NEWS FROM THE CAMPUSES OF MONASH UNIVERSITY VOLUME 3 NUMBER 6 JULY 2000



Up close and personal

This is the close-up your dentist can only dream of - a prize-winning image of a section through the root of the first molar tooth. Entered by Monash University histologist Mr Ian Boundy, the photograph was the overall winner in the Image of the Year 2000 competition sponsored by AMRAD Corporation and Today's Life Science. The photograph shows the central pulp cavity containing neurovascular structures and connective tissue. Enclosing the pulp is the hard dentine, made up of tiny radiating dentinal tubules of mineralised material that continue to be deposited throughout the life of the tooth.

Courts' power threatens rights

BY FIONA PERRY

The ability of Australian courts to overturn decisions made by administrative tribunals represents a serious threat to individual rights, says Monash PhD law researcher Ms Carol Foley.

According to Ms Foley, the courts' intervention in these cases is frequently inappropriate and based on technicality, ironically jeopardising, not enhancing, the rights of the complainant.

"Administrative law was brought in during the 1970s partly to protect individuals against closed-book style bureaucratic decision-making. It operates today in diverse areas such as human rights, superannuation and native title," she says.

"Administrative tribunals employ specialists who have expertise in a particular area. They benefit the individual because they are user and cost-friendly, process cases faster and look at a case on its merits.

"However, if a tribunal's powers are categorised by the courts as judicial, its jurisdiction may be impugned - with horrendous consequences, because not only will all previous decisions made by that tribunal be wiped out, but also the individual must then go to court to get a decision. Many people don't have the money to do that."

According to Ms Foley, judicial independence was established under the separation of powers doctrine to protect the rights of the individual against the power of the executive and parliament.

"However, the courts often use the doctrine just because it is there - without looking at the actual case to determine if a person's rights are being infringed by the tribunal's ruling, and without looking at how the system is being affected.



Ms Carol Foley. Photo by Craig Wetjen.

The separation of powers doctrine has great merit and should have a place in Australian constitutional law, but we need to rethink the nature of its parameters and application."

To solve the problem, Ms Foley is investigating the applicability of an alternative institutional model of the doctrine that focuses on a separation of functionaries rather than a separation of functions.

"An institutional separation of powers means you wouldn't have to worry about what is and isn't judicial adjudication, because you achieve the same ends - protecting the judiciary, and the individual - but from a different focus.

"We should be focusing on the proper outcome in particular cases in order to safeguard the rights of individuals rather than just applying a universal

"The practice of law should always be pragmatic - to achieve the dual ends of social order and individual justice,"

Support gained for new super mouse house

BY DAVID BRUCE

Mouseworks has arrived at Monash

The Wellcome Trust has awarded a large equipment grant of \$619,000 to provide equipment for the new Monash Mouseworks facility, currently being completed on the Clayton campus. Monash Mouseworks will produce and reed genetically modified mice for us by researchers at Monash and Deakin universities.

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www.monash.edu.au/news/

News

Ancient Egypt comes alive

A Monash researcher is constructing virtual models of Ancient Egyptian temples and tombs to show how they may have looked thousands of years ago.

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Funnel-web meets its match

Neurotoxins found in the venom of the eastern mouse spider are similar to the funnel-web's, Monash researchers claim.

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Opinion

Pacific policy lacks depth

Australia must listen to the full spectrum of indigenous views if democracy is to have a future in the Pacific, argues a Monash academic.

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Arts

Men have their problems, too

A Monash masters student explores themes of men's isolation and alienation in a sculptural exhibition being held at the Caulfield campus this month.

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Family businesses becoming more professional: research

BY SANDRA BUCOVAZ

Adult children involved in established family businesses across Australia are becoming increasingly professional and more upfront about where their future lies within the enterprise.

They are more focused than their parents on the selection of a successor and maintaining ownership control within the family, according to recent findings of a family business succession survey conducted by Monash's AXA Australian Family Business Research Unit and the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants.

More than 70 per cent of the emerging generation of prospective successors surveyed were under 40 years of age, and 55 per cent had tertiary qualifications compared with 44 per cent of their parent owners.

The survey showed that owners and adult children agreed that balancing short and long-term business decisions and preparing and training a successor were the most important successor issues.

The next most important issues for the owner were maintaining loyalty to non-family managers, balancing family concerns and business interests, and developing relationships between successor(s) and non-family employees. Adult children were more concerned with selection of the successor and maintaining family control.

Prospective successor Mr David Owens, from Oakvale Wines in the Hunter Valley, believed the rankings reflected owners' maturity in terms of a more balanced and holistic view of how businesses operate within a community.

"Prospective successors have a more hard-nosed view because they want to protect the interests of the business which are so closely aligned to their personal interests," said Mr Owens, who is a fourth-generation member of the parent company ROI Investment.

Mrs Margaret James, co-owner of River Sands sand quarry and manufacturing company in Queensland, sympathised with adult children. "For adult children, it is very important to know However, it is very difficult when, in owned Neumann construction and development group based on the Gold

According to her son Robert, the sales manager at River Sands, there had to be "a path laid out", particularly when adult children dedicated themselves to the business without ownership.

In terms of the most important attributes of successors, respondents contacted agreed that personality traits, current involvement with the business and level of competence were more important than family standing issues such as gender and age.

who is going to be the successor. our case, we have two adult sons and a son-in-law," said Mrs James, whose company is part of the giant family-

Academics in Queen's **Birthday Honours**

new campus director for the Clayton

and Berwick campuses have been

up the position of pro vice-chancellor,

Gippsland campus, in late August.

Professor Mackenzie is currently pro

vice-chancellor Academic Affairs at the

ed campus director of Monash's

Gippsland campus director and divi-

sional director of Student Services, will

take up his position on 1 September.

Mr Robert Burnet has been appoint-

Mr Burnet, who is currently

University of Western Sydney.

Clayton and Berwick campuses.

Professor Brian Mackenzie will take

announced.

Two Monash academics were made Officers in the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen's Birthday Honours announced last month.

Director of Monash's Institute of Public Health Professor Chris Silagy received his honour for service to medicine, particularly in research and education, and evidence-based medicine.

Professor Richard Bailey Scotton, an honorary professorial fellow in the Centre for Health Program Evaluation, was awarded an AO for service to social reform as a leading health economist and policy analyst, particularly through the development of the Medibank scheme.

Brumby launches Monash research institutes

State Treasurer and Minister for State and Regional Development Mr John Brumby launched two new research institutes at Monash last month.

The BHP-Monash Maintenance Technology Institute and the BHP

BRIEFS -

Institute of Railway Technology com-New executives at bine the technical resources of BHP **Monash University** and Monash University to provide a The new pro-vice chancellor for world-class research and development Monash's Gippsland campus and the facility servicing the railway, mining

and heavy engineering industries. The institutes are located at Monash's Caulfield and Clayton campuses and are staffed primarily by former BHP research employees.

BHP managing director and CEO Mr Paul Anderson said the commercial activities undertaken by the institutes would deliver value to BHP and the broader industries involved, and represented a win-win outcome that would strengthen the relationship between industry and academia.

Monash and Oxford Law in agreement

The Monash Law School and the Oxford Institute of Legal Practice in England have entered into a cooperative agreement for a system of staff exchanges and the sharing of experience and materials.

The initiative is intended as a prelude to a worldwide network of highquality legal trainers who prepare lawyers for practice across the globe.

The agreement is being sponsored by the Melbourne office of Minter Ellison and the London firm of Linklaters and Alliance.

See the latest in sustainable energy

The latest developments in renewable energy will be on show at a Sustainable Energy Day, to be held at Monash's Clayton campus on Wednesday 12 July.

Experts from the renewable energy industry and government representatives will speak on the latest projects and policy initiatives in the field.

For more information, contact Dr Ahmad Zahedi on (03) 9905 5957 or email zahedi@eng.monash.edu.au

Support gained for new super mouse house

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The grant was a collaborative ven-ture involving Professor Roger Summers and Dr Andrew Lawrence of the Department of Pharmacology, Dr Andrew Perkins of the Department of Physiology, Professor John Bertram of the Department of Anatomy and Professor Julian Mercer of the Centre

for Cellular and Molecular Biology at Deakin University.

The joint venture will allow the production and breeding of mice in an environment of the highest standard and will ensure that Monash and Deakin researchers remain internationally competitive in the rapidly expanding field of genetic research. It will add to the growing repertoire of biotechnology facilities established at Monash and will allow the development of state-of-the-art models of human disease and development.

Additional Monash Mouseworks funding has been provided jointly by the Faculty of Medicine and the Facilities and Services division at Monash University.



There's a mouse in there: Mouseworks collaborators Professor Julian Mercer (left) from Deakin, and Professor Roger Summers and Dr Andrew Perkins from Monash, with one of the residents of the new super mouse house. Image by Greg Ford.

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E-mail: access_academix@optusnet.com.au Monash expo in South Africa



Monash goes on show: Prospective Students Office manager Ms Caroline Knowles assists a student and his family with course information at the Monash Uni Expo held recently in Johannesburg, South Africa. The expo, designed to provide South African students with an opportunity to meet Monash staff and obtain one-on-one advice on courses available at the new South Africa campus, ran for four days and attracted hundreds of people Interest in the faculties of Arts, Business and Economics and Information Technology was evenly spread among the students, parents and teachers who attended, according to Ms Knowles. Another one-day expo will be held in Johannesburg in October, before the campus opens for business in January.

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Computer models bring Ancient Egypt back to life

BY FIONA PERRY

A Monash archaeology researcher is bringing Ancient Egyptian buildings back to life, using computer-modelling techniques to show how temples and tombs would have looked thousands of years ago.

PhD student Ms Caroline McGregor is using computer modelling and animation software to painstakingly reconstruct the Temple of Tutu, an elaborately decorated temple in the Dakhleh Oasis at Ismant el-Kharab, 800 kilometres southwest of Cairo.

The Temple of Tutu, a temple decorated in a combination of Pharonic and Classical styles, was largely dismantled in antiquity. It is the only temple in Egypt dedicated to the god Tutu, also known as the 'master of demons'.

The Dakhleh Oasis has been inhabited since prehistoric times and the ancient city of Ismant el-Kharab has been the site of ongoing archaeological excavations by a Monash team since 1986.

Ms McGregor, who has undergraduate qualifications in computer science and archaeology, has constructed a three-dimensional virtual model of the temple as it may have looked in the fourth century CE (AD).

A three-minute virtual tour takes visitors through the temple's main gates, through a colonnaded court, past shrines and into the majestic inner temple, allowing for close inspection of the intricate floral and



Archaeologist Ms Caroline McGregor works at Monash's excavation site at the Temple of Tutu at Ismant el-Kharab, Egypt.

geometric patterns decorating the walls.

The reconstruction of the temple is an ongoing process, with new discoveries at the site incorporated into the virtual model, said Ms McGregor.

"The beauty of a virtual model is that it's a non-intrusive, dynamic way of 'restoring' the temple. I can show different stages of the temple's development over time, and test theories of what it would have looked like at different times. It's a constantly evolving project."

Ms McGregor's model displays the temple's array of foreign influences, including styles popular during the Roman empire, which can be seen in stone tombs on the approaches to Rome.

Her next project is to turn the threeminute virtual guided tour into a full virtual reality experience, where visitors will be able to orient themselves and explore freely inside the temple.

She is also working on a virtual reconstruction of ancient tombs that are located on the edges of the site.

"My ultimate aim is to model the major monuments of the site, so that people can get an idea of how it would have felt to walk down the main street of an Ancient Egyptian city," she said.

The temple reconstruction can be viewed at www.arts.monash.edu.au/archaeology/Temple.htm

Exciting find in ancient Kellis

Earlier this year, in a cemetery in Kellis, not far from the ruins of the Temple of Tutu, a team of Australian archaeologists headed by Monash Egyptologist Dr Colin Hope made an exciting discovery.

Buried 20 to 30 centimetres below the surface of an area the archaeologists had been walking over for 20 years was an 'oinochos' or singlehandled glass vessel painted with scenes of gladiatorial combat, dating from the second or third century CE (AD).

According to Dr Hope, director of Monash's Centre for Archaeology and Ancient History, the vessel is an important find, as it is probably the only one of its type in existence with fully preserved gladiatorial scenes.

"This vessel would have been used to hold expensive perfumes in the household of a wealthy person living in the village. It would have been highly prestigious," he said.

Dr Hope said the vessel was probably made in Alexandria, where gladiatorial contests were held during Roman times, and where archaeologists recently unearthed ancient shipwrecks, palaces and pieces from the Pharos, the famous lighthouse of Alexandria.

He will discuss the find at an international conference of archaeologists working in the Dakhleh project to be held at Monash from 9 to 13 August. For more information on the conference, contact Dr Colin Hope at colin.hope@arts.monash.edu.au

This Egyptian glass vessel, dating from Roman times, is "an important and very valuable find", according to Monash Egyptologist Dr Colin Hope.

Mouse spider venom is similar to funnel-web's, researchers discover



Move over funnel-web: The eastern mouse spider's venom is just as dangerous as the funnel-web's, say researchers Mr Lachlan Rash (left) and Dr Wayne Hodgson. Photo by Greg Ford.

BY COREY NASSAU

While the *Geelong Advertiser* once described the eastern mouse spider as a 'vicious beast', and a 'huntsman on steroids', Monash University Venom Group researchers have tossed tabloid hype aside to focus on the complex venom produced by the spider.

Dr Wayne Hodgson and Mr Lachlan Rash, of Monash's Pharmacology department, began researching the spider – missulena bradleyi – after a bite victim had been successfully treated using funnel-web anti-venom.

Similar in appearance to the funnelweb, the mouse spider is usually only one to three centimetres long, and looks aggressive with its stocky appearance, shiny black body and large fangs.

Unlike the highly localised funnelweb, the mouse spider calls much of Australia home, yet is mysteriously absent from Tasmania.

It generally lives in open woodland regions, preferring litter-free ground to dig its burrows, which are usually about 30 centimetres deep and equipped with a well-camouflaged trap door.

"We became interested in the mouse spider because it is very similar in appearance to the funnel-web, and their distribution overlaps. People who are reported to have been bitten by a funnel-web spider, and who respond to funnel-web anti-venom, may well have been bitten by a male mouse spider," Dr Hodgson said.

According to the researchers, the neurotoxins in the eastern mouse spider's venom affect the way in which nerves send messages to the muscles, leading to spontaneous excitations which cause them to contract involuntarily, eventually leading to muscle paralysis and potentially death, if untreated.

Currently, funnel-web anti-venom is only distributed to hospitals in areas where the spider is found. If further testing shows that the neurotoxins in the mouse spider's venom are as similar to those in the funnel-web as expected, then most of the hospitals in Australia would have to carry the antivenom rather than just the few that currently do, said Dr Hodgson.

The two researchers have already characterised the venom and are now working with researchers at the University of Technology in Sydney, who are isolating the toxin from the other components of the venom.

"They have done this type of work with funnel-web venom and are currently trying to chemically characterise it before we make a comparison of the two," Mr Rash said.

"What we have shown in our research is that there is another family of neurotoxins that may eventually prove to be clinically important."

"This is quite a find in pharmacological terms, as we suspect this is the first time a neurotoxin of this sort has been found outside of the funnel-web family," Dr Hodgson said.

Both researchers emphasised that while the mouse spider's venom is potentially lethal, it has caused no known fatalities.

Out of control and loving it - all in the name of science

BY KAY ANSELL

Francesca Collins had an unusual dilemma – how could she terrify people without scaring them into a heart attack? In the interests of science, of course.

As part of her PhD in psychological medicine at Monash University, Ms Collins found herself at St Kilda's Luna Park surveying thrill-seekers about to board the Mad Mouse – an experience guaranteed to make participants feel out of control.

Ms Collins was studying their dissociative response – the way they 'switched

off' in an uncomfortable situation.

According to Ms Collins, 'normal' people dissociate when faced with any-

thing from extreme pain to fear, or even just boredom. Even being absorbed in a task is a type of dissociation, she says.

She hypothesises that a dissociative state can also be prompted by positive experiences if the situation involves a high level of arousal and uncontrollability, like the Mad Mouse ride.

The tendency to dissociation is highly variable and linked to how much control people feel they exercise on the world around them – there are 'high' dissociators and 'low' dissociators and the full range in between

Mad Mouses riders who believe they have a high level of control, for example, may respond by rationalising, telling themselves the carriage won't run off the rails – while the 'low' dissociators do not readily switch off.

Of 111 riders surveyed for their tendency to dissociate, only 17 were interviewed afterwards, based on their responses to the questionnaire.

The questions probed the degree to which the riders had 'switched off' and whether the ride had been a positive experience.

The overwhelming majority answered that they had enjoyed the experience, supporting Ms Collins' theory that arousal and uncontrollability are keys to dissociation, not whether the experience was negative or positive.

Next she will measure dissociation triggered by pain, asking participants to

immerse their arms in very cold water, and by boredom, using repetitive tasks involving nuts and bolts.

Most research into dissociation involves recovery from extreme trauma, she says. "A child subjected to long-term sexual abuse, for example, may switch off to cope."

But Ms Collins wants to study dissociation in 'normal' people. Why? "It's an experience people have that they may consider odd – not normal. It doesn't feel okay when it happens," she says. "But it's an adaptive function in normal people. Every now and then everybody is going to face an overwhelming situation and it's okay for the world to seem very strange."



Ms Francesca Collins. Photo by Greg Ford.

Schools



Year 10 brochure

The Year 10 and Beyond – Entry to Monash University 2003 brochure will be sent to school careers coordinators early in Term 3. The brochure will be in a new and improved format, which we hope will benefit students making decisions for their VCE years.

For more information, contact Ms Sasha de Silva on (03) 9905 3167.

Campus visits

The Prospective Students Office arranges school visits to all Victorian-based campuses of Monash University at no cost to the school. These tours normally include a short talk followed by a tour of the campus, with current uni students acting as hosts. In Term 3, Year 10 groups often visit a campus to see what a university looks like and to get a feel for uni life. Other activities can also be arranged.

For more information, contact Ms Jodie Martin on (03) 9905 3152.

New courses

There will be many new courses on offer at Monash University in 2001. These include:

- Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Information Management and Systems – Caulfield
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science/
 Bachelor of Commerce Clayton
- Bachelor of Business (Law) Caulfield
- Bachelor of Business (Risk Management) – Caulfield
- Bachelor of Business and Commerce – Berwick, Gippsland, Malaysia, Peninsula and South Africa
- Bachelor of Business and Commerce/Bachelor of Network Computing – Peninsula
- Bachelor of Business and Commerce/Bachelor of Sport and Outdoor Recreation – Gippsland
- Bachelor of Communication –
 Berwick
- Bachelor of Design (Multimedia Design) – Caulfield
- Bachelor of Education/Bachelor of Laws – Clayton
- Bachelor of Information Management and Systems/ Bachelor of Education – Clayton and Caulfield
- Bachelor of Multimedia Computing – Berwick and Gippsland
- Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics Clayton
- Bachelor of Sport and Outdoor Recreation – Gippsland
- Bachelor of Telecommunications
 Clayton
- Bachelor of Tourism Berwick
- Diploma in Music Clayton

For more information on these courses, contact the Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 1320.

Technique could detect art fakes

BY KAREN MEEHAN

On the face of it, you wouldn't think that physics and art could have much in common. However, this unlikely alliance, fostered by Monash physicist Dr Gordon Troup, is making major advances in understanding the creation of artworks and, ultimately, in the detection of art fakes.

Dr Troup is heading a team of researchers who are collaborating with art conservation experts from Melbourne University's Ian Potter Museum of Art and physicists from the Florentine Instituto di Richerche sulle Onde Elettromagnetiche in 'fingerprinting' paint pigments back to their geological sources.

The technique is called electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy (EPR), and involves exposing minute pigment samples to a magnetic field in order to isolate their unique combinations of free radical impurities. It was through his research in linking diamonds to their mine sources that

Dr Troup saw the potential for art: "I suddenly realised that the majority of paint pigments were minerals ... I got some samples, and yes ... each had its own particular (bell-shaped) signal. It is precisely because the pigments are coloured that the signals are so strong."

Dr Troup and his team have so far identified more than 40 pigments and their corresponding sources. Lapis lazuli (used for making the deep blues in Renaissance art) from Greenland, for instance, demonstrates a quite different pattern of impurities to samples of the same gem from Afghanistan or Chile. But most significantly, naturally occurring minerals can also be clearly identified from synthetic versions.

The long-term impact of this work on uncovering the history and composition of artworks cannot be underestimated. Dr Troup has already impressed Aboriginal art researchers with his ability to easily distinguish north Australian yellow ochre from its international



Paint 'fingerprinting' research by Dr Gordon Troup (right) and Dr Don Hutton may allow the detection of art fakes. Photo by Greg Ford.

counterparts. "There is great potential for telling whether someone is buying in ochres and imitating Aboriginal paintings or whether they're made here on the spot," he explains.

But there is a fine art to piecing together a painting's history, insists

Dr Troup. It is only through collaboration with conservators that the physicists' squiggles can be given context and meaning. "EPR is just another way of identifying something – to increase the probability of knowing what it is," he says

CD-ROM helps wine industry beat the bugs

BY JULIE RYAN

The Australian wine industry's 'clean and green' philosophy is a major factor contributing to its success in the international market, according to Monash academic Dr Mary Cole.

Dr Cole, coordinator of wine technology and marketing at Monash's Peninsula campus, believes the wine industry's ability to detect diseases early and manage them without using chemical cocktails allows it to consistently meet the EU's tough maximum residue level laws.

"Grape vines are probably the most manipulated type of agricultural crop in terms of care," she explained. "A major characteristic of the industry is vigilance – in most cases vines are monitored on a daily basis. Watering, fertilising and pruning are all regular components of the daily upkeep in a vineyard."

This, according to Dr Cole, means diseases are generally detected early and can be managed using limited amounts of chemicals, allowing wine producers to maintain high-quality



Dr Mary Cole's CD-ROM is helping educate wine-growers. Photo by Greg Ford.

produce and compete at the premium end of the international wine market.

"The industry is very innovative when it comes to disease control. Wine producers limit their use of chemicals to control pests and are very advanced at using organic methods to manage diseases."

Dr Cole is assisting growers with disease control through the develop-

ment of a CD-ROM, *Grapes Bug Match*, which includes biological information on a wide range of pests found in grapes in Australia and New Zealand.

As well as fact sheets, the CD-ROM has more than 300 pictures and photographs of diseases at various stages of development, and recommendations for the management and treatment of

"The main aim of the CD-ROM was to consolidate the massive amount of information that was being released about grape vine diseases into one, easyto-understand medium," she explained.

More than 3500 copies of the *Grapes Bug Match* CD-ROM have been distributed to wine producers in Australia and New Zealand. The second version of the CD-ROM, which will be released in August, will include a section on organic disease control.

"Not only does organic control allow the industry to meet the standards set by the international market place, but it minimises the resistance that diseases often develop to chemical treatments."

The Australian wine industry has already performed beyond its own expectations this financial year, exceeding its annual \$1 billion export target before the year's end.

"The ability to maintain healthy, chemical-free crops will give the industry the competitive edge to continue to expand into the international market place," Dr Cole said.

Dean wins key health role

BY COREY NASSAU

As newly appointed chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Professor Nicholas Saunders is at the helm of Australia's foremost health authority and responsible for the strategic distribution of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The council provides Australian governments with expert advice on a myriad of health issues and ensures that research funds are allocated to appropriate fields to meet the needs of the community.

Professor Saunders, who is dean of Medicine at Monash, is embracing the role as a chance to contribute to an integral part of Australia's future.

"Funding medical research is an investment, and like any investment you need to have a balanced portfolio," Professor Saunders said.

"The role of the NHMRC is to find a balance across the areas of health research and the promotion of health science."

In making decisions on where to direct the funding, the council looks at areas that are of national priority. Past funding has been directed towards furthering research into asthma, injury, cardiovascular disease and mental health.

"It's important to understand that while we control where we place fund-

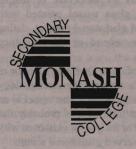
ing, our decisions are always supported with good quality evidence-based research," Professor Saunders said.

"There must be a balance between strategic and investigator-driven research, just as support must be evenly distributed among biomedical, clinical and health services."

On re-appointment to the council is the head of Monash's Physiology department, Professor Warwick Anderson, who returns as chair of the Research Committee.



Professor Nicholas Saunders (right) and Professor Warwick Anderson. Photo by Greg Ford.



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Democracy in the Pacific: not a one-size-fits-all affair

Recent coups in Fiji and the Solomon Islands have highlighted an Australian Government Pacific policy characterised by knee-jerk responses and quick-fix measures. Regional peace and security will be achieved only if the indigenous view is heard in its totality, says Dr Robert Wolfgramm.



In case anyone doubts it, the failure of the Howard Government to respond effectively to Aboriginal reconciliation, to the Solomon crisis, and to the Fijian coup highlights the fact that this government, and perhaps John Howard himself, has a deep and abiding diplomacy problem with the indigenous Pacific - a problem that is manifest as either sustained inaction (eg no Aboriginal apology, no support for the Solomons); delayed action (belated East Timor support and only after bloodshed and a universal outcry); or inappropriate reaction (loud and pompously proposed anti-Fiji sanctions).

The Howard Government appears to be both puzzled by the indigenous Pacific on one hand and inordinately presumptuous of it on the other. We were surprised by the Fiji coup, said Alexander Downer, and then he spoke as if he knew what the situation really was.

... the Australian response to the Pacific is unable to bend to indigenous needs ...

The upshot is that this government seems to regard the indigenous Pacific as either a nuisance problem (which will go away if ignored) or as an endemic problem (which will never go away so there's no point in doing anything substantial about it).

Lacking an adroitness of perspective and broadness of consideration, the Australian Government consequently lacks an adequate response when crises such as Fiji and the Solomons erupt.

One dimension of Australia's problem is policy myopia. Our over-arching orientation to achieving regional stability and security at all costs - or rather, as cheaply as can be gotten - thereby commits the government to glossing over substantive Pacific problems which lie at the heart of long-term solutions. Opportunities to formulate real policy initiatives are therefore lost because the lack of in-depth analysis means no-one recognises the need for them - that is, policy continues to be conceived and spelled out in terms of knee-jerk responses and quick-fix

> If democracy is to flourish in the South Pacific, it must begin among teachers and church and community leaders committed to nurturing it.

The second, more serious problem with Australia's Pacific policy is that it is teleological. Like a punch-drunk boxer, the government, in the words of Paul Simon, "hears only what (it) wants to hear and disregards the rest" ('The Boxer', 1968).

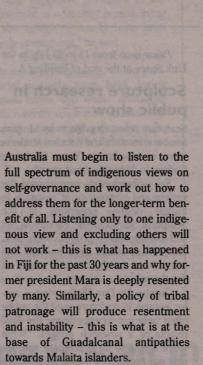
In the Pacific, this is easy: it means that doing the 'cocktail circuit' counts for intelligence-gathering. Local elites are invited along and over drinks plumbed for assessments. These information exchanges are weighted favourably. That elite viewpoints represent a distortion of the indigenous view is played down. After all, surely the educated must know what is going on!

The consequence of this head-tohead diplomacy is that the Australian response to the Pacific becomes predictable and reactionary. And worse, it is mechanistic, narrow and calcified, unable to bend to indigenous needs and unable to gauge the concerns of those outside the official line.

If democracy is to flourish with vigour in the South Pacific, it has to begin in village schools among teachers and church and community leaders committed to nurturing it. If democracy has a place in Pacific soil, if it isn't just another piece of flotsam and jetsam floating in from the West, then it will require an Australian effort every bit as hardy and persistent as that which first brought copra and cane to the islands.

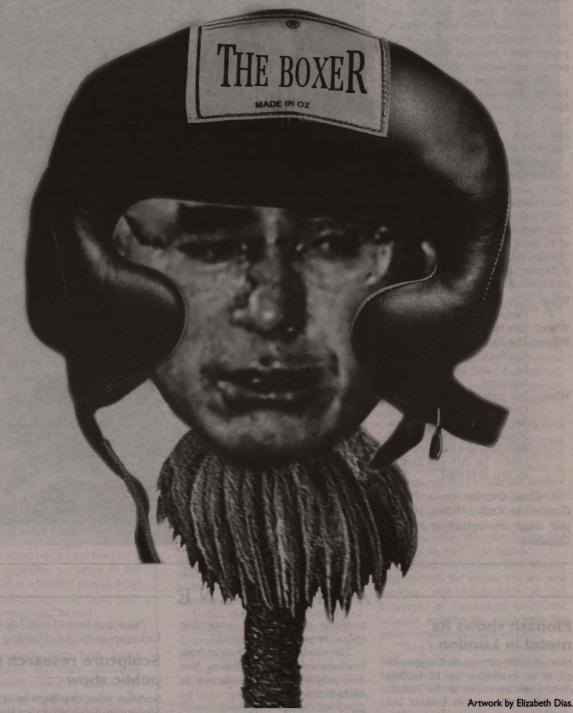
Two matters must be kept in mind. First, Howard and Downer must not impose a one-size-fits-all strain of democracy which is unsuited to the variations of political climate, history and ethnic composition of the different islands.

Second, achieving harmonious domestic relations and regional peace and security will be possible only if the indigenous view is heard in its totality.



In short, it is contradictory for Australia to preach the virtue of democratic values on the one hand, while actually operating under a system of unchallenged patronage and sectionalism inherited from its past colonial approach on the other. Only a newfound ethos of indigenous responsiveness on Australia's part will help change the Pacific culture of cynical indifference to democracy that now pertains and which threatens to unleash more Speights.

Fijian-born Dr Robert Wolfgramm is a lecturer in Monash's School of Political and Social Inquiry. This opinion piece first appeared in The Age.



Gippsland campus to join Victorian education precinct

form part of Victoria's first education strengths in the local infrastructure, precinct, to be built in Churchill and we want kids to feel like they in 2002.

ing for secondary, TAFE, Monash University and Gippsland Group Training students, is a key project of the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Development Fund.

Department of Education, Employment and Training parliamentary secretary Mr Theo Theophanous told the Latrobe Valley Express the proposal had arisen out of concern from the local community and government about high unemployment and low retention rates in schools.

"We hope the precinct becomes an educational solution to problems

Monash's Gippsland campus will in the area," he said. "We have a lot of have a future."

> According to a discussion paper on the project, the benefits of the precinct are a more diverse curriculum, an improved eligibility for funding, improved student welfare, stateof-the-art facilities, efficient staff able to 'cross-fertilise' ideas, the development of new accredited courses, and the ability to be selected for pilot programs and special developments.

> Some of the facilities and infrastructure at Monash's Gippsland campus could also be expanded upon or remodelled as part of the project, the paper said.

Gippsland students show their talents

The creative talents of Monash University's Gippsland students will be showcased at a major exhibition in Melbourne this month.

Gippsland Centre for Art and Design: Selected Works brings together up to 40 works by undergraduate and postgraduate students of sculpture, painting and photography.

The exhibition will run at the Faculty of Art and Design Gallery at Monash's Caulfield campus from 13 to 28 July before moving to the Switchback Gallery at Monash Gippsland from 1 to 10 August.

Gippsland centre head Julie Adams said the show was a fantastic opportunity for an exchange of ideas and experiences between city and country.

"It will allow the students to see their work with new eyes, to take it out of its usual visual context," she said. "It's also valuable experience for them if they're planning to exhibit in the metropolitan area in the future."

What: Gippsland Centre for Art and Design: Selected Works

When: Late July until mid-August
Where: The Faculty Gallery, Monash
Caulfield; Gippsland Centre
for Art and Design, Monash
Gippsland

Who: For gallery opening times, contact the Faculty of Art and Design Gallery, Monash Caulfield, on (03) 9903 2882 and the Gippsland Centre for Art and Design on (03) 5122 6261.

' A Glass Droplet on a Purple Cushion', by Katrina Willett, a third-year visual arts student at Monash Gippsland.



ARTS SCENE

metal in London

Monash University was well represented at an exhibition by 12 leading Australian silversmiths at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London last

Monash shows its

Opened by the Victorian Premier Mr Steve Bracks, the exhibition included the work of two Monash lecturing staff, Marian Hosking and Wayne Guest, and Monash graduate Karl Millard.

In the same week, Australia's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr John Anderson, opened the *Australia 2000* exhibition at London's Lesley Craze Gallery.

Australia 2000 showcased works by 20 silversmiths and jewellers from around Australia, including a group of silver brooches with a botanic reference by Ms Hosking, coordinator of metals and jewellery in Monash's Faculty of Art and Design.

International craft prize for graduate

A Monash graduate has been honoured with a European craft and design award.

Adelaide-based Alisa Dewhurst, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Craft) in 1993 from Monash Peninsula, was one of six young designers awarded the Talente Prize by an international jury in Munich.

international jury in Munich.

"It's a great honour to be selected from among more than 100 entrants from 23 countries," she said. "The stated goal of Talente is to present works of particularly gifted young individuals which must reflect an intensive grappling with both formal and technical

problems and present something unique, surprising and unusual."

The winning craftworks came from Dewhurst's first solo exhibition, *Mon Ami*, exhibited at the Jamfactory in Adelaide last year.

Flying under the influence?

Ever feel you're being watched? Or wonder why your car keys mysteriously disappear overnight?

For Astrid, Beth, Celeste and Max, life is already confusing enough without the arrival of a pair of hard-drinking apprentice fairies in the household. The fun and chaos that ensues is a mixture of poetry, music, film and on-stage action.

Flying Under the Influence is a colourful, fast-moving and humorous play about the unexpected things that can happen when you're young and silly. It's on at the Student Theatre at Monash University's Clayton campus from 19 to 29 July. For details, call Student Theatre on (03) 9905 3108.

Students ponder the passage of time

A new exhibition at Monash Caulfield explores the relationship between photography and time.

Pause, coordinated by lecturer Danielle Thompson, consists of mainly colour work by third-year photomedia students. The exhibition offers some highly personal interpretations of time, ranging from the demolition of a house, old and new cult films and someone's books discarded on a seat in a laundromat.

Pause is on from 13 to 28 July in the Link Space at the end of building A.

Sculpture research in public show

Sculpture research projects by Monash honours, masters and doctoral students were on display at Yarra Sculpture Gallery in Abbotsford last month.

Re – Searchworks represented the variety and complexity of research in higher degree programs in the Sculpture Studio in the Faculty of Art and Design. Some projects were near completion, others were mid-way and some were in their initial stages of development.

Curator Dr Dan Wollmering, a senior lecturer in sculpture, said the public often only got to experience the final results of a research project. "What we're trying to do is promote and display our candidates' research activities and results throughout all stages of studio production," he said.

Singers to perform at two campuses

Viva Voce and the Monash Women's Choir madrigal groups will perform at two Monash campuses later this month.

Conducted by Andre de Quadros and Vivien Hamilton, they will sing a selection of best-loved works, including Afro-American spirituals and Australian composer Stephen Leek's 'Morningtide'.

The performances will be held in the Gallery of the Art and Design faculty at Caulfield on 26 July and in Cossar Hall at Monash Parkville on 28 July

Giving voice to male angst

Male angst is a topic guaranteed to provoke heated debate.

On the one side are those who argue that men have had it good for so long they shouldn't complain.

On the other are people such as sculptor Jon Eiseman, whose masters by research exhibition *Men-tal*, on at Monash's Caulfield campus in early July, explores themes of isolation and alienation he sees as symptomatic of men's social displacement.

"I'd been reading about male angst for a couple of years, and from that started to see common threads," he explained. "Then it was a matter of translating those themes into sculptural works."

Isolation and dislocation are evident in Eiseman's often quirky approach. A series of marching men, and another of men waving semaphore flags, are attempts to convey men's unwillingness to communicate with each other beyond ritualistic levels. 'Pumpkin Man Dreaming' was inspired by a trip to the market and articles about masculine insecurities on the subject of penis enlargement operations.

A sculpture technician in Monash's Faculty of Art and Design, Eiseman said he hoped his work would appeal to women as well.

"It's been a pretty loaded debate," he said. "I think the hardline attitudes – that men are the enemy – are softening. Yes, guys have their problems as well."

What: Men-tal
When: Early July

Where: The Faculty Gallery, Monash University's Caulfield campus

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



'Untitled' attempts to deal with forbidden homoerotic desire.

US honour for Monash potter

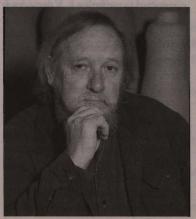
BY KAREN MEEHAN

The Monash Gippsland Centre for Art and Design holds many treasures – and not all of them static objects.

Take Dr Owen Rye, for instance. A potter turned archaeologist turned teacher, he now draws students from across the globe to learn the complex art of wood-fired ceramics.

Dr Rye recently became the first non-US citizen to win the Society for American Archaeology's Award for Excellence in Ceramic Studies 'for his distinguished work in ceramic technology that has influenced an entire generation of American archaeologists'.

Although he has not worked in archaeology since 1980, Dr Rye's ethnographic studies of traditional pottery manufacture in Pakistan, Israel and New Guinea led to his creation of what has become effectively 'the ceramic bible'.



Monash potter and lecturer Dr Owen Rye. Photo by The Visual Resource.

Pottery Technology has been reprinted numerous times since its publication in 1980, and 20 years later still sells as many copies as it did when first released. "It was a book that summarised everything I had learnt in the previous 10 years," comments the author.

Although he enjoyed a distinguished archaeological career, Dr Rye maintains that he entered the field "accidentally", when the German engineer Hans Wulff was seeking a ceramicist to accompany him to Pakistan for a study of traditional crafts.

Dr Rye was offered a postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution in 1971, and became prominent in the style of 'ethnographic recording' popular at the time.

With his intimate knowledge of pottery production, Dr Rye offered archaeologists an invaluable insight into the processes of the past by carefully studying traditional potting as it was then still being practised in existing communities. Although archaeologists use pottery as an important tool for understanding past cultures, rarely are they directly involved in its manufacture.

But as his archaeological career became more and more involved in statistics and less and less with the pottery he loved, Dr Rye sought a move. "I longed to return to my original interest, which was making ceramics as an artform," he says.

Since 1985, against the backdrop of the ancient Strzelecki Mountains, Dr Rye has been quietly passing on his unique skills to a new generation of potters.

Book reveals complexities of inter-religious marriages

BY PETA KOWALSKI

Married Muslim Christian couples seem to be the most rejected minority on the West Bank – more than any other minority around – yet they continue to marry.

Monash senior research fellow and social psychologist Dr Abe Ata observed the trend while teaching on the Palestinian side of Jerusalem in 1997 and 1998.

Research undertaken by Dr Ata on marriage between Palestinian Muslims and Christians has resulted in his ninth book, *Intermarriage Between Christians* and Muslims.

During his two years in Jerusalem, he surveyed 120 couples in such marriages from the West Bank's main centres, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Ramallah.

According to Dr Ata, the trend of inter-marriage between Muslims and Christians seems to have emerged from the complex political, economic and cultural environment of the West Bank.

"Christian males are leaving the West Bank at a rate five times greater than that of Muslim males. As well, travel between the three main centres is so restricted that it is almost impossible for Muslim relatives to arrange meetings between potential marriage partners," he said.

"It is an extremely difficult choice – either marry someone from outside your religion or remain single, which is not desirable."

Dr Ata's findings reveal the complexities and stresses of everyday life in inter-religious marriages. For example, which religion will the children follow, which group does the family identity with – Muslim, Christian, Arab or Palestinian, and will the marriage ever be accepted by society?

He also found that inter-religious couples, most of which consisted of Muslim husbands and Christian wives, were isolated from their communities.



Dr Abe Ata. Photo by Christopher Alexander.

Those marriages comprising Muslim wives and Christian husbands, a rare occurrence, were even more reclusive.

"Where do these people belong in society?" asks Dr Ata. "These couples seem to be rejected more than any other minority around. You have to admire them in a way."

Dr Ata's interest in inter-religious issues stems from his upbringing in Bethlehem. His mother was a Palestinian Christian and his father a Lebanese Christian whose family had converted to Christianity two centuries earlier.

It was a childhood spent very much growing up as a member of a minority within a minority. His father was seen as an intruder in the Palestinian community, his family was Christian within the Muslim majority, and there was the feeling of being a minority within the Jewish state.

"It is an inter-marriage of the disciplines of social psychology and Middle Eastern sociology that has me constantly dabbling in inter-religious issues," he said.

Concept car to visit Monash

Australia's first concept car, a promotional project involving government, designers and the local automotive industry, will be at Monash University in late July.

Launched three years ago, the aXcess australia car was developed by 130 component companies to show-case their abilities to the world's leading carmakers. Suppliers involved with the project earned more than \$700 million in export orders as a direct result of the global marketing campaign.

The success of the first project has spurred work on a second environmentally friendly concept vehicle.

The concept car will be on show in the Faculty of Art and Design building at Monash's Caulfield campus on 20 and 21 July as part of the Design Institute of Australia's Forum lecture series.

It will return to Monash campuses in early August for Monash Open Day.



Concerts celebrate genius of Bach

Monash University will reverberate with the soaring sounds of Bach later this month at a concert series commemorating the 250th anniversary of his death.

The series will open at 8.45 pm on 28 July with a special performance of Bach's 'Mass in B minor' at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne. The date and starting time of the performance mark the exact time of Johann Sebastian Bach's death 250 years ago.

Another seven concerts will be staged at the Robert Blackwood

Concert Hall on Monash's Clayton campus on 29 and 30 July.

The series is being presented by the non-profit Melbourne Early Music Festival in association with Monash, and features internationally renowned performer and official Monash University organist John O'Donnell as a performer and director.

Also featured will be Concentus Australis, Ensemble Gombert and a host of talented individual singers and musicians.

The seven Monash concerts each have their own focus: Secular Bach,

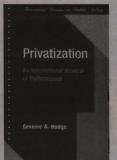
Mendelssohn plays Bach in Leipzig, Trio Sonatas a 2 and the Brandenburg Concertos 6, 4 and 1, plus Magnificat on 29 July; and Harpsichords Galore, Two Solo Cantatas, and the Brandenburg Concertos 5, 3 and 2, plus Ascension Oratorio on 30 July.

What: Bach 250th Commemoration

When: 28 to 30 July
Where: St Patrick's Cathedral,
Melbourne; Robert Blackwood
Concert Hall, Monash

University (Clayton)
Who: For bookings, call the Monash
Box Office on (03) 9905 1111.





Privatization: An International Review of Performance

Graeme Hodge Published by Westview RRP: \$49.95

Over the past two decades, a series of reforms has flowed through the public sector of many Western nations as governments attempt to improve produc-

tivity and reduce costs by contracting out public services and privatising public enterprises.

In *Privatization*, Hodge argues that although these reforms can lead to modest gains, there are many drawbacks. Through the examination of hundreds of international studies on the performance of privatisation activities, Hodge aims to provide a measured review of privatisation's winners and losers.

Dr Graeme Hodge is director of research at the International Centre for Management in Government at Monash Mt Eliza Business School, Monash University.



Lance Comfort: British Film Makers

Brian McFarlane Published by Manchester RRP: \$29.95

A film-maker for more than 25 years, Lance Comfort has been one of the most unjustly neglected directors in British film history, argues a new book by Monash academic and film critic Brian McFarlane.

Thoroughly researched, the text provides a detailed discussion of Comfort's major works, from his apprenticeship in the 1930s and dominance of film-making in the 1940s, to his eventual obscurity 20 years later. *Lance Comfort* is a book that will appeal to students, researchers and lovers of British film.

Associate Professor Brian McFarlane is an honorary research associate in the English department at Monash University.



Security Over Intangible Property

Jacqueline Lipton
Published by LBC Information Services
RRP: \$100

Security Over Intangible Property is a groundbreaking study of the application of existing law to new forms of property such as trade marks, internet domain names and company secrets.

Author Jacqueline Lipton concludes that adapting existing strategies for new situations is not

always a satisfactory option, instead examining and discussing a variety of new strategies aimed at obtaining and enforcing security over intangible property.

Jacqueline Lipton lectures in banking and finance law in Monash's Faculty of Law, and was the associate director of the faculty's Banking Law Centre.

POSTS CILLIE

Monash law graduate John Spooner has recently published A Spooner in the Works, a collection of inventive, witty and satirical cartoons on a wide range of issues. To purchase the book, contact Emily Booth on (03) 9926 4862.

Dr Barry Goss, a reader in economics at Monash University, has edited *Models* of *Future Markets*, which provides new analysis and evidence on the issues of welfare, rationality and integrity in futures markets.

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

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New technique shows origin of Earth's metals

BY COREY NASSAU

Researchers at Monash University's Australian Crustal Research Centre have made a discovery that could have important implications for pinpointing the location of large deposits of metals.

While the Earth's crust had previously been thought to be the source of most metals, new findings suggest that they originate much deeper – in the mantle.

A new geodynamic tracing technique has shown that the metal in many ore deposits is brought to the surface during volcanic events, caused by the collision of large pieces of the Earth's crust.

Dr Jannene McBride, a research fellow with the centre, has played an integral part in the research, which has been a collaborative effort between Monash and the CSIRO.

"We are trying to understand where the metals in large metal ore deposits comes from and why they form large deposits. If we can develop an understanding of these issues, it will aid in the exploration for new ore deposits," Dr McBride said.

To achieve this, Dr McBride and her team have spent considerable time studying the giant Ladolam gold deposit in Papua New Guinea, deemed suitable for the research as it sits above what is known as a subduction zone.



Most metals originate in the Earth's mantle, not its crust, says researcher Dr Jannene McBride. Photo by Greg Ford.

"A subduction zone can best be described as the structure that is formed after plates collide and old crust is forced down into the earth,"

'According to Dr McBride, the formation of volcanic chains above subduction zones is directly related to the movement of fluids released from the subducting oceanic crust as it heats up. Often, large deposits of metals are found in parts of these volcanic chains.

"The sea-floor volcanoes near the Ladolam gold deposit brought pieces of deep crust and mantle to the surface that was suitable for us to study.

"Many of the mantle rocks were found to be highly veined, and we were able to show that these veins contained as much as 800 times the gold and copper as the surrounding mantle."

Based on their success to date, the Australian Crustal Research Centre is continuing to develop exploration models for ore deposits around the globe.

The research forms part of the centre's 'Mountains and Metals' initiative, investigating the link between mountain belts and metals to understand why some parts of the Earth are more metallogenically fertile.

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MONASH

Research offers hope for our damaged wetlands

BY JOSIE GIBSON

A major research project by Monash and Victoria universities has pinpointed the causes of toxic algal blooms that periodically devastate Australian wetlands.

Scientists blame excessive levels of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus for fuelling rapid surface growth of algae, enabling them to dominate and kill off the native aquatic plants below. The nutrients arrive in a variety of forms – as fertiliser, feedlot or dairy farm runoff and stormwater from urban areas.

The findings have major implications for managing Australia's dwindling number of native wetlands and watercourses used for farming, industry and recreation.

The research is being carried out by Dr Paul Bailey from Monash's Biological Sciences department, Dr Paul Boon from the Life Sciences school at Victoria University, and Monash colleagues Dr Kay Morris and Ms Lisa Hughes. The three-year project has been funded by the National Wetlands Research and Development Program of Environment Australia and the Federal Government's Land and



Water Resources Research Development Corporation.

"Algae are very efficient at blanketing the water and virtually suffocating everything below them – they're very competitive," Dr Bailey said.

To test their hypotheses, the researchers built isolated pools in a wetland in Shepparton in central Victoria and subjected them to various treatments: low, moderate and high amounts

of nutrients; removal of aquatic plants; and no treatment at all. Impacts on aquatic plants and algae were closely monitored.

Wetlands destroyed by algal blooms are easy to spot – unattractive lakes or streams blanketed by dense mats of algae choking everything beneath. Water plants die and the water quickly becomes muddied as banks erode.

Algae's takeover is aided by the fact that as other aquatic plants die, they too release nutrients into water, fuelling further algal growth.

Massive algal blooms have practical as well as ecological and aesthetic consequences. Last summer, for example, a national triathlon event near Shepparton had to be cancelled because of a major bloom on Kialla Lakes.

As the project continues, Dr Bailey and his colleagues have been explaining their findings to resource managers at workshops around Victoria.

"Managers require tools so they can manage these wetlands better," he said. "We're providing them with knowledge and solutions to some of these problems."

The final stage of the project will focus on finding ways to successfully rehabilitate degraded wetlands.

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