 Gallery in Holland and in Budapest, Cologne, New York and Berlin.

Mr Burt, with the aid of four members of the music department, also staged a live computer music concert at Monash during orientation week.

The computer was set up to play through eight loud speakers which surrounded the audience. Each of the three pieces performed were improvised and based on structures organised by the composer.

In the first piece, Mr Burt played the gamelan (an Indonesian instrument) sounds and bird calls while

moving around the audience, adding the dimension of space to music.

The next piece consisted of four people swinging loudspeakers while Mr Burt improvised on the computer with different sounds.

The final piece involved live wind wands combined with recorded wind wand sounds played back through the computer. On top of that there was also computer percussion sounds accompanying improvisations for crumhorns and saxophones.

"There are a lot of different cultures expressed in the piece as it uses contemporary, home-made, Asian and medieval European instruments," Mr Burt said.

Mr Burt says his music is "not for the lazy of ear" but shies away from critique words normally used in critiques of music.

"I am trying to create new information and musical forms, therefore the old ways of responding to the arts may not be very applicable," he said.

Mr Burt hopes to be able to continue his work at Monash and is particularly interested in moving his music into the field of artificial life and genetic algorithms.

"Genetic algorithms is a messy logic which hopefully would generate some very interesting musical counter-points," he said.



Monash Composer In Residence, Warren Burt, at the computer keyboard, plays one of his pieces at a demonstration in the Music Department Auditorium.

Robert Blackwood Hall program

THE Robert Blackwood Hall activities for April include:

Saturday 7 April 8pm

Melbourne Youth Music Council presents ensembles from the Saturday Music School.

Admission: adults \$10, concession \$7.

For further information and tickets phone 690 8624. Tickets are also available at the door.

Friday 13 April 9am to 10.30pm

Brass Bands.

Saturday 14 April 9am to 10.30pm

Brass Bands.

Sunday 15 April 10am to 8pm

Concert Bands.

Australian National Band Championships: Featuring 62 brass and concert bands from around Australia.

Admission: Season ticket; adults \$25, family \$60, concession \$10.

Daily ticket; adults \$12, family \$20, concession \$5.

Session ticket; adults \$6, concession \$2.

For further information and tickets phone 417 3670.

Wednesday 18 to Friday 20 April

Melbourne International Festival of Organ and Harpsichord presents Dr Harald Vogel from West Germany, an outstanding performer and scholar in the field of Baroque music. He will conduct three masterclasses on the organ music of the North German Baroque at 10am on 18, 19 and 20 April.

Admission: \$5.

Dr Vogel will also present a concert of "Organ Masters of the North German Baroque" on 19 April at 8.15pm.

Admission: \$15, concession \$10.

A lunchtime recital will be given by students from the masterclasses on Friday 20 April at 1.10pm.

Admission: \$8, concession \$5.

Tickets available at the door.

A brochure describing the full festival program of 29 events is available at Robert Blackwood Hall, at music outlets, or by phoning the festival manager, David Agg, on 328 2592.

Sunday 22 April 7pm

The Heritage Singers from USA are a Gospel contemporary group. They are performing their last Australian tour after 15 years under the music direction of Max Mace.

Admission: adults \$12.50, concession \$10.50.

For further information and tickets phone 575 2306.

Saturday 28 April 8pm

Bentleigh Progressive Synagogue presents "A Night of Musical Excellence". The compere is Geoff Sussman and musical director is Joe Stupel. Featuring artists include Anna Nagel, Scott Harrison, Leon Segal, Joel Reicher, Graham McGowan and Gershon Zylberman.

Special appearance by Whitehorse Musical Theatre and Yurana. Sponsored by Pianos Plus.

For further information and tickets phone 563 9208.

Tanner exhibition opens

THE Edwin Tanner (1952-1979) exhibition at the Monash University Gallery was officially opened by the Arts Minister, Evan Walker last week.

The exhibition features some 70 paintings and drawings from national, state, public and private collections around Australia, in-

cluding two paintings from the university collection.

During the exhibition the gallery will be open from Tuesday to Friday from 10 am to 5 pm and Saturdays from 1 to 5 pm. The exhibition closes on 12 May.

For further information about the gallery program phone ext 4217.

Sport and Recreation

Work it out at the gym

TO stay healthy, fit and well, people need to exercise. Our bodies are made for activity and without regular exercise they just don't work as efficiently as they should.

Exercise can help you in many ways such as reducing stress, lowering blood pressure, improving sleeping patterns, controlling weight, and reducing anxiety, tension and depression.

Unfortunately as we enter university and adulthood, our physical well-being and recreation habits tend to fall away. Our lifestyle changes, cars take our feet off the footpath, television takes us away from a physical hobby, university study provides our brain with exercise but not our body and labour-saving devices dominate our life.

While you are here at Monash University keeping the mind exercised, why not keep the body exercised as well and start feeling some of the benefits of exercise?

The Fitness Gymnasium is an ideal place to begin this exercise program. Whether it be general fitness, body toning, muscular

strength, weight control or body building you are seeking, then the Fitness Gymnasium can help.

The room has a wide selection of free weights and pin-loaded machines which are easily used by everyone. The Fitness Gymnasium is fully supervised by qualified instructors who can help you to achieve your exercise goals, give advice on nutrition, diet and other forms of exercise programs.

To join the gymnasium you first must book in for a fitness assessment. The fitness assessment is compulsory for everyone who joins and is conducted in a private room in the fitness gym. It consists of full medical history, blood pressure, lung capacity, skinfold measurements (body fat), anatomical measurements, hamstring and lower back flexibility and stomach endurance.



Recreation officer, Leigh Branagan (sitting) demonstrates how to use the equipment to gym instructor, Michelle DeZilwa.

If you are over 35 years of age then a medical certificate from your local doctor is needed prior to the fitness assessment. Forms for this medical can be picked up from the fitness gym.

A personalised program can also be structured for you on the basis of your fitness assessment, specific needs and goals. The program is

designed by our staff and you are taken through the program so that all exercises are familiar to you.

To book in for a fitness assessment and a gym program, you must come in person to the fitness gymnasium (located in the Sports and Recreation courtyard, next to the barbecues) and pay \$5 each for the assessment and program.

A three-month membership costs \$15, six months' membership is \$25, and 12 months' membership is \$50.

The gymnasium is open Monday to Friday from 7 am to 9 pm, Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm.

Leigh Branagan
Recreation Officer

The week that was



Sugaring the pill, Orientation Week style. A sweetener is added to a first-year student's burgeoning stock of maps, handbooks and timetables, and industry talent scouts note the name of another likely entrepreneur. Pictures: TONY MILLER.



Getting in some serious training for the bumpy road ahead, both in the lecture theatre and on the Ring Road.

Sandra takes the plunge at Monash

THE new swimming co-ordinator at the Monash Swimming Complex, Sandra Bingham, has spent most of her life in deep water.

Sandra has been heavily involved in all areas of the swimming profession both in a teaching capacity and as a keen competitor.

She has instructed everyone from pre-schoolers (tadpoles); to adults and people with special needs. In addition she has co-ordinated many holiday and school programs.

Sandra holds her distinction with the Royal Life Saving Society of Victoria and still swims competitively as a veteran with the Masters (Ringwood Rats). She trains about seven kilometres a week and enjoys distance swims in the bay.

"I think it is good to keep my hand in all aspects of swimming, so I am regularly involved in the competition side as well as teaching," she said.

"I love the sport itself and find the knowledge I have gained through being a competitive swimmer helps me get results."

As co-ordinator of the swimming complex, Sandra is responsible for

organising swimming classes that serve the needs of the university and the local community. She also takes many of the classes herself.

According to Sandra, programs for 1990 include daily swimming classes for schools in the area. Students use the pool from 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday and are taught by Monash swimming instructors.

Adult classes are held from midday to 1 pm and on Monday and Wednesday nights from 7 to 8 pm. The classes range from beginners to advanced stroke correction and endurance swimming.

From 4 pm to 6 pm there is an after school program for children aged from five-year-olds through to intermediate squad members.

Other programs include water familiarisation for two to five-year-olds, Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 to 11 am. On Saturday mornings there are half-hour classes from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm for all age groups and all levels. A five-week Bronze Medallion course is also run for two hours on a Saturday.

For further information about the swimming programs — phone Sandra Bingham at the Sports & Recreation Centre on ext 6753.



The new swimming co-ordinator, Sandra Bingham (left) teaches a student stroke correction in the Monash pool.