

Monash Reporter

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Monash sets up Spanish connection

A PROPOSAL to formalise research links between one of the oldest universities in Spain, the Universidad Complutense, and Monash University has been approved by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.

The establishment of a sister university agreement would cement existing links between the two universities, as well as open up new opportunities for an exchange of staff and students.

Negotiations between the two universities have already commenced and it is hoped an agreement will be signed later this year.

According to Mr Alun Kenwood, senior lecturer in the Spanish Department, the Universidad Complutense in Madrid is one of the two most prestigious universities in Spain. It has about 140,000 students and teaches from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"It has a very active and internationally respected research profile in many disciplines and would offer Monash the opportunity to conduct research programs of mutual interest in a wide range of fields," he said.

While the agreement would officially link Monash with the Universidad Complutense, research and teaching contacts have existed between the two universities for more than 10 years.

Dr Dianne Bradley, of the Department of Psychology, has worked in collaboration with Jose Garcia-Albea of the Complutense Department of Psychology since 1977.

The two met while at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where Dr Bradley, then a graduate student, and later a postdoctoral fellow, worked with Professor Garcia-Albea for two years on cross-language studies of human language processing.

Dr Bradley visited Professor Garcia-Albea at the Complutense in 1983 and again in 1987, to give talks and to consult with his research group on their common research interests.

As a result of Dr Bradley's first visit, Rosa Sanchez-Casas, who had obtained a Masters Degree under Professor Garcia-Albea in Spain, came to Monash as a PhD student in 1984, returning to the Complutense in 1988 as a postdoctoral fellow.

"During that time, Professor Garcia-Albea visited the Department of Psychology to work collaboratively with us since a lot of work in Rosa's PhD thesis and in other research projects depended on experiments run in parallel at

Monash and Madrid," Dr Bradley said.

"Another Monash PhD candidate from this research group, Christopher Davis, recently took up a one-year postdoctoral appointment at the Complutense."

Monash senior lecturer in the Department of Classical Studies, Dr Alba Romano, also taught at the Complutense while on an Outside Studies Program (OSP) in 1988 and returned in January this year to give further lectures.

"I feel I have an open invitation to go back any time. There is an enormous amount of interest in invited specialists and education generally," she said.

"Public and specialist lectures often attracted audiences of 700 or more. The university actively encouraged international research co-operation by offering substantial grants to visiting academics on OSP to top-up their salaries."

For the last eight years, Monash and Auckland universities have conducted an intensive one-month language course in Madrid for undergraduate students. The course consists of four hours of language classes five days a week, with general lectures each afternoon on contemporary Spanish culture and society.

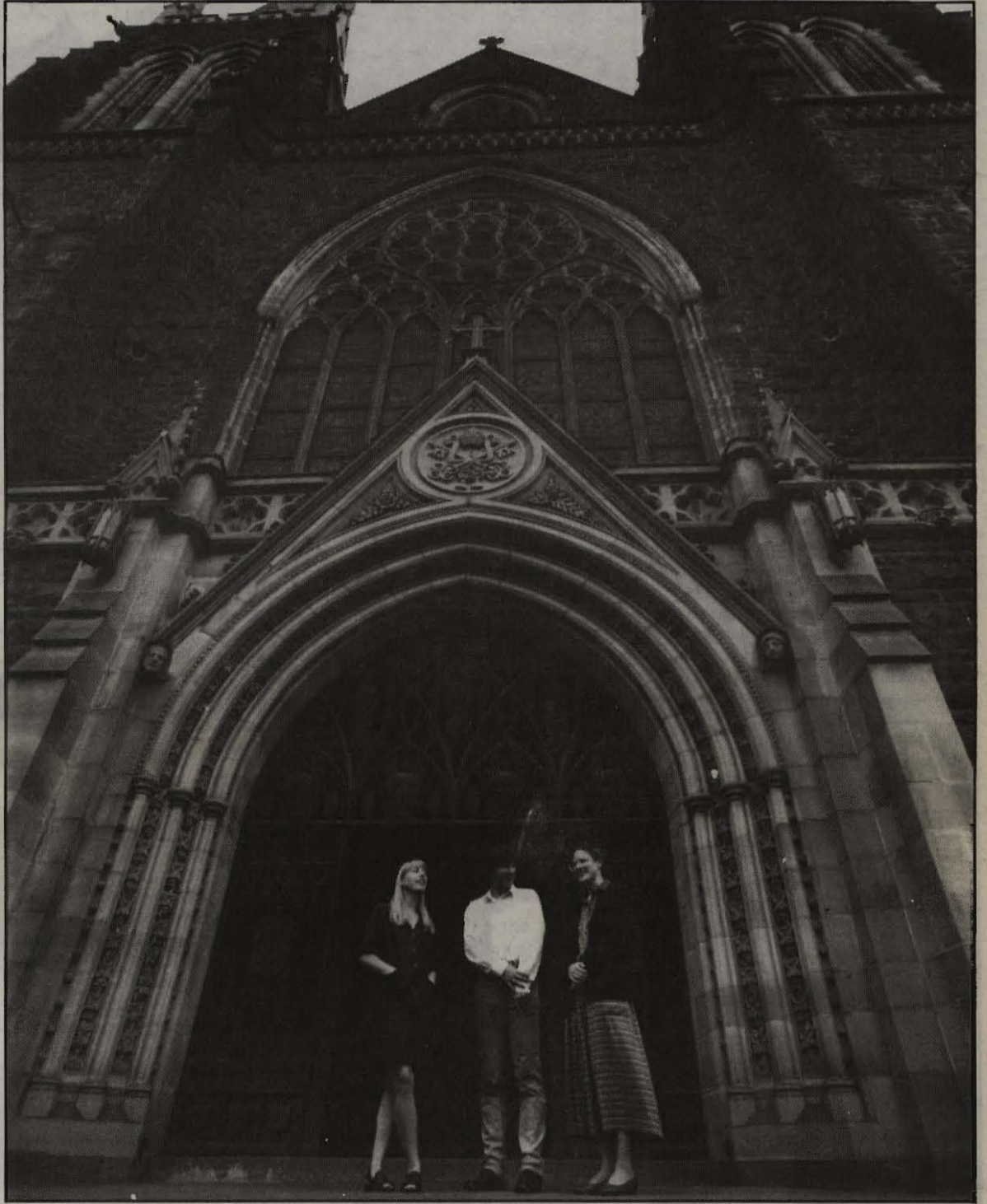
Mr Kenwood said about 40 students from the two universities, as well as from other Australian institutions and the general public, attend the course in Madrid each year.

"The course is an accredited part of their Monash degree and involves regular written work and a formal examination at the end," he said.

Mrs Sonia Lewin-Poole, who attended the course in January, said the contact with Spanish university students and the intensive language tuition was very rewarding.

She particularly appreciated the close links established between the student group and the school of social sciences, the weekend excursions and the regular visits to the theatre and live shows that formed an integral part of the cultural component of the course.

Any academic interested in establishing research links with the Universidad Complutense should in the first instance contact Mr Alun Kenwood on ext 2265.



Pausing before the entrance to St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, are second-year Visual Arts student Catriona Anderson (left), senior lecturer in Visual Arts, Dr Conrad Hamann, and Deakin University lecturer, Dr Ursula de Jong. Picture: Tony Miller.

Students create history

MONASH University scooped the Alexander Sutherland Prize for Historical Research into the Built Environment awards last month, taking out both the postgraduate and undergraduate sections of the competition.

Dr Ursula de Jong collected the major prize while Catriona Anderson, a second year Visual Arts student, was a joint winner in the undergraduate section.

The Alexander Sutherland Prize was established in 1988 by the Historical Buildings Council to foster research into the history of the built environment.

It is named after Alexander Sutherland, a 19th century journalist, schoolmaster, poet and historian. He is most widely known as the principal author of the two volume work, *Victoria and its Metropolis*, which is one of the basic sources for historians of the built environment in Australia.

Dr de Jong, now a Deakin University lecturer, won \$2500 for her doctoral dissertation titled *From England to Australia: The Archi-*

ecture of William Wilkinson Wardell (1823-1899).

The dissertation, which has been eight years in the making and taken her as far as England and Scotland, documents Wardell's English designs and examines selected examples from his vast Australian work.

"The thesis explores the implications of Wardell's contribution to both ecclesiastical and secular architecture of the 19th century in Britain and Australia," Dr de Jong said.

As part of the research, Dr de Jong visited the United Kingdom in 1984 and spent a month in London and Scotland finding the remainder of Wardell's Gothic Revival churches.

His more famous Australian works include St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, St Mary's

Church in East St Kilda, St Ignatius in Richmond, Government House, The ANZ Gothic Bank on the corner of Collins and Queens Streets and The Union Club in Bligh Street, Sydney.

Catriona Anderson wrote an essay for her second-year Australian Architecture subject titled *Robin Boyd and the Italianate Style: A Critical Account*.

She shared the first prize of \$1500 for the undergraduate sections with final-year Deakin University student, Diahnn McIntosh.

Dr Conrad Hamann, a senior lecturer in the Visual Arts Department, said the awards were a pleasing recognition of Monash's involvement in public debate and investigation of Australian architecture.

"I was delighted with both awards; Catriona's because it was a new approach developed quickly and Ursula's because it was a reward for a colossal amount of work over a number of years," he said.



Monash academics already boasting links with the Universidad Complutense are (from left to right), Dr Dianne Bradley, Dr Alba Romano, Mr Alun Kenwood and Mrs Sonia Lewin-Poole.

Studying errors from the past

LITTLE do they know it, but those people in the habit of correcting mistakes in books are following an age-old custom.

Post impression correction, to give the practice its proper name, is the term used to describe the last-minute amendments that were made by authors and printers to the text of a book after it had been printed.

According to Monash PhD student Brian Gerrard, who is looking at the practice in Great Britain during the 18th century, such panic resulted from the way in which writers approached the publishing process.

"Sometimes an author would not bother to check if the proofs of his book were correct, and often got a fright when he saw his words in print," Mr Gerrard said.

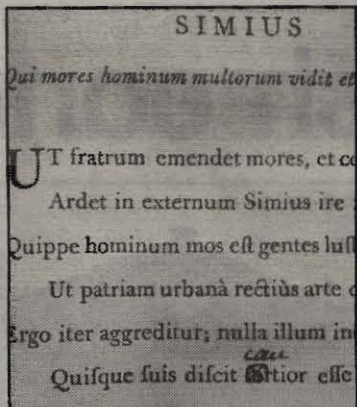
Other than the simple typographical error, the reasons for altering hundreds of books were usually political or personal.

But in those days, paper was expensive. It was cheaper to cross out a word, add a new one, or even rip out an entire leaf, than to print another edition.

"Many books were corrected in bizarre ways — in some cases often as much as a quarter of a book or more was altered. It's fascinating to find out why they required correction in the first place and to resolve what happened in the process.

"Sometimes only a few books of a particular print run were changed, and in other cases, hundreds."

A clinical biochemist by training,



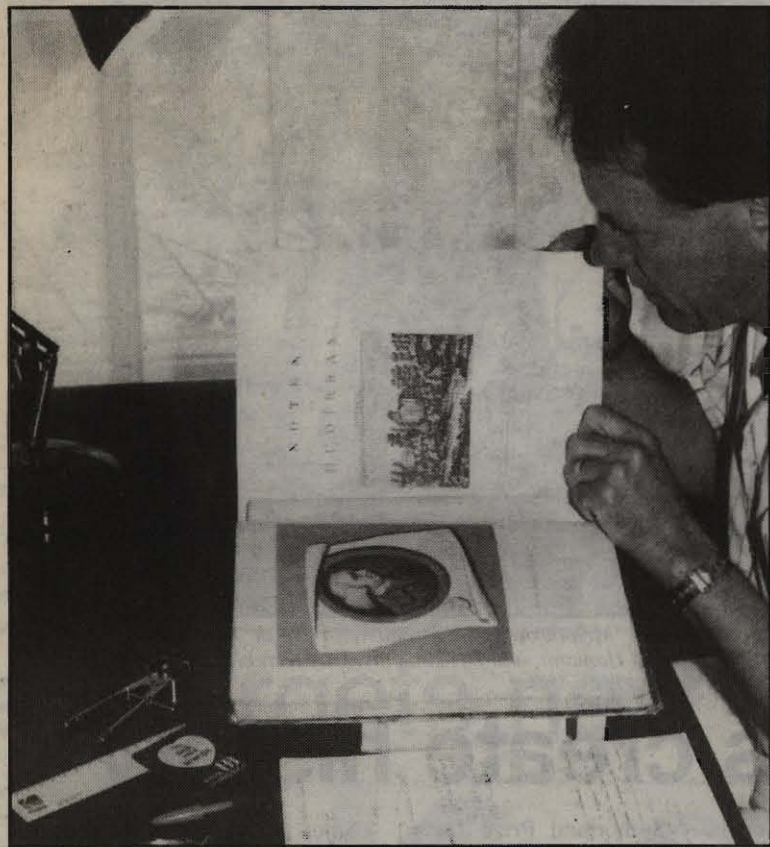
A typical post impression correction, this one from *Fabulae Selectae* by John Gay (translated and altered by Christopher Anstey).

Mr Gerrard became interested in the phenomenon when he began collecting 18th century books.

And now his curiosity has led to his selection as an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow, an award that will allow him to spend a month at one of the world's great research libraries, the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

The Huntington reputedly has the largest collection of 18th century books in the United States.

During his stay there, Mr Gerrard will be "looking at everything from single elementary manual correction to the instances when an author totally changed a page."



Brian Gerrard on the trail of revisionists.



Dr Jayaram from St John Ambulance demonstrates a first aid technique on patient Paul Mechelen, a gardener at Monash.

First aid at work

THE Occupational Health and Safety Branch (OHS), in conjunction with the St John Ambulance service will conduct a four-day Level 3 first aid course in May.

It is anticipated the course will be offered only once this year. Level 3 trained first aiders are required where first aid rooms exist (under the Code of Practice "First Aid in the Workplace", section 7.4).

It is also recommended that

departments have at least one Level 3 first aider in areas where staff are regularly working with chemicals or where there is a high risk of traumatic injury, such as in laboratories, workshops and kitchens.

The course will be specifically tailored to meet the needs of the participants with respect to the hazards in their work places. Pre-requisite for the Level 3 course is a current Level 2 Basic First Aid certificate, although SRNs and medical practi-

tioners may be exempt from this.

The OHS Branch recently ran Level 2 first aid courses and have planned a further four to be held in June, August, October and November-December. At the Level 1 standard, two training sessions are planned for June and September.

In 1989 about 230 Monash staff were trained by St John Ambulance to Level 1 and 2 standard.

For further information about the courses contact Denise Mudie on ext 5006.

New master for college

THE Synod of the Uniting Church has appointed Dr Alan Gregory as Master of Ormond College at Melbourne University.

Dr Gregory is presently head of the Social, Administrative, Comparative and Policy Studies division in the Education Faculty at Monash.

Since taking up a full-time lectureship at Monash in 1969, Dr Gregory has developed an international reputation in the field of economic education.

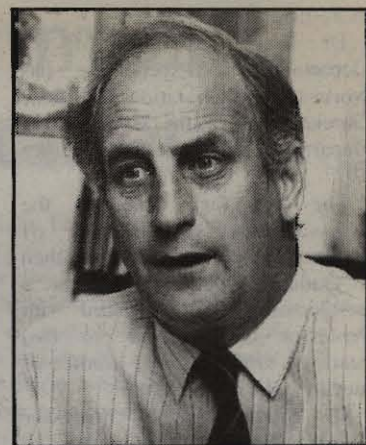
He has been involved in the training of economics and commercial teachers, is the author of a number of economics books, and was actively involved in school economics and commercial curricula.

He also lectured in curriculum theory, social education and was involved in a number of major research projects, many of them relating to disabled young people and their employment prospects.

Dr Gregory has held a number of positions at Monash including Sub Dean of the Education Faculty, chairman of the Main Library Users' Committee and of various course committees.

He has been chairman of the Sir Robert Menzies Lecture Trust since its inception in 1978 and is also well known for his conducting of the Education Faculty Choir, which for the last 10 years has held an annual Christmas carol singing in the Religious Centre.

In January 1989, he was made a



Dr Alan Gregory

Member of the Order of Australia "for services to education and the community".



Careers and Appointments manager, Bryan Barwood, talks to students from Fintona Girls School about courses available at Monash.

Joint effort at careers show

SECONDARY and tertiary students were able to explore a wide range of career options and talk face-to-face with employers at the Graduate Careers Show.

The show, held at the Royal Exhibition Building from 5 to 7 April, included some of Australia's largest companies and major tertiary institutions which recruit graduates and school leavers.

Monash University combined with Chisholm and Gippsland institutes in one stand this year, so students could get a better picture of the wide range of courses and programs which would be available when the three institutions merge on 1 July.

According to Careers and Appointments manager, Bryan Barwood, the show attracted a far

higher proportion of Year 12 students than undergraduate students in tertiary institutions.

"Several school excursions to the show took place on the second day and the opportunity for discussion with careers teachers was valuable. The Saturday attracted a mix of many school students, parents and teachers," he said.

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Information Office
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Monash University
Wellington Road
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New technique proposed for women's surgery

WOMEN with severe menstrual problems may soon be able to avoid having a hysterectomy if new laser and electrical surgery proves successful.

The Menstrual Management Service based at the Monash Medical Centre is one of the few centres in Australia which is researching the new surgical treatment.

Professor David Healy, of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, said surgery using lasers and resections could provide a superior treatment to hysterectomy with few side effects, less discomfort and a shorter stay in hospital.

While hysterectomy involves the removal of the womb, the use of lasers or electrical resectoscopes removes only the lining of the womb leaving the uterus intact.

"It is a relatively simple operation when compared to hysterectomy and is in keeping with the demand by women to have more attention paid to preserving their uterus and genital organs as much as possible," Professor Healy said.

"The operation takes less than an hour and patients can go home the same day or the next morning and resume normal activities almost immediately. Women who have a hysterectomy have to stay in hospital six days and the convalescence period could take six weeks."

The operation can be performed using either of two methods. The laser method uses a very fine beam

of light which is drawn across the lining of the uterus (the endometrium) to vaporise target cells. The electro-cautery method uses a resectoscope to remove the lining with a fine cutting action.

Both treatments make use of an instrument called the hysteroscope, which is passed through the cervix into the hollow cavity of the uterus. The laser is passed through the hysteroscope which focuses and concentrates the beam to the desired diameter. With the electro-cautery method the same hysteroscope is used but instead of a laser an electrical current is used to cut away the lining of the uterus.

The operation was pioneered in the United States 10 years ago but Australia has been slow to make use of the new laser technology. As a result, hysterectomy has been the traditional surgical treatment for women who have heavy periods or menorrhagia.

(Menorrhagia is a very common gynaecological problem where nine to 14 per cent of otherwise healthy women have an increased mean menstrual blood loss greater than 80 mls per menstrual period.)

Australia has the highest rate of hysterectomy per 100,000 women in the world. Yet despite being one of the most common surgical opera-

tions performed on women, it is estimated that about 25 to 50 per cent of patients will sustain complications, even in experienced surgical hands. Although most complications are mild, haemorrhage, pelvic infection, sepsis and urinary tract injuries have been reported.

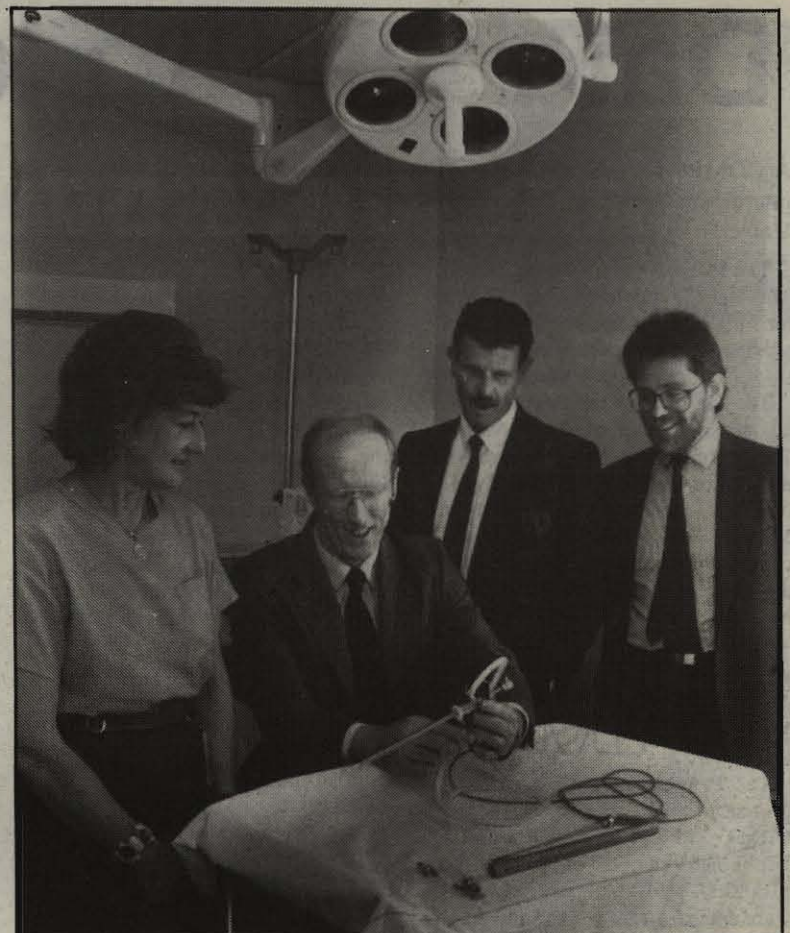
Moreover, significant psychological and social problems may follow hysterectomy including sexual dysfunction, loss of self-esteem and alteration in a women's perception of her own femininity.

In addition to the significant impact on the health of women, hysterectomy operations cost the taxpayer dearly.

The public health annual cost, estimated by Medicare benefits, exceeds \$210 million a year. Many believe this to be a conservative figure as it does not include operations performed by local practitioners and other health personnel outside the public and private hospitals.

While an alternative to hysterectomy is obviously desirable, there is still not enough proof that the new surgical operations do indeed improve the health of women.

The Monash research team has established a women's register which will record the menstrual history of women who take part in the study. The register will enable doctors to follow more closely the effects of the operation on the patient.



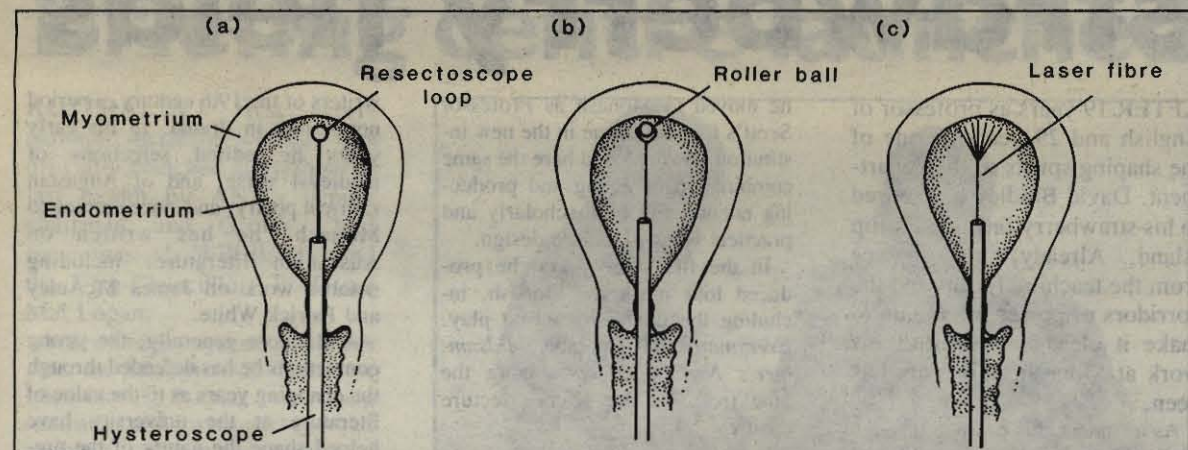
The Menstrual Management Service Team (from left to right), Sr Pam Mammers, Professor David Healy (sitting), Dr David Hill and Dr Anthony Lawrence display the hysteroscope used in the new surgical treatment.

"We are planning to run the register for three years after which time we will be able to determine whether the operation has been successful or not," Professor Healy said.

"While assuming there are no bad effects from the treatment, and the overseas work suggests there are

not, the register enables us to act in a watchdog manner and to pick up any difficulties from an early stage."

For more information about the Menstrual Management Service, contact Sister Pam Mammers in the Monash University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on 550 5387 or 550 1111.



(a) Mechanical method of endometrial resection using a resectoscope. The electro-coagulation loop is used to remove or plough several furrows of the endometrium.

(b) Roller-ball method of endometrial resection using the resectoscope. The endometrium is destroyed by rolling the coagulating ball over it like a paint-roller.

(c) Hysteroscopic photo-ablation using an argon laser. The laser destroys the endometrium by vaporisation.

Artwork: Sue Simpson

Law targets next century

THE Canadian Consul, Mr Graham Rush (pictured centre) speaks to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan (right) and the director of the Graduate School of Management, Professor Alan Fels at a reception to mark the award of this year's Canada-Australia Bicentennial Institutional Research Award to a research team co-ordinated by senior lecturer in Law, Mr Rick Krever.

The Canadian annual award of \$25,000 was launched in 1988 to be granted each year for five years. The Monash-led group won the award for their proposal of a comparative study on the legal structures of Canada and Australia on the threshold of the 21st century.

"More than any two countries, Canada and Australia have a common underlying temperament and empathy which makes it easy for them to talk to each other. And there are so many areas of common experience and policy challenge that beg comparing notes," Mr Rush said.



Mr Krever said the study would target several areas which would be particularly relevant to the two countries in the next century. These included companies and securities regulation, industrial relations, human rights, environmental law, constitutional law and taxation and social security law.

In each area, noted experts would research and prepare discussion papers which would be presented at a symposium in June 1991 at the Osgoode Law School in Toronto, Canada. The papers together with the resulting discussion would then be edited into a book to be published in both countries, he said.

Studying the impact of sleeping tablets

AS people age the pattern of their daily biological (circadian) rhythms begins to change. For instance, elderly people may not sleep as long at night and take naps during the day.

Although it is a normal part of the process of ageing, for some this disturbance of the normal pattern of sleep is inconvenient, and they take sleeping tablets to help them cope. But little is known about how sleeping pills actually affect biological rhythms.

In order to investigate this interaction, researchers in the Monash Psychology department are planning a study of the circadian rhythms of two groups of people over the age of 65; those who use sleeping tablets and those who do not.

Research co-ordinator Mrs Carol Smith, says: "Sleeping tablets induce sleep, but they also may affect the timing of sleep. We want to see whether the tablets also shift sleep patterns as measured by changing levels of the hormones, melatonin and cortisol."

The group is looking for volunteers over the age of 65 and who still live at home to take part in the study. Participation will not involve any discomfort.

One day a week for six weeks, volunteers will be asked to fill in a diary of when they sleep, and also to record if and when they took their sleeping pill. During a 24-hour period, they will also be expected to collect saliva six times; at noon; at 4 p.m.; half an hour after going to bed; in the middle of the night; when they get up in the morning; and two hours later.

In addition for five days of one week, those-taking part will be re-

quested to keep a diary of daily activity.

From the saliva samples, the researchers will be able to track the levels of melatonin and cortisol through waking and sleeping hours. And the diaries will help them determine how active each participant is and how much exposure to daylight they are likely to have. (Daylight is important in helping to set the circadian pattern).

"If those taking part find they have any problems with the study they will be under no pressure to continue. We are easy to contact and are happy to talk to people about the project at any time," Mrs Smith said.

For further information or to volunteer, contact Mrs Carol Smith on (03) 565 3957.

Appointment

THE director of the university's National Centre for Cross-cultural Studies in Law, Ms Greta Bird, has been appointed a part-time member of the Law Reform Commission.

Ms Bird, whose appointment was announced recently by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, Mr Lionel Bowen, will work on a multicultural reference during her term, which will end on 30 September 1991.

Ms Bird is the author of *The Process of Law in Australia: Intercultural Perspectives*, which was written with the aim of helping to change the bias of legal education, and to encourage changes in the legal process itself.

Database to keep tabs on plastics

A COMPUTER database providing information on plastics and their interaction with the environment is to be established at Monash University.

The Monash Centre for Advanced Materials Technology (CAMT) and the Plastics Industry Association (PIA) recently signed a contract to set up and operate the system.

The chairman of the Environmental Action Group of the PIA, Mr Tony Rogers and the executive director of the PIA, Ms Susan Ryan, officially launched the project at Monash last month by signing a contract document with managing director of Montech, Dr Paul Hudson.



The PIA handed over a \$51,430 cheque to initiate the project, but the CAMT will receive funding over a 12 month period in excess of \$100,000. This will pay for software and hardware items, rented accommodation in the Faculty of Engineering and staff to abstract publications, input data and conduct searches for the PIA and its member companies.

Abstracts of papers and publica-

tions concerned with the environmental effects of plastics and competitive materials will be stored on the data base.

The data base system will use the AIRS software package for local storage, but a significant portion of the search capability will be via links to the major overseas data bases, environmental and materials.

According to Ms Ryan, the project will contribute to the public's understanding of plastics by providing access to comprehensive information on plastic products, technologies and recycling techniques.

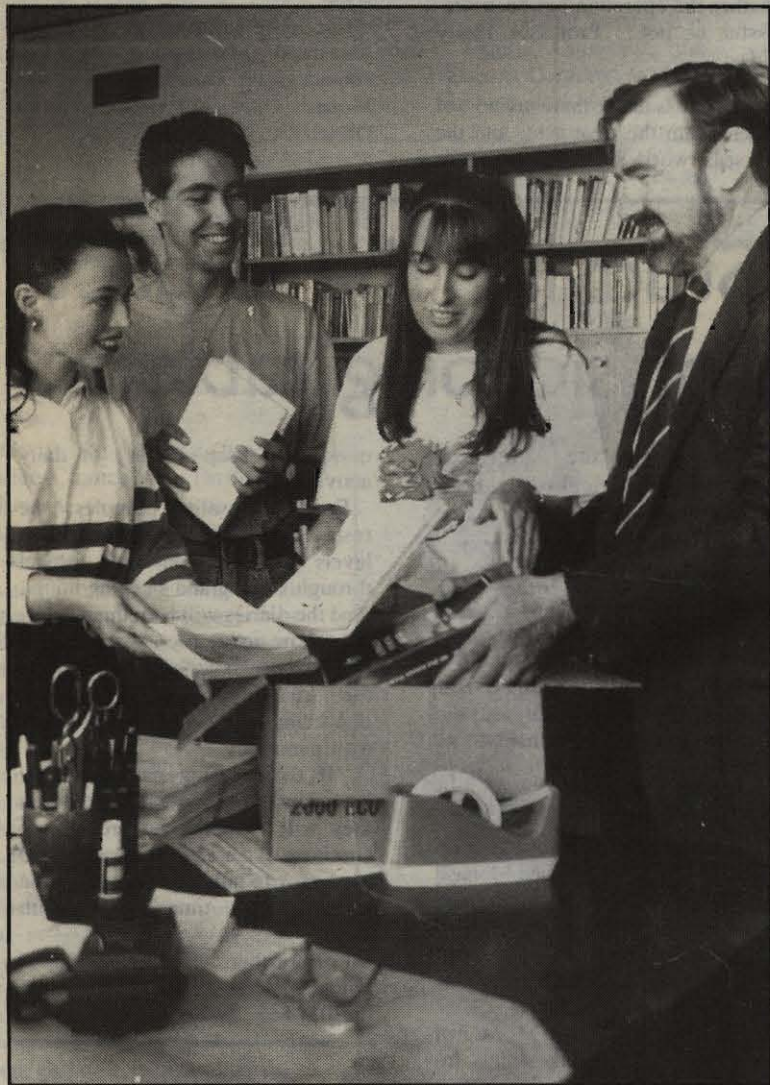
"The PIA expects that this data base will become an active participant in the world wide network of materials data banks which is now forming," she said.

"The PIA also recognises the need for the data base to be set up and maintained by an organisation which is both independent and technically competent in the field of advanced materials."

Work on the data base has already begun and it is expected to be operational on a restricted basis by July.



Signing the contract document are (from left to right) Ms Susan Ryan, Mr Tony Rogers, Professor Mal Logan, Dr Paul Hudson and Professor Paul Rossiter.



Moving house

From professor to politician: With the help of some of his students, Professor David Kemp begins the move from Monash to Parliament House, Canberra. Professor Kemp of the department of Politics was elected the Liberal Member for the Victorian seat of Goldstein at last month's federal election. He has been appointed to the Opposition's new front bench as the shadow minister for education.

Creche garage sale

THE Monash Student Creche Co-operative at 18 Beddoe Avenue, Clayton will be holding a community garage sale on 27 May from 10 am to 2 pm.

People are invited to bring their own table and chair and sell their

goods on the day or donate them to the creche stall.

The cost to reserve space at the sale is \$10. All proceeds go to the creche. Closing date for bookings is 24 May.

For further information phone the creche on 544 4959.

From The Farm to strawberry fields

AFTER 19 years as professor of English and 29 years as one of the shaping spirits of the department, David Bradley has retired to his strawberry farm on Phillip Island. Already, his absence from the teaching rooms and the corridors of power has begun to make it clear how fruitful his work at Monash University has been.

As a student, his passage through Melbourne University combined academic prize-winning with an active student life, in which the range of his future academic occupations was becoming visible. He acted in a large number of plays throughout his time there from 1943-1945, and in his final year, as well as being treasurer of the SRC and president of the Arts Union, he was editor of *Farrago*, secretary of Queen's College Dramatic Society and organiser of the 1946 Melbourne Revue.

He moved from a tutorship there to a lectureship at the University of Western Australia in 1948; it was a small but distinctive department to which his work as both actor and teacher of drama was welcomed and invaluable. Performances both within the university and in the Perth Repertory Society continued at the rate of at least one a year. His *King Lear* and his role in what was probably the first Australian production of *Waiting for Godot* are part of the history of drama there.

He not only produced student plays regularly but also designed and built the Dolphin Theatre, a conventional small theatre much used within the university, and before that an experimental Elizabethan scaffold stage which has since borne fruit in the replica New Fortune Theatre, designed into the new Arts building.

Apart from two scholarship years at Pembroke in Cambridge, he remained as a pillar of that relatively small department until 1961, when

he moved to Monash as Professor Scott's first colleague in the new institution. He deployed here the same combination of acting and producing talents with both scholarly and practical work in theatre design.

In the first four years, he produced four plays for Monash, including the university's first play, *Everyman*, and a notable *Midsummer's Night's Dream* among the pine trees by the science lecture theatres.



Emeritus Professor David Bradley

The Union theatre, an important resource for the university in its early days, and the subsequent Alexander Theatre both owe much to his help and advice: he was director of the latter from 1968 to 1970.

But Professor Bradley's influence, and the eloquence of his teaching, has not only been felt in relation to drama. His work on a wide range of committees and societies, both inside and outside the university, has been unstinting.

He has shown a wide interest in

writers of the 19th century, a period not strong in drama. In his early years he edited selections of medieval verse, and of Augustan satirical poetry, and since coming to Monash, he has written on Australian literature, including notable work on James McAuley and Patrick White.

And, more generally, the strong convictions he has defended through the changing years as to the value of literature at the university have helped shape the nature of the present department, the range and variety of its teaching and scholarship. A tradition of tolerance and mutual respect among the interwoven convictions and styles of a large department has been fostered by his own generosity of interest.

Through all of this, Professor Bradley's interest in the practices of Elizabethan drama has continued: in 1970, he was invited to give the Kathleen Robinson lecture at the University of Sydney, a groundbreaking account of the doubling of characters entailed by the structure of the theatre companies, and of the effect of such doubling on the writing of the plays. The lecture, later published, was a concise and early version, focused on Massinger's *Believe As You List*, of the book which he is now readying for Cambridge University Press, covering the whole corpus of Elizabethan and Jacobean drama.

Emeritus Professor Bradley belonged to a generation of academics, in a remarkable number of whom a dedication to the idea of the university co-existed with a dream of farming; and in the shift of emphasis from "the Farm" at Clayton to the farm at Rhyll, the university to which he so fruitfully contributed for more than a quarter of a century will still remain, no doubt, as a secondary scene of genial productivity.

Francis Klug
Senior lecturer in English

Industry sponsors top engineering students

THE Faculty of Engineering has attracted nearly \$900,000 from industry to sponsor a new co-operative education program for top undergraduate students.

The money is being used to fund two classes of scholarships to help entice good students to take up engineering. Sponsoring companies also have agreed to provide work experience for recipients, and thereby will gain access to the faculty's better students.

The Dean of Engineering, Professor Peter Darvall said: "We set out to make engineering more attractive to students in high school. But I am also determined to make engineering education more interesting and more relevant to industry."

"High school students often don't know much about engineering. And there is a perception that the status and pay of engineering are not high enough compared with law, medicine and business. We hope the scholarships will help redress this perceived imbalance."

The first scholarships under the scheme were awarded recently to 42 first year students. The winners were selected on the basis of Year 12 results, an essay and an interview. "We were looking for motivation, knowledge, communication skills and leadership."

Professor Darvall said.

Eight students have become Industry Scholars. Given satisfactory academic results, they will receive \$9000 a year for five years. In return, they have agreed to take an extra year over their engineering degree, spending 18 months working in sponsoring organisations during that time.

The other 34 students have been awarded a one-year no obligation Dean's Scholarship of \$3000. At the end of the year, they and their fellow students starting second year will become eligible to compete for 12 four-year Industry Scholarships.

The scheme is based on a successful program operating at the University of New South Wales. Almost any student with a Year 12 score above 350 in the Bachelor of Engineering course and 360 in the Bachelor of Computer Science and Engineering course received a scholarship.

Sponsoring companies include BHP Transport, Email Electronics, Holden's Engine Company, the Public Transport Corporation, Gutteridge Haskins and Davey, BP

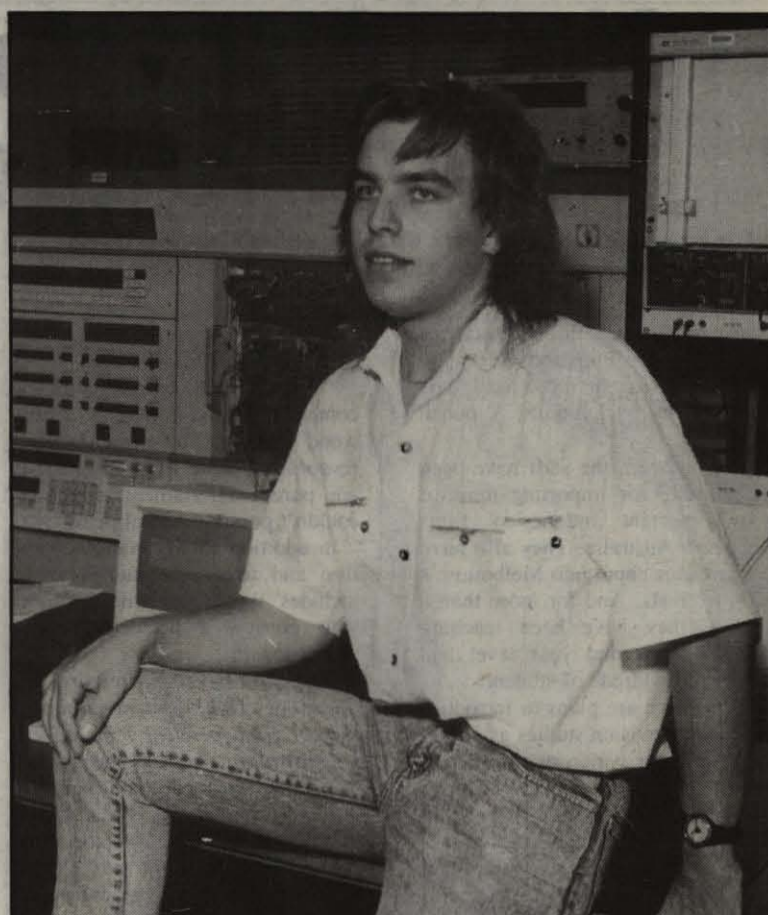
Australia and the Wilson Electric Transformer Company Pty Ltd.

Professor Darvall was able to attract them by outlining the advantages of being involved. "Sponsors get access to the top engineering students in Australia and are able to get a look at them and try them out. By their association with the faculty they also can gain access to our academics for consulting work, and our laboratory facilities for research. And it's all tax deductible as a training expense."

The general manager of Email Electronics, Mr Russell Cooper, agreed there were advantages to being involved. He said the company had an obligation to its shareholders to ensure a return on money outlaid, and did not see its sponsorship simply as a grant.

"We look upon this scheme as encouraging a more readily available supply of students from university at a time when we are spending considerable time and effort in recruiting computer software engineers with little success."

And, as you might imagine, the students are delighted. "Almost everyone I know doing first year engineering applied," said Mr Zoltan Zdimirovic, a Computer Science and Engineering



Zoltan Zdimirovic: "I get to work for 18 months and come out as an engineer with experience."

undergraduate from Rowville who won an Industry Scholarship.

"I'm really pleased. The money's a pretty good motivation, but the cost of the course wouldn't make or break me. The best thing about the idea is that I get to work for 18 months and come out as an engineer with experience."

But Mr Zdimirovic also has experience in other lines of work. Two or three nights a week he plays either solo or in a band at hotels and reception centres in the eastern suburbs. "I play keyboards, bass guitar and drums, usually with my uncle. We play middle of the road stuff, but it's fun."

Briefing centre launched

AUSTRALIA's first international briefing centre was officially launched in Melbourne last month by ANZ's deputy chairman and Group Chief Executive, Mr Will Bailey, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.

When it begins operating later this year, the Monash-ANZ Centre for International Briefing will help companies and government agencies establish and maintain export-oriented businesses overseas, particularly in the Southeast Asian and Pacific Basin region.

ANZ will provide the centre with funding of \$1 million over five years, and Monash will supply the academic expertise.

Mr Bailey said: "I believe that with an increased awareness within the Australian business community of the need for a much broader 'international perspective' and a better understanding of the cultures of our neighboring countries, we can improve Australia's trading position, and in so doing reduce this national debt of ours."

One of the centre's tasks will be to help ease the culture shock often suffered by expatriates by briefing them on pertinent local social, cultural and business issues.

"The objective of the Monash-ANZ Centre for International Briefing is to provide a full picture, encompassing political, social and economic aspects of the region, and to cover issues which may have been glossed over in the past," Mr Bailey said.

"Briefings will be undertaken for families on housing, transport, education, social interaction and day-to-day living in a new country."

Professor Logan said the centre would allow the university to show the business community its teaching and research strengths, particularly in Asian studies.



The university meets business at the launch of the Monash-ANZ Centre for International Briefing, held atop the ANZ Building in Collins Street.

"Universities are about the dissemination of knowledge in a variety of forms. In this way, Monash sees itself as contributing to the economic development of the nation," he said.

The centre also will offer a consultancy service, database and a

reading room on Asian business and regulatory and cultural issues, as well as language courses.

It will be based at the Monash City Offices in Exhibition Street. Sessions also will be held at the Australian Management College at Mount Eliza.

University club gets a facelift

THE Monash University Club has been invigorated by a promise of a significant injection of funds by the university.

At the club's Annual General Meeting last month, it was announced that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan was prepared to provide \$250,000 over the next three years to enable the club to carry out urgent maintenance and repairs, refurbish its interior and fittings, replace kitchen equipment and carry out alterations to the building.

The Vice-Chancellor has also agreed that, from 1993 onwards, the university will waive the club's annual rental of \$20,000.

To assist the revival process, club members agreed to a substantial increase in membership fees to \$100 a year for staff and \$55 a year for postgraduates and alumni.

In addition, staff will now be able to pay their fees by fortnightly or monthly deductions from their pay.

University Club president, Mr Graham Briscoe said after being on the brink of closure due to financial difficulties, the club could now look forward to a new era.

"We have basically got to a point where the club is literally bankrupt as well as needing a lot of money spent on it in terms of new equipment and furniture," he said.

"Our greatest difficulty has been in the catering area where wages and food costs have risen astronomically, and given the nature of our private club licence, we are prevented from advertising for outside functions which do provide a good profit margin."

Mr Briscoe said the university recognised it was important to have a university club for the well-being of its staff and had come forward with financial support.

He said despite the increase in membership fees, the amount was still lower compared with many other university clubs in Australia. (Club membership at Melbourne University is \$125, University of NSW \$105, University of Wollongong \$141, and ANU and University of Tasmania have both closed their clubs.)

"The incoming committee is certainly very heartened by the financial support the university is willing to provide and is confident about the future of the club," Mr Briscoe said.

"However, it is disappointed that a number of members have chosen to resign without really understanding the extent of the problems which the club faces. In reality all we are asking of the members is an increase in subscription to the extent of a half a pot of beer per week — about 90 cents a week."

The committee is presently considering re-development plans for the club. These include:

- the refurbishment of general eating areas and the kitchen;
- altering the bar and servery areas;
- establishing a liquor outlet and an up-market bistro;
- a renovation program to either cover the existing outdoor eating area or build a new eastern wing;
- external maintenance.

Mr Briscoe said in the early stages of redevelopment priorities would be to upgrade the internal furniture, improve the quality of food and try to change the liquor licence to enable outside functions to be held at the club.

No decision has yet been made on any of the plans. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposal should contact Graham Briscoe on ext 3156.

New film courses draw the crowds

FEW new courses attract more than 100 students without trying. But that is just what has happened with the introduction of film and television studies at first year level.

In fact, given a full-time staff of only three, the Film and Television Studies section of the Visual Arts Department packs quite a punch generally.

For instance, the staff have been responsible for importing most of the important Indonesian films shown in Australia. They also have a significant input into Melbourne's film festivals. And for more than a decade they have been teaching courses at second year level and above to hundreds of students.

Now there are plans to introduce film and television studies as a fully fledged major within two years.

Senior lecturer, Dr David Hanan says the group's choice of name is deliberate and reflects its outlook. "What we are doing is more than 'cinema studies', because that term implies no interest in documentary or non-fiction film, and more than media studies, because film is an art form."

And the study of film and television could hardly be more important, argues the lecturer in charge of the new course, Ms Leoni Naughton. "In America, it is estimated that about one quarter of the average person's conscious life is spent in front of a television," she said.

"Our perception of the real is mediated through those images. So it is important to develop a critical awareness of the political and social function of film."

"The object of the new introductory course is to broaden the students' cinematic horizons, to get students thinking in more critical

and analytical terms about the ideological functions of film.

"We will focus on television and contemporary commercial Hollywood movies. The most common response to these films is that they are pure entertainment, that they couldn't possibly be political."

In addition to Ms Naughton the film and television studies group includes three part-time lecturers who give it a decided feminist dimension.

They are Ms Freda Freiburg, co-editor of *Don't Shoot Darling! Women's Independent Film-making in Australia* who has been contracted to do a book on Japanese women's melodrama, Ms Debra Verhoeven, associate director of the Spoleto Fringe Film and Video Festival who runs a film program on 3CR and Ms Susan Stewart, an expert on Japanese cinema.

Ms Naughton has just returned from living in West Berlin, and will be teaching higher year courses on German cinema and on film theory and criticism.

She argues that German cinema has been an important and influential model. "Germany has the most heavily subsidised film system in the world. The idea is to export and promote a more favorable image of what it means to be German."

But what is produced is hardly straight propaganda. Many of the films are highly critical. "They advertise the liberalism of the German state, that it is solid enough to tolerate criticism."

Public television also is highly innovative. "Independent film-

makers, for instance get good exposure on public television, which gives them a broad audience outside of cinema," Ms Naughton said.

She said, the priorities of German public television were first, to educate, second, to present a diversity of opinion and only third, to entertain. In fact, the British Broadcasting Corporation's highly acclaimed Channel Four is based on the German model.

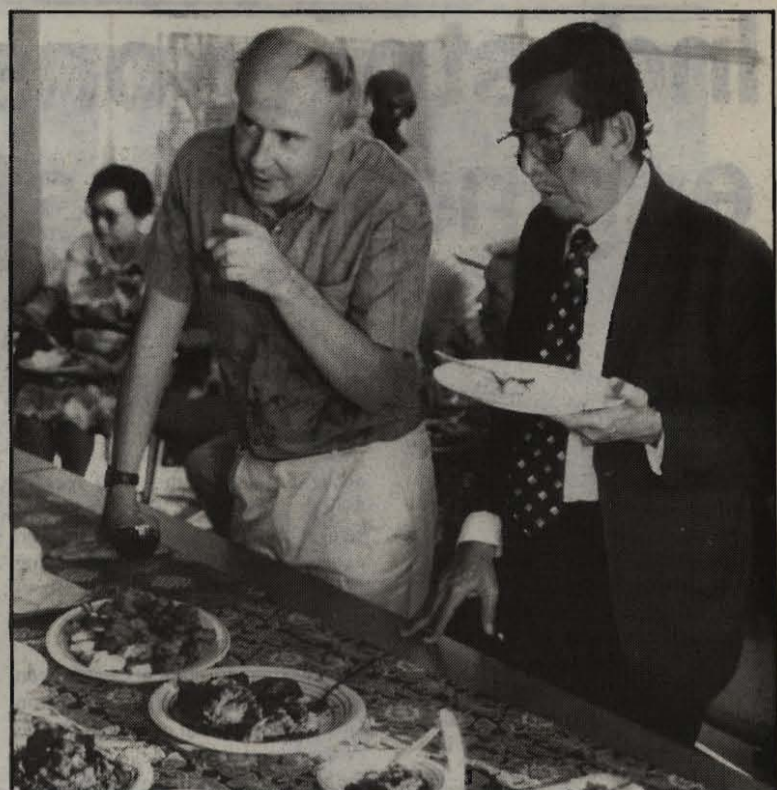
In contrast to the German experience of state sponsored cinema stands Indonesia where the film industry produces between 70 and 80 movies a year with almost no Government support.

But, says Dr David Hanan, that does not mean the quality is bad. Four or five films in the past 20 years have been as good as the best four or five Australian movies.

Dr Hanan and Mr Basoeki Koesasi from Asian Languages and Studies have been working for several years on subtitling significant Indonesian films. As a result of their early work in the field, they were asked by the National Film Council of Indonesia to provide English subtitle text for 12 seminal Indonesian films made between 1950 and 1970.

New prints of these subtitled films will be struck in Indonesia and sent for storage to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. The team has completed six films already and hopes to finish another three this year.

Dr Hanan, Mr Koesasi and Dr Krishna Sen, a Monash Politics graduate now at Murdoch University, also have been involved in raising funds to preserve three key Indonesian films, the only prints of In-



Dr David Hanan (left) makes a point to well-known Indonesian short story and scriptwriter, Mr Misbach Yusa Biran at a dinner for a delegation from the Indonesian film industry.

donesian films in Australia.

The subtitling project has had another spin off. It has helped keep Dr Hanan in touch with important people in the Indonesian film industry. For instance, last year he received an Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee Travelling Fellowship which allowed him to take a 10 week trip to Indonesia.

As a result he helped to start commercial negotiations between Indonesian authorities and a couple of Australian film processing companies. And he was instrumental in arranging the recent visit by a high level delegation of officials from the Indonesian film industry to see how Australian film industry, education and film preservation expertise could assist them.

The delegation — which included the Secretary General of the Indone-

sian Film Council, Mr Dewabrata, the Deputy Secretary of the Daily Committee of the National Film Council, Mr Narto Erawan, the director of the Film Archive in Jakarta, Mr Misbach Yusa Biran and the Dean of Faculty of Film and Television at the Jakarta Institute for the Arts, Mr Soetomo Gandasoebrata — asked specifically to come to Monash.

The visit was arranged with the help of the Institute for Contemporary Asian Studies. After a meal and presentation ceremony, *The Ronggeng Dancer*, a film about the social position of the women who dance traditional Hindu-Buddhist dances in Islamic West Java.

Discussions now are underway to explore ways of establishing formal links between Monash and the Jakarta Institute for the Arts.

Survey finds young Indonesians wary of tourism

INDONESIANS regard Australians as friendlier than other foreign tourists but have more difficulty in understanding our accent, according to a survey conducted by the 1989-90 Vallejo Gantner Memorial Travel grant recipient, Sheryl Paget.

Sheryl, who is a third year Economics and Politics student at Monash, travelled for more than two months through Sumatra, Java and Bali, conducting the survey of young people aged from 15 to 25

years old about the effects of tourism in Indonesia.

She received \$500 from the Vallejo Gantner Memorial Travel Fund to help finance the trip. The travel fund was created in 1970 in memory of Vallejo Gantner, a student in the Faculty of Arts who died in 1962 as the result of an accident.

From the 125 completed surveys, Sheryl said the respondents generally regard tourism as important for Indonesia's economic development but were wary of the damage it could do to their indigenous culture.

"It was proposed that Australians should learn more about Indonesia's way of life, with respect to acceptable levels of dress, language, regional differences and culture before visiting the country," she said.

"An interesting comment that came to light, however, was that more damage has been done by the impact of foreign films than by the influx of tourists. I suspect that the language barrier between most Indonesians and tourists acts as a buffer for the indigenous culture, while the films are all subtitled."

While travelling through Indonesia, Sheryl stayed mostly with Indonesian families, some of which she had met on a previous study tour two years ago. Travelling by bus and backpacking, Sheryl said she had some interesting and different experiences.

"There were some really nice places I discovered, like Lake Maninjau in Sumatra. We managed to rent rooms with a family on the shores of the lake. It was very peaceful and every day the father would catch some fish and the mother would cook it up for us."

According to Sheryl one of the things which attracts her to Indonesia is the vastly contrasting lifestyles that exist within the one country.

"They have quite a lot of beggars in Indonesia and the health conditions are shocking in some places

but there are a lot of rich people as well. Indonesia has such a long history and it is fascinating to study the traditions. Even the religious mix is very interesting — it is largely Islamic but there are also Hindus and Christians," she said.

"Despite speaking Indonesian each ethnic group in Indonesia has a local language and they only use Indonesian when talking to someone from another ethnic group."

Sheryl intends to finish her course this year but has still not decided whether to go on and do honors or return to Indonesia to work or study there.

Monash has recently signed a sister university agreement with the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) which provides more opportunities for staff and students wanting to undertake research or training programs in Indonesia.

Girls take out chemistry honors



The top five honors students in chemistry last year celebrated at their graduation at Robert Blackwood Hall in March. Pictured back row (from left) are Michelle Hill, Marie-Anne Fam and Danielle Mansfield, and front row (from left), Lynette Hatherley and Fiona Joshua.



Sheryl Paget (centre) with villagers in Kediri, East Java.

Banking Law expert returns to Monash

THE former Sri Lankan Ambassador to Australia, Dr Wickrema Weerasooria, returned to Monash University this year to take up the position of Associate Professor in Banking Law.

Dr Weerasooria was a senior lecturer in law at Monash from 1972 to 1977, when he left to head the all-important Ministry of Plan Implementation under the Executive President of Sri Lanka.

According to Dr Weerasooria, academia is his first love, but a strange twist of events led him to spend more than 14 years in public and international life working for the Sri Lankan Government.

While in Sri Lanka on sabbatical from Monash in 1976, Dr Weerasooria became involved in the publication of a satirical cartoon booklet critical of the then Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Mrs Bandaranaike.

He was arrested and charged with defamation and infringing emergency regulations. His passport was confiscated and he was put under virtual house arrest.

Luckily for him, Mrs Bandaranaike announced elections on June 5 and in the July 21 poll she was defeated. The new government asked Dr Weerasooria to stay on in Sri Lanka and help the country down the path of reform.

Dr Weerasooria agreed, and re-created the role of the Ministry of Plan Implementation by broadening its focus to include all the major social and economic development activities in the country.

In the eight and a half years he spent in the Sri Lankan administration, he was largely responsible for formulating and implementing rural development programs throughout the country, population policies and family planning programs, manpower and employment policies, programs for the development of women and children and the co-ordination at a national level of food, nutrition and fertiliser programs.

As a result of his work he became a major figure in the international world of population control and family planning.

In addition to heading the Ministry for Plan Implementation, Dr Weerasooria also acted for some time as Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of Regional Development, and as Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

His other responsibilities included the national co-ordination of programs for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). His work also took him to the United Nations General Assembly, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In March 1986, he was appointed as Sri Lanka's Ambassador/High Commissioner to Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Fiji.

After assuming duties in Canberra, he wrote *Links between Sri Lanka and Australia*, which received excellent reviews and has now gone into a second edition.

Dr Weerasooria said he would never forget the 13 years he spent working for the Sri Lankan Government but he was pleased to return to academia.

"The experience I got during the

period from 1977 to 1990 has given me greater confidence and ability to get back to my first love of academia," he said.

"I hope I can bring to bear this vast experience of 13 years of public life, both nationally and internationally as a diplomat, for the benefit of the students, staff, faculty and university.

"The years I spent outside academia life has made me believe while maintaining professional and academic integrity, academics must reach out to speak and write on day to day current public issues rather than let events overtake them."

Dr Weerasooria obtained a first class honors degree in Law in 1961 at the University of Ceylon (as it was known then). He later attended the Ceylon Law College where he finished top in the Barristers' Final Examination.

He obtained his doctorate from the London School of Economics and was appointed a senior lecturer at Monash in 1973.

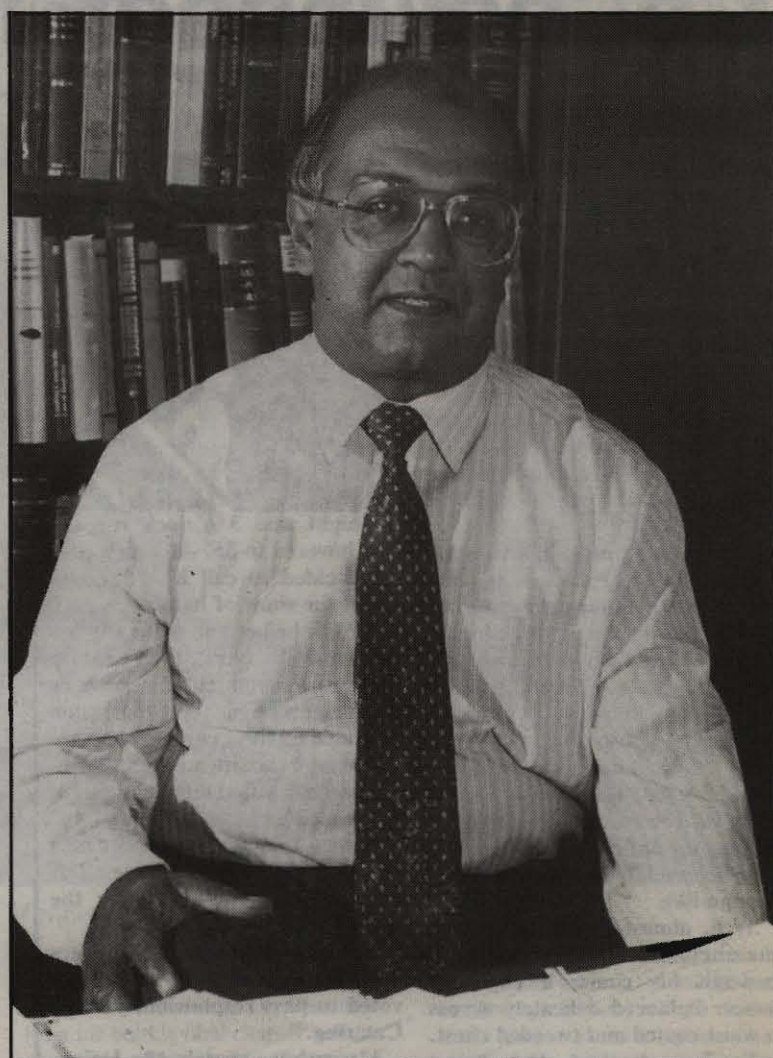
Dr Weerasooria's specific field is

that of banking and commercial law and has published a well-known text on Australian banking, *Banking Law and the Financial System in Australia*.

The book has recently gone into a second edition which covers the vast developments in the field of banking and banking law, following the deregulation of the financial system in the early 1980s.

Dr Weerasooria is the author of several other books and publications including *Casebook on the Law of Banking and Cheques in Ceylon*, *Commercial Law in Ceylon*, *Law Relating to banking in Ceylon*, *Credit and Security in Sri Lanka* and *Banking Law and Practice in Australia*.

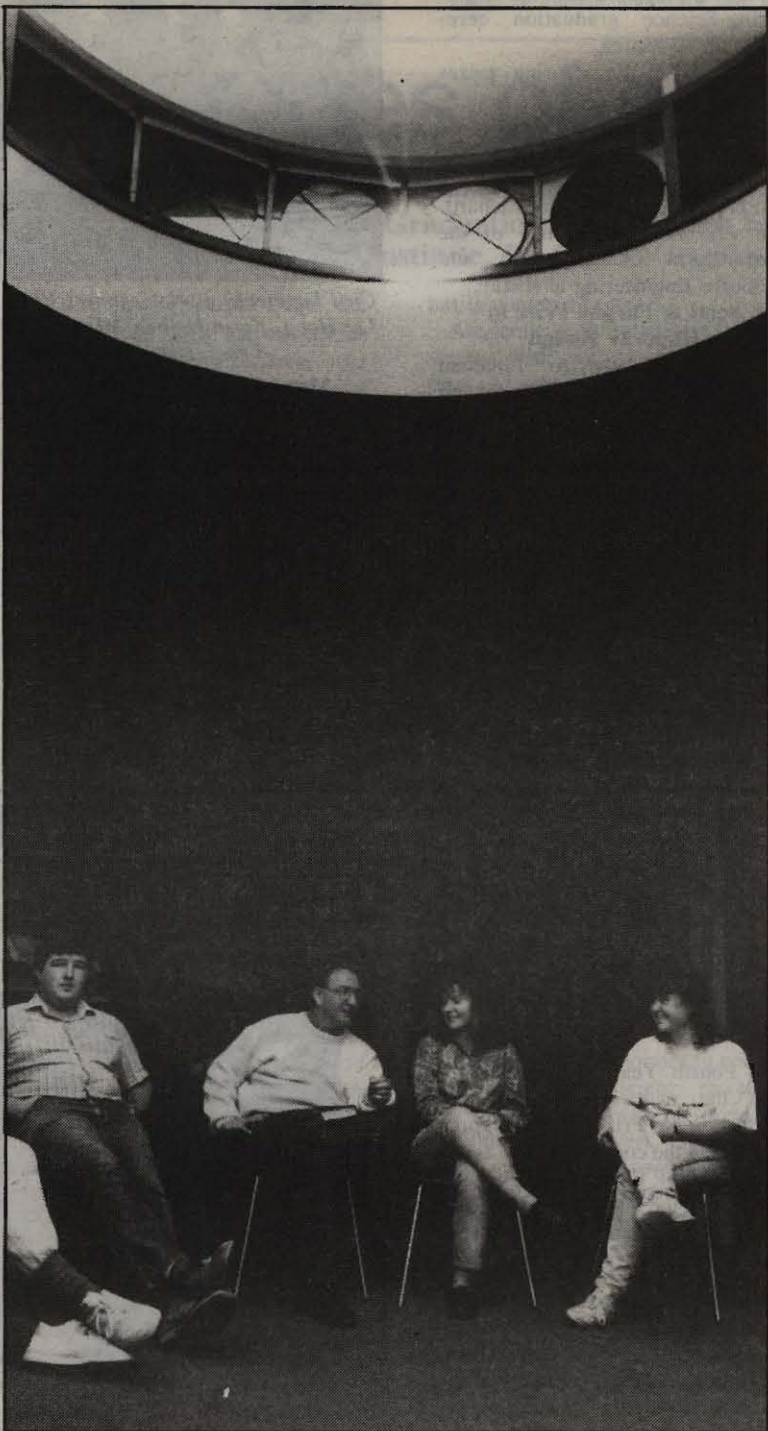
Asked about his priorities as an academic at Monash, Dr Weerasooria said: "My first, second and third priorities will be teaching and to be accessible and helpful to students. After that, I hope to concentrate on research and publications on current issues in my fields of interest."



Dr Wickrema Weerasooria

New Christian group to fill void

WITH at least 10 Christian groups on campus, you could well be forgiven for feeling that Christ's followers are well and truly catered for.



Father Steve Russell (centre) leads an informal discussion with members of the new Anglican Christian Movement in the Religious Centre.

Yet, according to ecumenical chaplain Father Steve Russell, there are still students out there who haven't yet found their particular Christian niche.

It's with this group in mind that Father Russell has helped start another Christian student group.

"Our main concern is that the groups that already exist at Monash aren't really reflective enough of the whole spectrum of Christian thought, opinion, and experience," he said.

Father Russell describes the new group as more liberal and open to different ideas.

"It's more open to diversity, to people who don't necessarily toe the line in certain ways — for instance, there's no doctrinal test to belong to this group; anyone can belong to it," Father Russell said.

Although the group is called the Anglican Christian Movement, Father Russell denies that it is elitist.

"We don't want to sound as if we're exclusive; the group's not just for Anglicans.

"The sort of people who are connected in any way with the Chaplaincy at the moment are by no means specifically Anglican — they're connected with all sorts of churches."

Wary of being accused of "poaching" members of existing Christian groups, Father Russell maintains there is room for many kinds of Christian theology.

"The kind of people who would be attracted to the Anglican Christian Movement would be those whose thinking is a bit more questioning, a bit more open than those in some of the existing Christian groups.

"But I want to be careful not to be too critical of those other groups, because I want to underline the fact that they reflect legitimate forms of Christian faith and experience.

"It's just that what they are reflecting is actually quite limited, and we want to be able to capture some other parts of Christian faith in a new group," Father Russell said.

Asked how he would describe the outlook of most of the current Christian groups on campus, Father Russell felt that the word "conservative" was appropriate, while he applied the term "liberal" to the new Anglican Christian Movement.

Father Russell said the new group wanted to fill the void noticed by many Christian students who did not feel comfortable with the more fundamentalist groups.

"We want to achieve a group where people feel free to explore and express their religious outlook.

"We want to provide a focus for their thinking and their social, political and religious activity — to give them an outlet for their particular kinds of religious beliefs," he said.

Egyptian seminar

THE Committee for Egyptology is holding an all-day seminar titled, "Ancient Egyptian Religions", on 29 April.

The seminar will be presented by Dr Colin Hope who is a visiting scholar at Monash and curator of the forthcoming "Civilisation: Ancient Treasures from the British Museum" exhibition.

Lectures will cover private and state religion, the creation myth, the state temple, role of the king, funerary beliefs, and will conclude with an open forum on monotheism.

The seminar will be held in the Rotunda Lecture Theatre 6, from 10 am to about 4 pm.

The cost is \$35 or \$25 for students and pensioners, and includes morning and afternoon tea and a light lunch. All proceeds from the seminar will go towards establishing a lectureship in Egyptology at Monash.

For tickets or further information phone Gill Bowen in the Department of Classical Studies on ext 3264.

Council chaos

PAPER darts, wads of hardening chewing gum, empty cups, upturned chairs. The aftermath of a university gathering usually provoked righteous indignation from those whose job it was to clear the debris.

But on this particular afternoon Eunice Clutterbuck leaned against the panelled walls of the conference room and just sighed.

"Bloody Council meetings."

Swinging a portable vacuum cleaner on to her back, she pursued the trail of rubbish over a Berlin Wall of disturbed furniture.

The Hoover hummed across the plush carpet. At each nameplate she paused, conjuring up an image of the person in her mind's eye. Now and then she pursed her lips as she recalled a recent, and very personal rumor.

But the stories she whispered were drowned out by the whining of the motor. Which was just as well, for she was into her twenty-second unconfirmed report when the vacuum hit something soft and human-like.

Well, almost. It was a Council member, stretched prostrate beneath his chair, a cup and saucer balanced delicately across a waist-coated and tweeded chest.

Eunice checked the name against the figure. After deciding the two more or less matched she spoke in the gentle tones of one about to administer the last rites.

"Professor Adams-Smythe, is that you?"

She remembered the university's health and safety handbook. At any moment, according to the manual, a staff member would materialise with breathing apparatus, a practice dummy and a full set of life-saving instructions.

"Won't be long, Professor. It's all under control. Administration has everything in hand."

But as the minutes passed Eunice realised she was on her own. She wondered if the academic whose head she cradled could sense her fear.

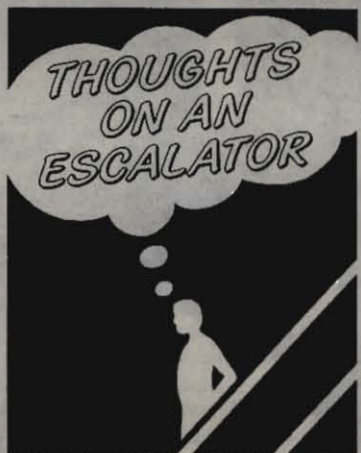
"Where's the pain?" she asked hesitantly.

Adams-Smythe opened a blood-shot eye. The crockery on his chest rattled.

"There's no pain, Eunice. Only weariness. The person you see before you has just taken part in a 25-hour sitting of Council."

The professor got shakily to his feet and brushed the lint from his suit. His voice was ragged. "We were debating a motion to lower the retiring age of Council members. We reduced it to 60, then 57.

"One may put it down to fatigue, but somewhere between



midnight and 3 o'clock the age was lowered to 35. At which time we decided to call it a day and count the show of hands.

"Well, before you could say 'no person will have their salary reduced through this exercise or their rights to salary progression provided by their current substantive salary classification diminished', we had voted ourselves out of existence."

Eunice sought the support of a nearby chair. "What does this mean then? Who's running the show?"

The professor ran his fingers through his hair. "I believe we voted to pass responsibility on to Catering."

Meanwhile, over in the Union, the make-up of the new Council was already being discussed...

"After we've looked at the minutes of the previous meetings, someone comes round with a trolley of tea."

"I believe it's coffee."

"All right. Coffee. Then we vote on whether the minutes should be accepted and..."

"Percolated or instant?"

"How the heck should I know? Anyway, after the vote..."

"I really do think we should offer a choice of beverages."

"OK, OK. We can offer a choice. Now will you let me finish?"

"Not until we get this settled."

Five weeks later the matter had been resolved in favor of the choice faction. Thereafter the Catering Council, as it came to be known, would put on a huge spread at its meetings, offering not only members but also invited staff a selection of fine wines, gourmet food, and imported tea and coffee.

Meetings were conducted in good humor, with only the occasional dispute, and that was usually over the quality of a particular vintage. Council minutes became the Council menu, the vice-chancellor the maitre d.

Only one thing remained unchanged: Council members still went home feeling stuffed.

ENGINEERING AWARDS

MECHANICAL

THE 1989 J.W. Dodds Memorial Medal for the outstanding final year mechanical engineering student was awarded to Domenic Breuhwiler.

The Clyde Riley, Dodds manager of engineering, Mr R. Austin, presented the medal and a \$1000 cheque to Domenic after the Engineering-Science graduation ceremony on 30 March.

The Dodds Medal is named for J.W. Dodds, who was a pioneering innovator mainly in design, manufacturing and the commissioning of thermal power stations.

It is presented on the basis of three criteria: scholastic achievement, potential as a practitioner and insights and understanding of mechanical engineering in Australia. The last two criteria being applied largely by interview.

At the presentation ceremony, Domenic thanked his family, lecturers and friends for their help and support in his studies.

"It is a great honor to receive this medal and I realise the competition was very tough and quite possibly there were more than just myself who deserved this award," he said.



J. W. Dodds Memorial Prize winner, Domenic Breuhwiler, receives the medal from the manager of engineering, Clyde Riley Dodds, Mr R. G. Austin.

CIVIL

THE Ove, Arup & Partners Prize for the top student in Civil Engineering for 1989 was awarded to Kevin Hellier.

The prize was presented by the director of Ove, Arup & Partners, Mr David Singleton after the Engineering-Science graduation ceremony on 30 March.

Other Civil Engineering prizes awarded were:

A.J. Richardson Prize in Transport Engineering

Awarded to Mr Yap, Mow Ying and presented by Dr Tony Richardson who is the chairman of the Department of Transport and Resource Engineering at RMIT.

Scott & Furphy Prize in Highway Design

Awarded jointly to Jonathan Shmerling and Tony Growse and presented by Mark Whalen of Scott & Furphy Pty Ltd.

Gutteridge Haskins & Davey Prize in Water Engineering

Awarded to Kevin Hellier and presented by Tony Wong of Gutteridge Haskins & Davey Pty Ltd.

I.E.Aust. Prize in Structural Engineering (Book Prize)

Awarded to Michael Shaw and presented by John Davies who is chairman of the Structural Branch of I.E.Aust. Vic. Division.



Civil Engineering prize winners (from left to right), Andrew Western, Chieng Lee Hong, Kevin Hellier, Michael Shaw, Chairman of Department, Professor Eric Laurenson, Jonathan Shmerling and Phillip Yap.

Metal Building Products Manufacturers' Association Prize in steel division

Awarded to Andrew Western and presented by Ray Abikhair, who is the vice-president of MBPMA.

Tileman Prize in concrete structures

Awarded to Dean Morgan and presented by Russell Thomas, director (Engineering) Tileman Aust.

Department of Civil Engineering vacation work report prize

Awarded to Mr Chieng, Lee Hong and presented by Professor

E.M. Laurenson.

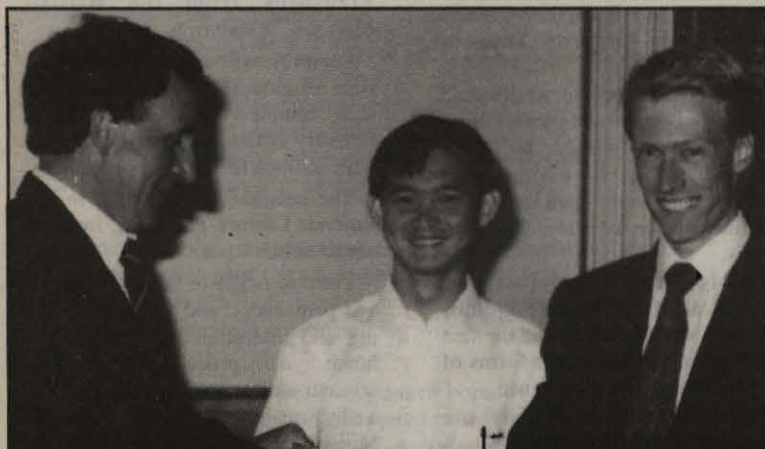
Other prizes not awarded on 30 March:

Coffey & Partners Prize in geotechnical engineering
Awarded to Mr Goh, Tok Kwong (in Malaysia).

Vic Roads Prize for Transport Engineering in the M.Eng.Sc program

Awarded to Ian Pitcher (Perth).
Fred Green Memorial Prize
Awarded to Andrew Western and to be presented at ICE annual general meeting.

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS



Tan Thioh Keng (centre) and Richard Whitebrook (right) receiving their Unisys Prizes from Associate Professor Ed Cherry.

FOLLOWING the Engineering/Science Graduation Ceremony on 27 March, prize winners and donors gathered in the Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering Department for the annual presentation of prizes.

In Fourth Year, Adam Dickson won the major awards of the Graham Beard Prize for overall proficiency in the course, as well as the Institution of Engineers, Australia Award and the Ian Langlands Medal as the most outstanding student from all engineering departments.

He also won the Philips Prize in electronics and the Digital Equipment Prize for computer engineering project. Adam is currently overseas and the prizes were accepted by his parents on his behalf.

MATERIALS



From left to right: Professor Rossiter, Chairman of Department, Oliver Schmidt, Dr Anita Hill, senior tutor, Noel Clothier, Samantha Read, Scott Story, Elizabeth Warren and Richard Waiters.

Piecing together the life of a tyrant

COMPARISONS between the deposed leader of Democratic Kampuchea, Pol Pot, and Adolf Hitler have been described as "inappropriate" by one of the university's Southeast Asian specialists.

According to Dr David Chandler, Pol Pot was a complex, if poorly understood man who presided over a regime that between 1976 and 1979 decimated the Cambodian population.

His views grew out of a political biography he is writing on the former leader, which in turn was kindled by earlier research on a general history he has recently completed on modern Cambodia since 1945.

Dr Chandler, who is director of the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, is no apologist for Pol Pot. "I have to understand how this reportedly charming man came to the position of power, why he behaved the way he did, and how that behavior led to so many deaths.

"Historical writers cannot write with hindsight alone. They must capture the reasons and the rationale for change.

"To that end, first I have to recreate the society of the 1950s and 1960s and its ideas as best I can, and second, recreate the enthusiasm of young Cambodian radicals, who might look foolish and misguided now, but weren't then."

Writing a detailed account of the rise to power of someone who has not been interviewed since 1981, however, has presented some obvious difficulties.

"People belonging to the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia who sought political asylum as refugees are understandably unwilling to admit their political color, therefore it is difficult to meet those who were Pol Pot's willing accomplices."

Those whom Dr Chandler has met so far have not been eager to talk about Pol Pot. So he has had to adopt the role of detective. In this guise he has travelled to Canada, the United States and France, seeking people who may have either known Pol Pot, or may have known someone who did.

"These people all agree he was a man of considerable charm who was able to instil loyalty in others. One who knew him as a student said that the first time he saw him he knew he could be his friend for life."

Public documents, speeches, and recorded interviews which came out of the Democratic Kampuchea period between 1975 and 1978 have provided another valuable source of information.

The third source is sinister. During the period of the killing fields, Tuol Sleng interrogation centre in Phnom Penh became the scene of thousands of 'confessions' by so-called traitors.

About 20,000 people were executed in the prison in three years. Some 5000 of their statements still exist, but as they were made under duress much of their content is worthless to the investigative writer.

Their value, however, lies in the prefaces, which provide details about the person and clues to the chronology of the period, as well as to relationships within the leadership. Dr Chandler has read about 30 dossiers so far, about 2000 pages in all, and plans to read 100 more.

The details of Pol Pot's life — as much as he has been able to glean — read like the curriculum vitae of the archetypal revolutionary.

Born into a wealthy peasant family with links to the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh; a very ambitious yet lazy student, he went to Paris to further a technical education. There he fell under the spell of anti-colonialists who were then working to overthrow the French in Southeast Asia. He returned to Phnom Penh

where he assumed leadership of an urban network of the embryonic Communist Party and was eventually appointed the secretary-general of the party. Shortly afterwards he went into hiding.

Pol Pot quickly developed certain personality traits, among them a predilection for secrecy. Originally named Saloth Sar, he adopted his alias when he came to power in 1976, possibly to avoid assassination, but his rationale is uncertain.

One of Dr Chandler's interviewees recounted the time when as a prisoner on a farm set aside for intellectuals, he was forced to listen to daily propaganda messages over the radio system, prepared and read by an anonymous broadcaster.

It was only on hearing Pol Pot's voice after his release that he realised the unidentified announcer and the head of state were the same person.

Dr Chandler regards Pol Pot as a mediocre, but fascinating man. "People oversimplify him by calling him an ogre. It's possible to explain what happened in terms of the ideology of the leaders working together, and those who were subjected to their policies," he said.

"The population was not interested. They were difficult to mobilise, therefore many were killed. There was a great disjunction between the leaders and the led."

This became plainly and painfully evident when the Cambodian version of China's Great Leap Forward, the organisation of all agriculture, descended swiftly into chaos.

The scheme was badly mis-



Pol Pot speaking at a rally in 1978.

managed. People were overworked, and it wasn't long before cadres began starving them to deliver food to the government.

The widespread passive resistance of the people, coupled with military pressure from Vietnam in 1976-77, made for a paranoiac mix, Dr Chandler said.

"When his imitation of the Great Leap Forward began to fail, Pol Pot believed he had been betrayed. And in looking for scapegoats he tore the Communist Party apart."

Little is known about the life of

the former leader since he was overthrown by the Vietnamese in 1979. So little in fact that Dr Chandler fears his book's final chapter will be composed of mainly blank pages.

There are various rumours that he has been sick, has visited China and has remarried. What is certain, however, is that he has remained leader of the Khmer Rouge movement.

Dr Chandler believes it is an interesting time to be writing about violent all-consuming revolutions, particularly when their actual value is being questioned.

"In the past six months communist parties around the world have been completely discredited. In fact, it has almost got to the point where revolution could become an abstruse concept."

But Dr Chandler is certain of one outcome of Pol Pot's reign of terror.

"The people who won the Democratic Kampuchean revolution were those who resisted it, passively or not, who misunderstood it, or who understood its destructiveness all too well, and have survived," he said.

Decades of change in education

The following is an edited version of the occasional address given at the Science Graduation on 14 March by the director of Chisholm Institute, Dr Geoff Vaughan.

IF one looks back over the decades one sees an enormous change in education from the British tradition which was still with us in the 1950s.

University education in the '50s, we would say today, was elitist. Higher education involved small numbers of students, only one university in each of the capital cities, the institutions were remote from government and the community, even RMIT was still called, not officially but affectionately, the working man's college.

The 1960s was a decade of growth but with growth came quotas and with the Commonwealth entry into the funding of education colleges of advanced education and institutes of technology were established.

In the 1970s, when we were known as the "Lucky Country", the Commonwealth abolished fees and sustained the growth which had commenced in the previous decade. The universities and colleges shared their place within the "Lucky Country" and things looked pretty good.

Then came the decade of the 1980s and we experienced rapid change as we at last had to take stock with our economic position. We are no longer an isolated country doing our own thing. In the last 10 years we have recognised, and indeed, we have been forced into what has developed as a global society.

As far as education was concerned new emphasis has been placed on efficiency, effectiveness and accountability. Not just in dollar terms

but in community terms.

Academic institutions have had to wrestle with new pressures caused through access and participation, economic policy and social justice policy.

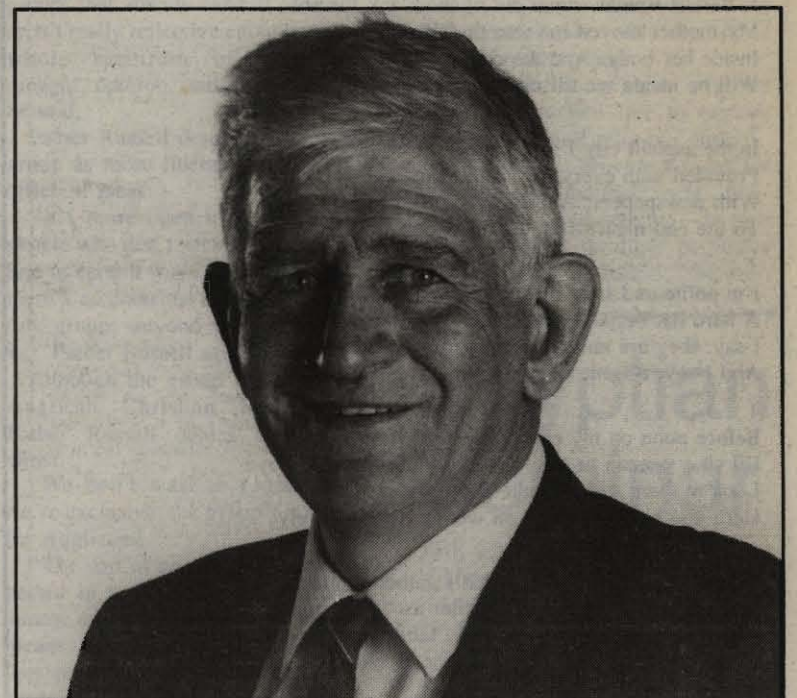
One of the immediate and local outcomes of the restructuring and reforms in higher education was that my institution, Chisholm Institute of Technology, along with Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, will be merging with Monash University to form what is a very enlarged Monash, and what we hopefully can look back and refer to as a greater Monash.

I support the reforms because I am firmly convinced that a large academic institution can offer educational advantage to the community.

A larger university with a broader base can enhance the quality and diversity of higher education courses available to the community and this can be of advantage to both staff and students of the university.

It can lead to economies in operation through efficient resource management and we can improve our links to employers, the government, industry and commerce. We will be looking at how we can rationalise our activities through sharing resources and expertise and consolidating research activity.

A larger institution can develop strategies, both proactive and reactive, to meet the challenges ahead which will be set by state and federal government and the community at large.



Dr Geoff Vaughan

These challenges will be centred on the economy and will include manpower planning, competitive advantage in a local and interna-

tional sense, industrial relations, community needs, work, health and recreation.

Ethnographic history

THE History Institute of Victoria is holding its 7th annual forum titled "Writing Ethnographic History" on Sunday 20 May.

It will be held at 2 pm in the Common Room, 4th Floor, John Medley Building, Melbourne University (near Grattan Street gate).

Guest speakers include Greg Denning (Professor of History at

Melbourne University), Rhys Isaac (Professor of History at La Trobe University), Inga Clendinnen (Reader in History at La Trobe University) and June Philipp (formerly Reader in History at La Trobe University).

The cost is \$10 and \$5 concession which includes afternoon tea.

For further information phone 344 6209.

From the grotesque to Bertolt Brecht

THE literary road from Bertolt Brecht to anarchic British comedy may not be well-travelled, but there is one Monash academic who can almost claim the path as his own.

Professor Philip Thomson of German Studies is not only an expert on the poetry of the German playwright and lyricist, he is also an authority on the grotesque, a form of humor popularised recently in the BBC television series "The Young Ones".

Between publishing books on both subjects, he has for the past two years been head of one of the two largest German departments in Australia. (He was appointed professor of German Studies at the beginning of the year).

His views on the acquisition of a foreign language, like his love of Brecht and iconoclastic humor, are firm. "More Australians need to learn languages, because despite all the talk about being a multicultural society, we're still very monolingual," he said.

"I think this is partly due to a general British disinclination to take trouble in learning a language."

But Professor Thomson believes that those who are able to overcome tradition are usually well-rewarded. "There's something about the intellectual tools you need to develop proficiency in a language that is transferable, skills such as analysis and synthesis.

"There is a reasonable relationship between learning a language and overall intellectual ability. In fact, statistical evidence suggests that language students are among the brightest."

Enrolments in first-year courses in the department are up between 30 and 40 per cent from last year, a figure Professor Thomson ascribes

to a slowing of interest in Asian languages and a general swing back towards European studies.

But events in Europe in recent months have almost overtaken university lecturers, particularly those whose specialty is German language and culture.

"The possible reunification of the two Germanies has created a new agenda. Already I've had to rewrite 10 lectures," Professor Thomson said.

"In fact, the situation was so fluid I found myself floundering in the last lectures in 1989."

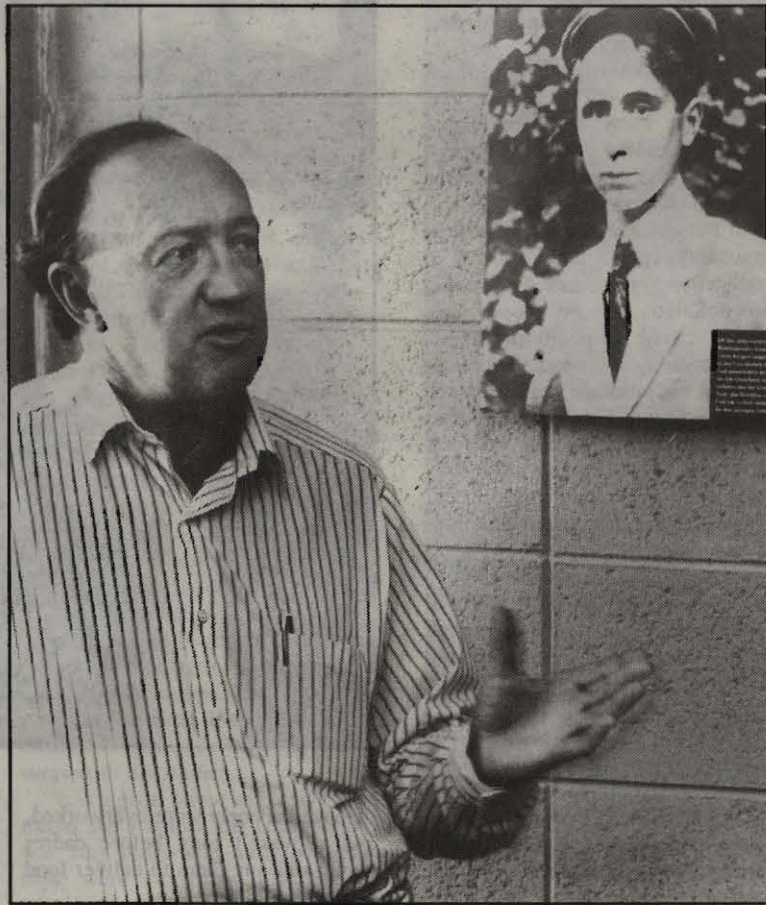
He is guardedly optimistic about the pending union. "There are some really quite serious problems that may arise between a united Germany and Eastern Europe, particularly Poland.

"This worries me most for historical reasons. In the past the interaction between Germany and its neighbors has been fairly catastrophic.

"Yet despite some regrettable examples of rampant nationalism and ethnic intolerance in the region, I don't think we are about to see a repeat of the 1930s.

"I believe the major problem will be how to stop Western German banks and lending institutions making a second-class province of East Germany."

The image of a profligate West Germany wreaking financial havoc on the once-communist East could almost be described as grotesque. And it is the artistic phenomenon behind that word that inspired Professor Thomson's most successful



Professor Philip Thomson: Brecht's poetry stands alongside some of the best that has been written this century.

book, *The Grotesque*, published in 1972.

The grotesque is an all-embracing term that describes the mixture of comedy and something totally incompatible, such as horror or tragedy.

Its most popular exponents in the recent past have been British comedy groups such as The Young Ones and Monty Python. Certain works

by authors like Joseph Heller, Franz Kafka and Samuel Beckett also fit into the same category.

Professor Thomson said: "The grotesque is designed deliberately to upset people. It presents as comic things which in polite society are decidedly unfunny.

"The classic reaction is laughter followed by the words 'that's sick!'"

Academic study of the phenomenon reached its zenith in the early 1970s, although the concept has been around for several hundred years. An Ancient Roman critic, Vitruvius, is credited with its first interpretation when he castigated what he saw as an appalling, even illicit style of art.

Professor Thomson wrote *The Grotesque* because he wanted to know why this form of artistic expression had such a powerful effect on people, and why it affected some and not others.

Since its publication — it is one of only a few studies that examines the phenomenon in general terms — the definition has won widespread acceptance.

His latest book is a study of a quite different kind, the poetry of Bertolt Brecht.

Better known as a playwright (*The Caucasian Chalk Circle*) and lyricist (*The Threepenny Opera*), Brecht has only recently been critically acclaimed for his poetry. Yet it stands alongside some of the best that has been written this century, Professor Thomson said.

Brecht wrote more than 1000 pages of verse until his death in 1956, much of it on the social and political evils of his time. (His most creative period coincided with the rise of the Third Reich in Germany).

Professor Thomson said: "It is immensely varied, far more so than you might expect from a Marxist. He was the writer of superb love poetry, some nature poems, and a lot of poems about himself, which particularly interested me as they hold the key to Brecht as a writer and a person."

OF POOR B.B.

- 1
I, Bertolt Brecht, came out of the black forests.
My mother moved me into the cities as I lay
Inside her body. And the coldness of the forests
Will be inside me till my dying day.
- 2
In the asphalt city I'm at home. From the very start
Provided with every last sacrament:
With newspapers. And tobacco. And brandy
To the end mistrustful, lazy and content.
- 3
I'm polite and friendly to people. I put on
A hard hat because that's what they do.
I say: they are animals with a quite peculiar smell
And I say: does it matter? I am too.
- 4
Before noon on my empty rocking chairs
I'll sit a woman or two, and with an untroubled eye
Look at them steadily and say to them:
Here you have someone on whom you can't rely.
- 5
Towards evening it's men that I gather round me
And then we address one another as "gentlemen".
They're resting their feet on my table tops
And say: things will get better for us. And I don't ask when.
- 6
In the grey light before morning the pine trees piss
And their vermin, the birds, raise their twitter and cheep.
At that hour in the city I drain my glass, then throw
The cigar butt away and worriedly go to sleep.
- 7
We have sat, an easy generation
In houses held to be indestructible
(Thus we built those tall boxes on the island of Manhattan
And those thin aerials that amuse the Atlantic swell).
- 8
Of those cities will remain what passed through them, the wind!
The house makes glad the eater: he clears it out.
We know that we're only tenants, provisional ones
And after us there will come: nothing worth talking about.
- 9
In the earthquakes to come, I very much hope
I shall keep my cigar alight, embittered or no
I, Bertolt Brecht, carried off to the asphalt cities
From the black forests inside my mother long ago.

Bertolt Brecht
(Reprinted from *Bertolt Brecht Poems Part One 1913-1928*, Ed. by
John Willett and Ralph Manheim)

Pratt receives honorary degree

THE remarkable success of distinguished Australian businessman, Mr Richard Pratt, has been built on manufacturing rather than financial manipulation, Professor Peter Darvall, Dean of Engineering said recently.

Mr Pratt's services to industry have been recognised by the Australian Government which made him an officer of the Order of Australia, he said.

Professor Darvall was speaking at the Science and Engineering Graduation Ceremony late last month, where he presented Mr Pratt for an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree.

Mr Pratt was born in 1934 in Poland and arrived in Australia as a child. His early life was spent in St Kilda and then in rural Victoria. He was educated at Shepparton High School, University High School and Melbourne University.

His father, Mr Leon Pratt, formed Visy Board Pty Ltd in 1948, manufacturing corrugated cardboard cartons. Richard Pratt joined this company in 1952, working in marketing and sales. In 1969 he succeeded his father as chief executive of the Visy Board Company.

Under his leadership, what was a prosperous middle sized company grew to become one of the largest private enterprises in Australia.

The Pratt Group, of which Richard Pratt is chairman and chief executive, now has a total of 40 plants in Australian states and offshore manufacturing and service operations in Thailand, New Zealand, the United States and Britain.

The group has annual sales in excess of \$700 million and employs more than 4000 people in its Australian section.

"One interesting aspect of recent expansion of the group's manufacturing activity has been attention to

waste recycling," Professor Darvall said.

"Four paper mills using waste paper feedstock have recently been installed and the group has a considerable plastic recycling operation as well.

"Mr Pratt's view is that waste disposal can be converted to the much more desirable outcome of waste recycling, thus providing benefits rather than incurring costs."

Apart from his business interests, Mr Pratt strongly supports the theatre and various sporting bodies and has been an active participant in both areas.

"A former member of the Melbourne University Union Repertory Company, he had a major role in the stage hit *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* during its London and New York seasons," Professor Darvall said.

"He is an office-bearer with the Carlton Football Club with which he was once a player in the seconds and thirds, and was winner of the Morrish Medal for the best and fairest player in the VFL Under 19 division in 1953.

"In 1983 he organised and largely financed a syndicate to mount the Challenge 12 quest for the America's Cup and provided critical support for the success of Australia II in its capture of the trophy."

Mr Pratt is also chairman of the board of the Mental Health Research Institute of Victoria and breakthrough appeal chairman of the MacFarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research.

The Pratt Foundation and the Pratt Group Scholarship Trust have assisted young people wanting to pursue primary, secondary and tertiary education.



After receiving his honorary degree, Richard Pratt (right) talks with the Dean of Engineering, Professor Peter Darvall (left) and the Chancellor, Sir George Lush.

Prestigious journal edited at Monash

THE prestigious *Australian Historical Studies* journal shifted from its Melbourne University stronghold last year, following the appointment of Dr John Rickard as editor.

Dr Rickard, a reader in the Monash History Department, is only the third academic outside Melbourne University to edit the journal since its inception 50 years ago.

Under Dr Rickard, the journal will be edited and managed from Monash, although it will still be published by Melbourne University.

Colleagues in the History Department have already thrown their support behind the project with Dr Andrew Markus assuming the role of business manager and Dr Marian Aveling continuing as one of the review editors. The Faculty of Arts has also shown its support with a \$5000 grant to pay for an editorial assistant, Julie Wells.

Australian Historical Studies is published twice a year — in April and October — and is widely regarded as the leading journal in Australian history.

It was the first Australian history journal to be produced from a university and its relatively large list of subscribers is still comprised mainly of academics, libraries and tertiary institutions.

Although it is primarily an academic journal, Dr Rickard says he is trying to make it more accessible to the general history reader.

"It is very hard in an academic journal to make quick changes because people who contribute have to adjust to the new style," he said.

"One thing we are trying to do, however, is break down the austere look of the publication with a greater use of illustrations.

"We are also trying to encourage contributors to feel they don't have to conform to some fixed idea of what a scholarly article should be

like. We are trying to loosen up the academic constraints a little bit."

One area where the traditional academic rules apply, however, is in the rigorous selection procedure to which all submitted articles are subjected.

Every article, and Dr Rickard claims he would receive roughly 50 a year, is referred to two other people with expert knowledge in the field of study. They review the article and send their reports back to the editor who will have also read the article.

He must then make a decision about whether the article should be published. Its writer receives the benefit of the criticism and advice offered by the referees and the editor.

When you consider that a standard edition contains seven articles plus book reviews and there are only two issues a year, the competition is naturally extremely fierce.

"It is not just my prejudiced view that decides if an article is worthy of publication. It has to win the approval of two other people who are experts in the field," Dr Rickard said.

"As historians though, we would be expecting it makes some contribution to our historical knowledge and that is usually a piece of work that has been based on original research. There are also articles that bring things together and make an assessment of our knowledge in a particular field.

"A journal should indicate the kind of work historians are doing and what sort of topics are attracting historians. In the last 10 years there has been a lot more articles on

women and family because of the influence of feminism. There has also been a much greater interest in social and cultural history and perhaps less in political history."

In the last edition, October 1989, (the April issue is due out at the end of this month) a diverse range of history fields are canvassed.

Tom Griffiths, of the Conservation, Forests and Lands Department, has written an article on the natural history of Melbourne. Janice Gothard, of Murdoch University, writes in the area of women's history with her article on female migration to Tasmania, and Greg Patmore, of Sydney University, concentrates on labor history with an article on the New South Wales railways before 1878.

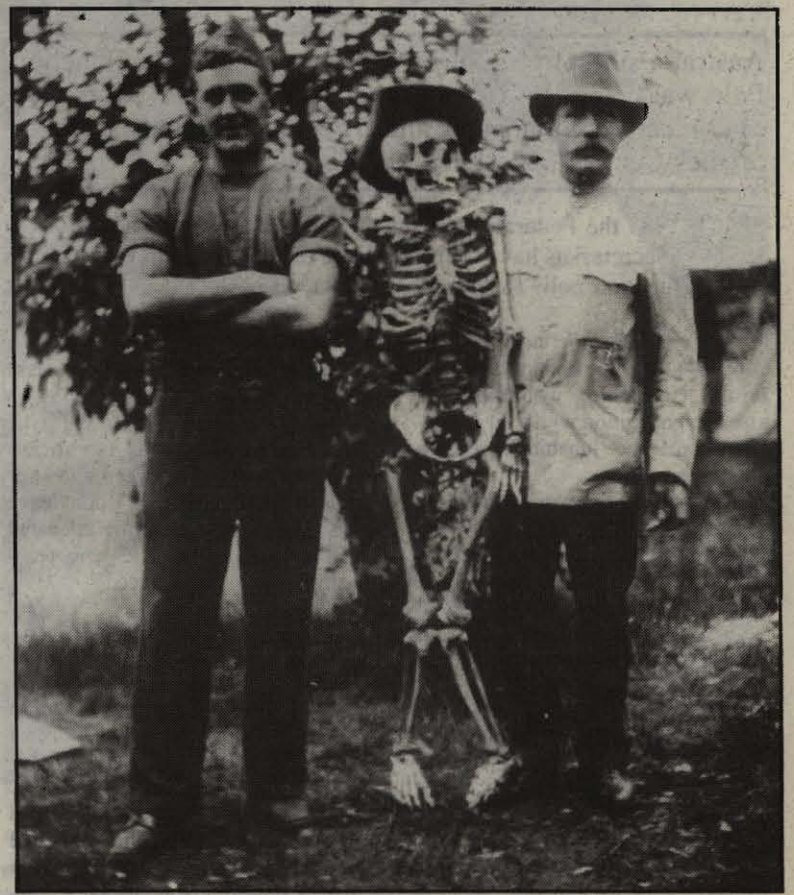
In addition there are some 40 book reviews and a small section with short comments from readers relating either to the journal itself or to matters of concern to historical scholarship.

Occasionally, Dr Rickard said, he intends to run special issues where all the articles relate to a central theme. He has already planned a public history issue for April next year which will be produced in co-operation with the National Centre for Research and Development in Australian Studies.

Public history is another new area of study, sparked by a growing community interest in our built or material environment, Dr Rickard said.

"The public history edition will include topics such as heritage, conservation and material culture. It will be much bigger and include quite a lot of illustrations which we hope will attract a wider audience."

Dr Rickard said he took up the position of editor because he thought it would be a challenge, but



The next edition of *Australian Historical Studies* will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. Pictured are Pvt. John Simpson (of Simpson and donkey fame) with Albert Currie and "friend" at a camp near Perth before embarkation for the war. (Photo courtesy of the Australian War Memorial).

even he admits to being surprised at how much of his time it occupies.

In addition to his work in the department, Dr Rickard also coordinates the Master of Arts in Australia Studies in the National Centre For Research and Development in Australian Studies.

He has published widely in the fields of political and cultural history and his books include: *Class*

and *Politics: New South Wales, Victoria and the Early Commonwealth 1890-1910*, *H.B. Higgins: The Rebel as Judge* and *Australia: A Cultural History*.

Anyone interested in subscribing to the journal should write to the Assistant Business Manager, *Australian Historical Studies*, Department of History, Melbourne University, Parkville, Victoria 3052.

Public history goes bush

IT has been said that good historians need strong boots. Students in the Master of Arts in Public History course at Monash need leech repellent, a machete and a fire-mask as well.

These intrepid historians have recently returned from a field trip to the Walhalla and Thomson Valley district of Gippsland.

As well as studying buildings and landscapes in the Walhalla Historic Area, they picked their way through the bush to the site of an isolated and abandoned sawmill, and later "supervised" a controlled burn at a modern logging coupe.

The Master of Arts in Public History course is now in its third year of teaching and continues to attract considerable student interest.

The first such course in Australia, it is designed for graduates in history who are working or seeking employment in the fields of historic conservation, commissioned writing, museums and the media. Students learn practical field skills as well as a critical approach to heritage issues.

The degree is generally undertaken part-time over two years, and consists of a year of coursework and field experience followed by the writing of a minor thesis.

The "thesis" has the unusual requirements that it must be commissioned by a government agency or private group. Students have under-

taken studies for bodies such as the Australian Heritage Commission, the Museum of Victoria and the National Trust.

Such co-operative arrangements strengthen the ties between the university and those active in the public history field, and offer genuine work experience and employment opportunities for students.

A highlight of the course is the regular first semester field trip, and its message is that historians can also be useful outside libraries.

The recent excursion (29-31 March) took place partly because students have been working on an interpretive brochure about the Walhalla Historic Area for the Ministry for Conservation and Environment.

Following a tour of the town from the local ranger, the party then studied the former Walhalla Post Office, for many years a private home, and now recently purchased by the Victorian Government for its historic significance.

With its leaking roof, overgrown garden, subsiding outbuildings, domestic artefacts and documents, and impressive but fading features from its days as the post office of a thriving mining town, it poses conservation dilemmas. How might it be restored, or sensitively re-used? What clues to its past are to be found in its fragile fabric?

A walk around Walhalla's



Public history students view a controlled burn at a logging site in the Thomson Valley.

precarious hillside cemetery with a local historian was followed by a tour of the famous Long Tunnel extended gold mine.

Late in the day, a number of the party investigated the site of Walhalla's market gardens where a Chinese settlement once existed. House foundations, a low stone wall and the contoured flats of the gardens are among the few visible reminders of Chinese life in the Victorian mountain goldfields. The Public History group has recommended a thorough archaeological survey of this intriguing site.

After a day of studying buildings and landscapes from the mining era, the group literally plunged headlong into the nearby forests to discover some of their 20th century sawmilling history.

Led by part-time archaeologist Peter Evans wielding his machete through the blackberries, the party descended to the site of Alstergren's sawmill which operated in the Thomson Valley in the 1940s, and had not echoed with the sound of so many voices since.

Students wandered around the mill foundations, collapsed huts, log bogie, dug-out, sawdust heap and iron artefacts, trying to understand how this industry operated and the nature of its impact on the forest. Where tall mountain ash once grew, wattle now stands. Should we intervene again and re-make the forest? And should these ugly but eloquent clues to its history be destroyed?

The field trip finished in a blaze of glory as forest officer, David Wells,

explained modern forest management practices to the backdrop of a controlled burn. This intense, confined bushfire was a prelude to seeding of a new, different forest. Fire has a history as a natural phenomenon, a cultural artefact, a management tool.

Historians are becoming critical in debates about today's forests as they begin to map the patterns of fire, the patchwork of logging, the impacts of human usage, and the changing relationships of society and nature.

With smoke in the nostrils and leeches in the socks, it was time to return to the library with new questions.

Tom Griffiths
Lecturer in Public History

For and against a high-tech city

Australia's first free public workshop on the Multi-Function Polis was held at La Trobe University last month. Monash senior lecturer in Japanese and Director of the Japanese Studies Centre, DR ROSS MOUER reports.

SINCE 1987 the Federal Government, four state governments and at least two secretariats have been exploring the feasibility of establishing a multi-function polis (MFP) in Australia.

Although still undefined, the concept calls for some kind of high-tech leisure city which would have a sizeable population with a large proportion of the inhabitants drawn from overseas.

In an attempt to open up the issue for public debate, the first free workshop on the MFP was held on 3 March at La Trobe University.

Sponsored by seven academic organisations from Victoria and South Australia, including the Japanese Studies Centre at Monash, the "Polis, functions and people" workshop consisted of three panel sessions.

They included a look at the restructuring of the Australian economy and the Asian context in which Australian development would occur in the future; progress made on the MFP proposal to date and community perspectives.

Restructuring of the Australian economy and the Asian context

Several themes emerged from the first session. Reader in the Politics Department at La Trobe University, Dr Joe Camilleri, discussed how Australia had reoriented itself to Asia over the past 20 to 30 years. He emphasised the way in which Australia, under the Fraser and Hawke Governments, had retreated from the economic nationalism of the early 1970s.

Dr Camilleri saw the 1980s as a period when successive governments sought to contain wages, to increase corporate profitability and to provide a domestic environment conducive to foreign investment. As Australia's economic position dropped, integration with Asia and the Pacific Basin was seen as the answer.

Dr Camilleri also looked at the Garnaut report, submitted to the Government at the end of last year by Dr Ross Garnaut. It analyses Australian-Asian present and future relations, concentrating on four north-east Asian countries: China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

In Camilleri's view, the Garnaut report pushed for integration to be taken to its logical conclusion, resulting in tourism and non-high-tech industries to be fully developed to give Australia its niche in the Asia-Pacific region.

A senior lecturer in geography at Monash, Mr John McKay criticised a number of assumptions which had been central to the Garnaut report. He said the economies of Asia were not the outcome of natural economic processes but that the role of government was considerable.

As long as governments are involved as agents promoting modes of economic development, the activation of competing national interests and technological imperialism or dominance were seen as matters requiring careful consideration, he said.

Dr Craig Littler (Griffith University) explored further the questions of technological transfers, indicating that Japanese firms had not developed a reputable record in terms of transferring large amounts of their sophisticated technology. This left room for scepticism concerning the extent to which the MFP would enhance Australia technologically.

I spoke of the emergence of a powerful techno-professional class which was increasingly serving as gatekeepers for many of the societies in Asia. It is fair to ask whether planning between elites for Australian development would leave the general public feeling alienated and divorced from the new technologies being introduced.

The MFP: An Answer?

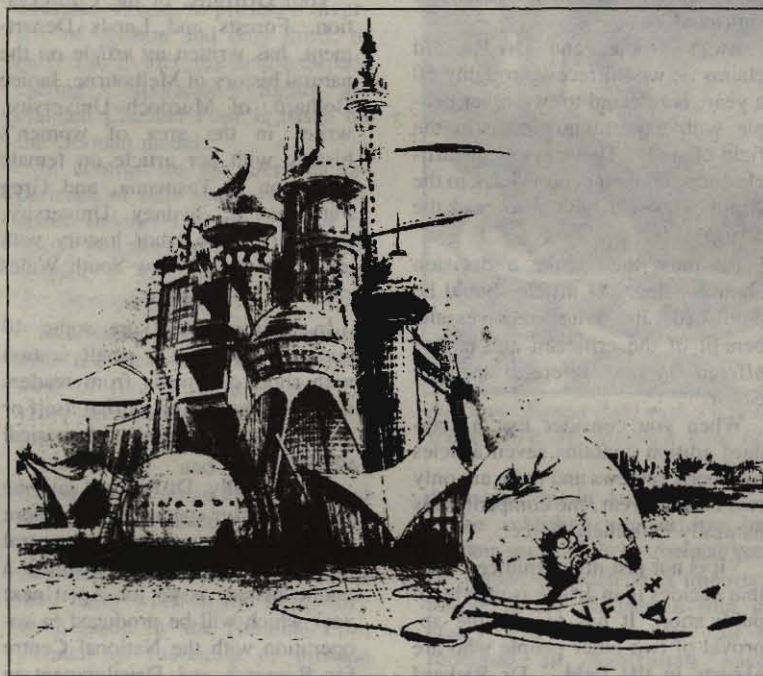
Although the second panel was to examine the MFP concept, it was clear that a firm concept did not exist. Attention focused much more on the processes by which the feasibility studies were being conducted.

Many people expressed concern that the planning for the MFP had occurred in secrecy. However, both Trevor Berthold from the MFP Australia Research, and Geoff Hallinan (from the Overseas Investment Division of DITAC), criticised the media and the public for remaining disinterested despite repeated press releases on the planning activities.

Mr Hallinan emphasised that the Government had not made a decision on whether to proceed with the project. He said a report was to be submitted on 30 June and the Government would then decide whether to initiate a more detailed feasibility study.

Professor David Yencken (Melbourne University) emphasised the need to avoid ethnic enclaves, techno-professional enclaves and the introduction of inappropriate technologies. He called for community consultations and a much more open approach to planning.

Referring to interviews he has held in Japan with officials of MITI (the Japanese ministry handling the MFP), he argued that the major thrust was land development and tourism with electronic gadgetry rather than serious technological transfers.



(Illustration courtesy of Bill Leak of the Sydney Morning Herald.)

while also warning about an excessive concern with economic issues to the exclusion of social, cultural and legal issues.

Professor Gavan McCormack (Adelaide University) commented on the desirability of furthering Australia-Japan relations, but questioned whether the relationship was such that it would be strengthened by an MFP.

Community Perspectives

The third session consisted of a panel discussion which included Harry Van Moorst (Rainbow Alliance and the Coalition Against Poverty), Syd Spindler (Australian Democrats), and John Speight (Victorian State President of the Amalgamated Metalworkers Union).

They highlighted environmental

issues, the absence of grassroots participation and the view that the project was basically designed by and for large corporations and might result in an enclave for an international techno-professional elite.

The debate which followed each session was lively. One cleavage was between those for indigenous development who believed more support should be provided for the promotion of Australia's science and technology, and those who felt Australia's future would best be promoted by foreign-led development which would infuse valuable investment funds and necessary technology into Australia.

Despite disagreement on some key issues, there was also wide consensus in other areas. The assumption commonly accepted was that economic changes in the Asia-Pacific area were real and that Australia would need to respond creatively to them if it were to maintain its independence and current standard of living. There was also consensus that Australian interests should come first in any decisions about the MFP.

Whether the MFP goes ahead or not, the question of Australia's response to a rapidly changing economic environment in Asia will remain on the political agenda for some time.

The more fruitful and communicative the discussions on the MFP, the more reasoned the final outcome of political debate on the larger questions in which democracy, economic efficiency and technology are so intricately intertwined.

Even if the MFP does not go ahead, the debate it has stimulated should serve Australia's future well.

Centre charts historic Gippsland

A COLLECTION of poems exploring themes of Aboriginal history and the mountains and coast of East Gippsland, is one of more than 1500 books held at the Centre for Gippsland Studies.

Based at the Gippsland Institute for Advanced Education, the centre has been established to promote the study of Gippsland, both within the academic and wider community.

In addition to its large book collection, the archive at the centre holds many photographs, maps, newspapers, journal articles, genealogical records and ephemeral material.

Gippsland historian, Meredith Fletcher, who co-ordinates the centre's activities, said the centre tried to collect everything published on Gippsland, focusing on five areas. These are Gippsland's regional and local history, environment, literature, Aborigines and social sciences.

The volume of material collected is so great that the centre has only recently completed the mammoth task of publishing a complete list of its holdings, which comprise more than 3000 items.

The bibliography, titled Gippsdoc, was published in three volumes in August last year. About 150 sets were printed and more than 100 have already been sold.

"Gippsdoc can now be consulted in schools and public libraries throughout Gippsland, at some historical societies, in government department and university libraries in Melbourne and in the homes of serious researchers on Gippsland topics," Ms Fletcher said.

"We have been very pleased with the response to Gippsdoc and are now faced with our next task — preparing the supplements to keep Gippsdoc current.

"We have received a number of requests for the Gippsdoc thesaurus, the list of subject headings used for compiling Gippsdoc. Instead of

issuing printouts, we have decided to print the thesaurus, and it will be available in 1990."

The centre is open three days a week for use by students, school teachers, researchers, local organisations and interested people.

It promotes activities such as seminars, excursions and publishing

projects which serve to increase awareness and knowledge of the Gippsland region, Ms Fletcher said.

"We liaise with national, state and local authorities, historical societies, museums, libraries, schools and other relevant institutions, group and individuals to further these aims," she said.



Gippsland historian, Meredith Fletcher, displays Gippsdoc, a bibliography of the centre's holdings.

Entertainment and The Arts

Romeo and Juliet woos audiences

ENTHUSIASTIC audiences resulted in the Shakespeare Society's production of "Romeo and Juliet" being booked out early this month.

Seated outdoors near the science laboratories under Melbourne's atmospheric but unreliable night skies, many young theatregoers returned for a second dose of Shakespeare's tragedy.

Directing the first show for the Shakespeare Society's 1990 season was final year history student Fiona Blair, who proved her versatility by also taking on the role of Lady Capulet at two weeks' notice, due to an actress dropping out of the cast.

Students Tom Bradley and Gaye Quinn played the star-crossed lovers, with Julian Beckedahl as Mercutio and Sue Crow playing the nurse, while assistant director Daniel Schlusser doubled as Benvolio.

"I wanted to get a really small space where the audience is looking in on the play," director Fiona Blair said.

Ms Blair described the outdoor set as an Elizabethan-type stage, with

scaffolding and a walkover used as a balcony.

"We acted in the Alexander Theatre last year, and they were very nice to us and I found them helpful in all sorts of ways, but even if you've got a good house of 300 in the Alex it looks bare.

"There's a huge gap between the audience and the actors, which is a real problem in Shakespeare because there are lots of really intimate monologues which should be in the centre of the audience," she said.

Ms Blair felt that the outdoor "in the round" setting was an ideal one for the play, even if Melbourne's unpredictable weather caused some doubtful moments.

Ms Blair felt people were seeing slightly different Romeo and Juliet characters from the ones they may have expected.

"Romeo is, I think, funnier than normal — I really don't see him as 'being in love with love' as you are taught at school.

"I think he's someone who desperately wanted to love someone and who really has lots of love to

give, and the one thing about Juliet is that she has the ability to take the love.

"I think that's as amazing as being able to give out lots of love," Ms Blair said.

Ms Blair insists the only way to understand Shakespeare is by seeing his plays.

"Even if it's a bad production, which this isn't, at least you can make a judgement about what you think — I just don't think that reading Shakespeare is enough," she said.

The next exciting project for the Shakespeare Society is a revival of last year's production of "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Esplanade Hotel in St Kilda in the middle of the year.

And the immediate priority for Fiona Blair?

"Apart from some sleep, I'll try and cram the half-year unit I'm supposed to have done into the remaining weeks and get my history major, and then I'm going overseas to look at plays in England and maybe at some graduate directors' courses," she said.



Tom Bradley and Gaye Quinn as the star-crossed lovers.

What a lot of nunsense

MONASH University Season '90 at the Alexander Theatre continues in June with the hit Off-Broadway musical *Nunsense* which runs for two weeks from 7 June.

Sister Bernadette has accidentally poisoned 22 of the order with her batch of vichyssoise, sending them to an untimely meeting with the 'Boss'. To add to their problems, after burying the first 18 the funds run out when Mother Superior blows the kitty on a new video recorder, leaving the others to rest in limbo... in the freezer! The Department of Health is about to descend on them. They need to raise money. They need an idea — a variety show in a school hall!



June Bronhill

Returning to the Alexander Theatre to lead the convent in this toe-tapping night of nun-puns is June Bronhill.

It will be somewhat of a reunion for everyone at the theatre as she has

played here several times in the past with the Melbourne Music Theatre Company. Forty years ago as a young June Gough from Broken Hill she made her singing debut in the Sydney Sun Aria Contest and came third to Joan Sutherland.

A year later she won, and with funds raised by the people of Broken Hill, she went overseas to study, adopting the name Bronhill in gratitude to her local community.

The rest is history and after 10 years in London conquering the opera stage she returned to Australia for a long career that included appearances with most local opera companies.

Her most popular role was arguably that of Maria in the original Australian production of *The Sound of Music* which played at the Princess Theatre during the early '60s.

In favor of this view would be the Alexander Theatre's manager, Phil A'Vard, who in fact was stage director for that production. The Alex's Box Office manager, Natalie Ritchie, ran party bookings and her husband Ken, now in the Department of Medicine, operated lighting.

In 1981, June was offered the role of Mother Abbess in a revival of the musical which ran for nearly three years in London.

June Bronhill could never be easily pigeon-holed and after playing a lingerie saleswoman in the TV series *Are You Being Served?*, as well as appearances in certain tea-bag commercials, she is once again donning a habit and kicking up her heels in what promises to be an hilarious season of *Nunsense*.

Bookings can still be made by phoning the Alexander Theatre credit card line on 565 3992 or by calling in personally.



A friend creates at the Arts and Crafts Centre. Picture: TONY MILLER

Become a crafty friend

A NEW group of students and staff have rallied together to support the Monash Arts and Crafts Centre while pursuing their own particular creative interests.

Friends of the Arts and Crafts Centre are able to use the centre's facilities including studios to work in and equipment like music stands, easels, paint brushes, potters wheel and sewing machines.

The group, also known as Van Gogh's Ear, provides scope for students and staff to express their crea-

tivity in a relaxed social atmosphere.

Membership costs \$4, which will be used to fund activities and functions throughout the year.

'Friends' have access to the studios at the following times — pottery: Tuesday midday to 2 pm; classical guitar: Thursday 1 to 2 pm; craft and textiles: Thursday 1 to 2 pm; painting and drawing: Thursday 1 to 2 pm.

These sessions are an ideal opportunity to meet others who have similar interests. It also allows

people to be creative in their own time frame rather than trying to complete a project during a specific course.

Experience is not necessary, artistic advice is free and beginners are most welcome. The group is also open to any suggestions as to the range and times of activities. The Friends group is presently applying for membership of Clubs and Societies.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends of the Arts and Crafts Centre should contact the centre on ext 3180 or simply drop in.

Entertainment and The Arts

Edwin Tanner: Memories of a maverick

Memories of Edwin Tanner
By Gwen Harwood

I WAS blessed with Edwin Tanner's friendship for more than a quarter of a century.

We were born in the same year, 1920, Edwin in Gelligaer, Glamorgan, Wales, and I in Brisbane.

Two children of the Devil's party — the years frog-march us place by place to meet in middle life, still probing the ambiguities of space.

When Edwin was three years old his family migrated to Australia. He remembered his early life in Wollongong in absolute detail, almost day by day it seemed.

When we met in Hobart he was engineer in charge of the structural design department in the Hydro-Electric Commission, and was attending my husband's linguistics lectures as part of a BA degree.

Our children went to the same school, and our two families became close friends. I remember Edwin taking a piece of bread and butter sprinkled with hundreds-and-thousands from the children's afternoon tea and gazing at it for quite a while. He put it back saying "I couldn't eat that. There's not enough blue in the mixture."

Our well-fed children were fascinated by stories of his poverty as a child. He could, he said, go for days on a sandwich. There was always stuff about to eat, and you had only to climb a fence to get it. There was water in the creek, and milk to steal directly from the cows. They were even more fascinated by stories of his mischief. One day he stole from the coal mine tunnel a heavy steel "rope idler" and spent hours rolling it to the top of the hill above his house in the cutting below. He held the idler between his knees and was letting it go and catching it when it got away and headed straight for his mother's kitchen. The roller hit the only stump on the hillside and changed course, knocking over posts and crashing into railway wagons.

My memories of his years in Hobart are of endless quicksilver talk. We ranged over logic, philosophy, music, poetry, engineering and of course painting. His great loves were Cezanne and Morandi. "Look at that", he would say, staring at a print. "You can't explain it, you just have to eat it." He would discourse on his life in the Port Kembla steel works, in the Department of Aircraft Production, in B.H.P., at Whyalla where he went in 1944 to design the Yampi Sound iron ore mine development. He was lyrical about reinforced concrete, its slabs, shells, membranes, folded structures, its surfaces of all forms.

Though he absorbed the paintings he loved, he belonged to no school. We often talked about the origin of paintings and poems in the mind, and he wrote to me once "For one who names pictures after they are painted it is difficult for me to name one before the canvas is stretched." He has been called a "mathematical expressionist". His painting *The Public Servant*, a picture bought by the National Gallery of Victoria, shows only a chair, a table, a coat on a hanger and a clock. In *Exclusive Brethren* an assembly of rods, cylinders and wheels is gathered in the space of the paintings as if to exclude any elements of an outside world. *Philosopher's Mind* (sic) shows a dolichocephalic skull seen from above entirely encased in glass.

But if the starting point of the pictures suggests the engineer's drawing board, the total effect is of luminous space and atmosphere. His use of color, glowing or subdued, shimmering or dusky, marks him as a true painter concerned with the mystery of the visible world. I recognised some of his expanses of colour when I saw for the first time the evening skies near Newcastle. While he painted he listened to music or poetry, and never began to work without "a head full of ideas." In 1970 he wrote to me: "It is clear now that my best work has an elegance and opalescence of some kind — some detachment and wit. Now with relief from pain I am working with all the determination and deliberation that spontaneity

really needs i.e. first rate spontaneity not slapstick."

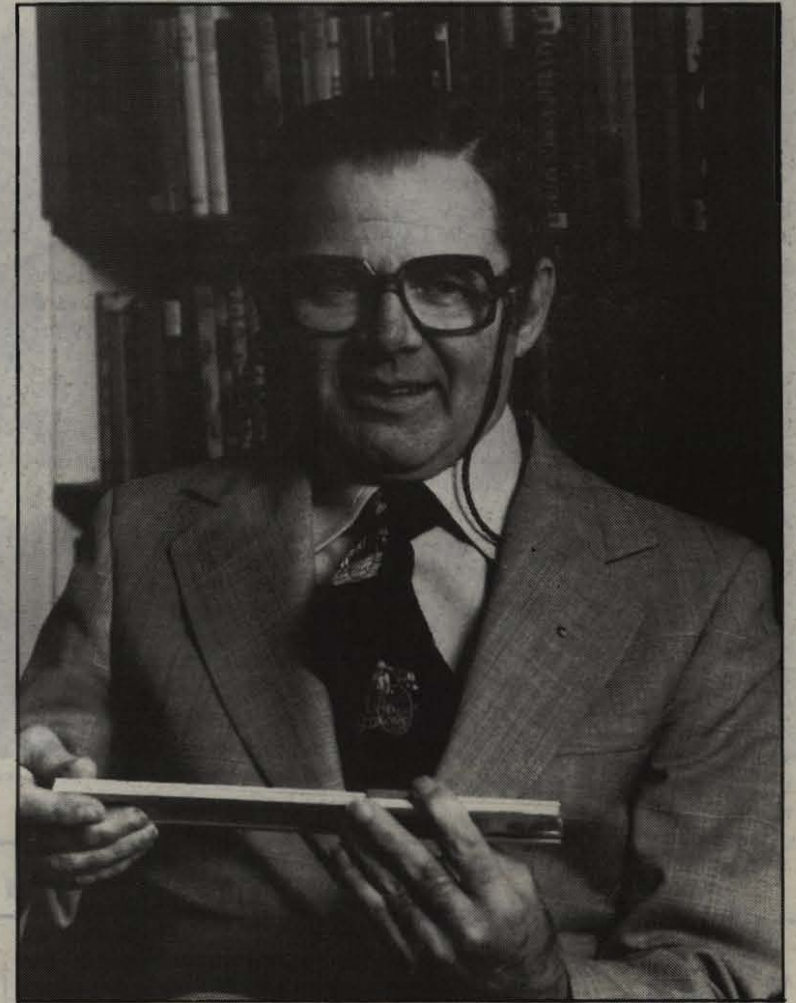
In 1957 Edwin left Hobart with his family to live and work in Glen Iris, Melbourne, as a consulting engineer. In 1968, after treatment following an accident, he suffered a chemically induced stroke, and for the rest of his life was never wholly free from pain. At times the pain was intolerable. "Written in pure pain on good paper", he began one letter. Neither medical nor surgical treatment helped for long, and hopeful periods of remission would be followed by "the cleanest most abstract longest pain which will only get longer as long as I live."

Distance did nothing to diminish our friendship, and pain could not cripple his wonderful spirit. Edwin and I wrote one another hundreds, perhaps thousands of letters until he died. In some of the late letters his flowing script is distorted by pain in his hand, but his courage and wit never failed.

He began to incorporate in his paintings carefully built-in collages, using brass rings, plates, screws, pulleys and bits of clockwork. His colours became richer and deeper.

We saw one another now and again; I would stay with the Tanners when I went to Melbourne to give a reading. Edwin had two terrifying dogs, Herb and Ethelred, of which he was very fond. Now and again Edwin would come to stay with us in Lenah Valley for a few days, and we would resume our conversations as if days and not years lay between our meeting. Once we talked for three days, pausing only to sleep.

One afternoon we walked up to Mt Stuart to see the house he had built in the early fifties. Indifferent to the current occupants he climbed on to all accessible parts of the house, banging windows and spouting and calling out "It's as good as the day I built it." On the way home we were drenched in a sudden rainstorm. A few days later, when Edwin was back in Melbourne, a parcel arrived by air freight for me. It contained a set of heatable hair curlers and the brief note "Fair Gwendoline you look terrible with wet hair."



Edwin Tanner, 1976

From time to time odd unexpected presents would come: six tubs of my favourite margarine, unobtainable locally; half a side of the best bacon; a blank notebook — "Gwennie, write me a masterpiece, yours, Eddie".

He liked the company of women better than that of men. In spite of his extreme gentleness he had a totally reckless streak. Another of the children's favourite stories was of how, at the age of nine, he jumped off a bridge near Port Kembla. The only people who had dared to jump off the rail track, which was 40 feet above the water, were youths whose local reputation rested on this feat. One was 18, another 19.

To jump in they had to land between two old timber piles at water level that had carried an earlier bridge. The crowd roared acclaim, and, to use Edwin's own words, "I crept quietly on to the bridge and stood barefoot on the rail track. Everybody laughed. I dived not jumped. My head nearly split open on the water."

"My shut eyes saw green and for some time I was afraid to open them but swam towards rock. Then the bastards, about 50 of them, said I had fallen in. Without a word I repeated the act in five minutes. Anyway I soon became able to dive ten or eleven times an hour."

The boy who began work at the Port Kembla steel works at the age of fourteen was still alive in the consulting engineer, as of course the child is still alive in every artist. Edwin, asked his age, would reply "I am always seven years old." I should have liked to watch him painting, but he said he was too shy to paint while anyone watched, so I did not insist. However he would do elegant drawings while he talked — of aeroplanes, lighthouses (Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* was one of his favourite books), and of engineers, philosophers, my character Professor Eisenbart, and public servants with their heads or souls bolted in place.

He would not put up with nonsense. When someone tried to convince him that pain was ennobling he said "Smash up your hand with a claw hammer". Whenever anyone waffled on about the alienation of the artist from society he would say "Give me an honest engineer". A young woman said, "I suppose as a consulting engineer you can afford a grand house in triple-fronted brick". He replied "I'd rather have a triple-fronted girl". Asked "Are you religious?" he answered "I was born inside the front cover of the Old Testament".

He felt great sympathy for others in pain, and on one occasion went to see a nun with incurable pain "to show her how to get relief by art". I think that the most terrible thing about pain is that it is inexpressible. Wittgenstein, in *Philosophical Investigations*, writes "Could someone understand the word 'pain' who had never felt pain?"

Edwin understood the word. "I bought a bunch of flowers, vase, and went around with a lemonade bottle of water to water the flowers and take pills with, pastels and a packet of my pain killers and sketch book. I sat beside this woman who was wearing my school colors Blue of Mary and white and showed her how to make a blank piece of paper look good. She said she'd never find anything beautiful enough to paint or draw. I looked into her face for the first time and beheld absolute beauty — I was thoroughly shaken — but said 'You need never go further than what you see in your mirror'."

When I first met him Edwin had no interest in portrait painting, saying that photography had made it obsolete. But later he changed his mind. "It was wonderful for me to see John Donne, Ben Jonson and dozens of English poets' portraits in the London portrait gallery. Sir Philip Sidney makes me sick, so does his Apology for poetry pinched from Aristotle."



Country Divers, c. 1958. Collection: Mr and Mrs P.F. Burke. Photograph courtesy of the Tanner Estate.

Entertainment and The Arts



"The first created beings awake and discover others". Under the guidance of Dennis Douglas, director of the Shoestring Theatre, East Oxford, actors Brenda White and David Wells, Student Theatre's Caroline Lloyd, and second-year French student Janoel Liddy perform a Lecoq exercise with neutral masks. The performance in the Manton Rooms last month was used to illustrate Douglas's talk on "The physical preparation of the actor", presented by the department of Romance Languages, the French Club and the Vera Moore Fund. Douglas was assisted by Bob Burton of Student Theatre. Picture: TONY MILLER

RBH program

THE Robert Blackwood Hall activities for May-June include:

Friday 4 May, 8 pm

Monash University Choral Society presents the Verdi Requiem with the Frankston Symphony Orchestra. Merlyn Quaife — Soprano, Brian Hansford — Bass, and Marion Brentnall — Mezzo Soprano. Conducted by Andre de Quadros.

Admission: adults \$12, students, pensioners and unemployed \$7.

Tickets available at the door. For bookings phone 565 3090.

Sunday 13 May, 5 pm

Sri Murugesu Fine Arts Club Melbourne Australia presents Cine Fame YG Mahendrar. Featuring a group of 12 film comedians in "Ithu Nyayama Sir" — a full length comedy play. Also featuring "Jothi", the popular South Indian film actress.

Tickets available from all Sri Lankan and Indian stores or contact Ruban on 380 1965 or Logan on 752 2232.

Monday 14 May, 1.15 pm

Lunch time concert. 'Ensemble I'. Spiros Rantos — violin. Brachi Tilles — piano. Graeme McKean — viola. Henry Wenig — cello and Hue Chi Hwey — double bass. Performing the Trout Quintet — Schubert.

Admission: free.

Saturday 19 May, 7 pm

Victorian Children's Choir present their Winter Celebrity Concert.

Admission: adults \$14.50, students/pensioners \$11.50, children \$8.50.

Sunday 20 May, 2 pm

Melbourne Academy Boys Choir special fundraising concert.

For further information and tickets phone 890 or 801 5136.

Monday 21 May, 1.15 pm

Lunch time concert. Trio Nova. Susan Pierotti — violin, Sarah Cuming — cello and Clare Clements

— piano. Featuring Piano Trio Op. 54 — Malcolm Arnold and Bergerettes — Bohuslav Martinu.

Admission: free.

Thursday 24 May, 7.30 pm

Waverley Music '90, a combined schools concert. Featuring eight secondary schools and colleges with groups ranging from Choral Ensembles to large orchestras presenting everything musical from the rap through jazz to the classics.

Admission: free.

Tickets available on request from Waverley Civic Centre and all branches of Waverley City Libraries and participating schools from 23 April.

For further information phone John Tilbrook on 566 0347.

Saturday 26 May, 8 pm

Melbourne Youth Music Council presents Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra, George Dreyfus Youth Band, Melbourne Youth Choir and the Junior Strings Orchestra.

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

For further information and tickets phone 690 8624.

Monday 28 May, 1.15 pm

Lunch time concert, John O'Donnell — organist. Presenting a program of works by Scheidemann, Tunder, Buxtehude and Bach.

Admission: free.

Thursday 31 May, 8 pm

AVILA College present "The Performance of the Creative Arts", featuring music, drama and art.

For further information and tickets phone 807 6677.

Saturday 2 June, 8 pm

Melbourne Welsh Male Voice Choir present their annual "Night of Song" singing traditional Welsh Choral Music. Conducted by Bill Mead and featuring guest artist June Bronhill.

Admission: adults \$16 and concession \$12.

For further information phone 801 1292.

Memories of a maverick

Continued from page 14

I sent him some newspaper photographs taken at Oyster Cove, and he responded "The DO NOT BEND parcel was pushed bent through the slot in my front door crumpled. It could quite easily have been pushed under the door. Public Servants! I liked the photo you liked best but it makes you look like an 18 year old Strine. The larger photo is more useful to me as it has a very much better composition even if it makes you look 62 years old.

"Did you notice the 2 circles (your wedding ring and your watch-band) and on the left (for the looker) side on your dress a repetition of 9 lines falling to your right. It will be hard for me to paint you as the bloody pain comes on without warning. Shall I give you the devil's ear and tail? I don't want to make a sensation I simply want to paint a decent portrait of you for people not yet born. I'll let you paint your eyebrows, you do it well. I really must come down and get a good look at you."

Alas, that was never possible. A year later A.D. Hope opened an exhibition for Edwin, and he spoke of painting us together. Shortly after that, in November 1979, I saw Edwin in Melbourne for the last time. As usual paintings were stacked everywhere, and he was working on a large canvas which he turned

round "so it would not interrupt our conversation", which ranged, as usual, over our lives, ideas, dreams and memories, and Edwin's trip overseas in 1977 when he saw his native Wales — "the most beautiful spot in the world is two miles from where I was born".

He never thought of himself as Australian. I remember we talked of the books that had influenced us in the 'fifties, and he recalled the green coat I had been wearing on the day we met; details I had forgotten were sharp in his inward eye.

He spoke of how it was becoming harder for painters and poets to be truly original, and of how little thought was given to the National Gallery of Victoria a decade earlier to see his painting *Madrigals*. Hung nearby was a painting by one of his famous contemporaries. "Doesn't know the first thing about using paint," said Edwin, "it's all going to flake off". He began picking at a corner with his fingernail and probably would have given a practical demonstration of the truth of his words if a couple of attendants had not restrained him.

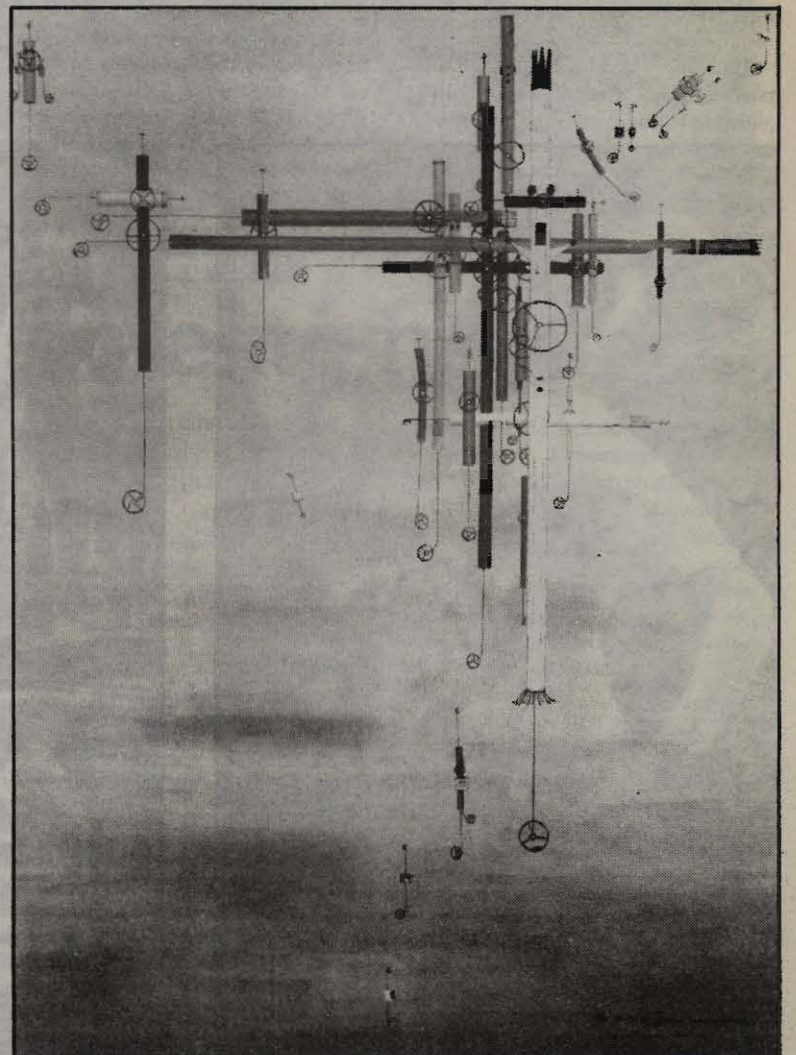
I remember we had a fierce but affectionate quarrel about a poem of mine he didn't like (he was right; I have disposed of it) and about his cutting down three large gums with a chainsaw because they interfered with light from the east. He went out

to buy his lunch (three cans of Coke and two sandwiches) and I had to leave for my plane. We said goodbye in the street.

In Professor Graves's book *A History of Philosophy in Australia* he says of Edwin's work: "Painters in some numbers in Australia, as elsewhere, have professed to represent in painting such exalted metaphysical themes as the rhythm of the universe; comment in paint — at least of the quality of Tanner's work — on ideas in contemporary professional philosophy must be very rare indeed."

In the warmth of our long friendship we had no need to explain ourselves to one another, or to pretend that we were free of the usual human faults and failings. We were friends from the beginning simply because there was an immediate way open between us. Once I asked him, "What do you feel when you have finished a painting that you know is good?", and he answered, "I remember that I shall die." He died in November 1980 aged 59, too soon, but my delight in his friendship and my admiration for his work are unfading.

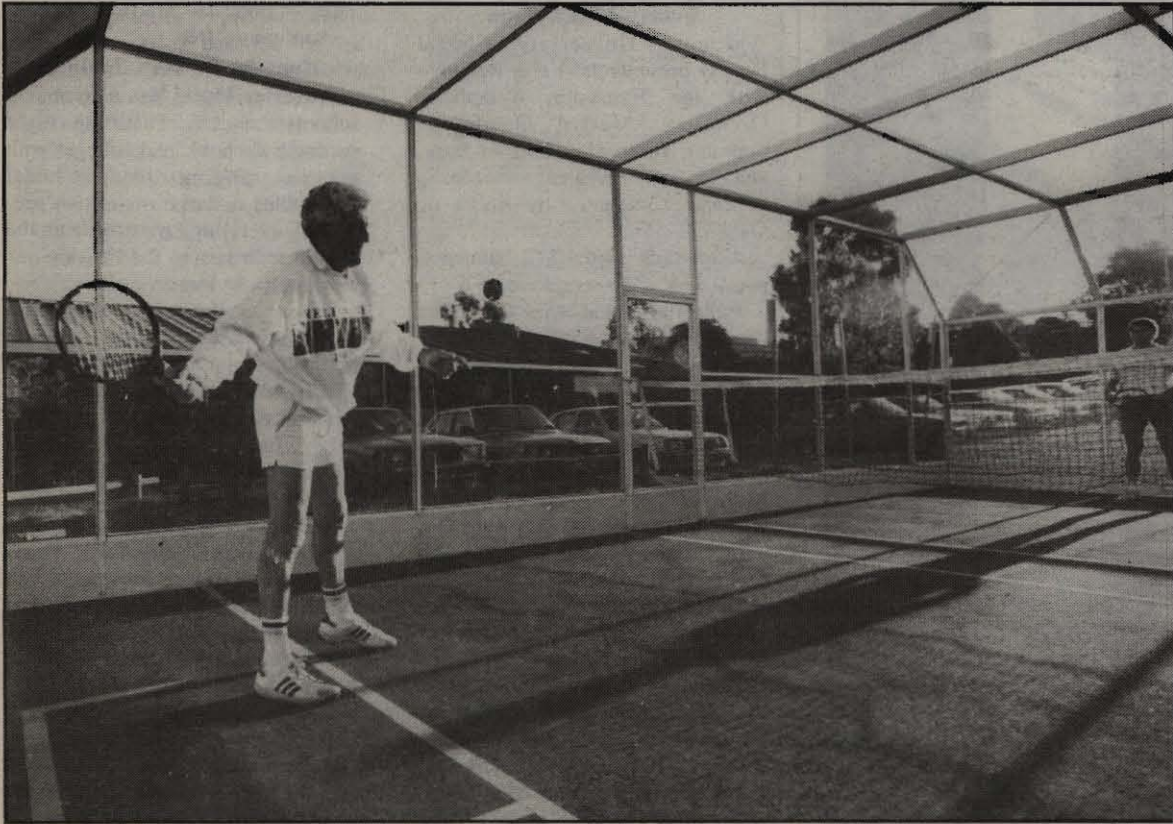
This article was reprinted from the Monash University Gallery catalogue for the current exhibition: EDWIN TANNER: Works 1952-1980. The exhibition closes on 12 May.



Double Negation of Family Resemblances, 1967-68. Collection: Sir James and Lady Cruthers.

Sport and Recreation

Monash scores a squennis court



Enjoying a game of squennis are the former State Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr Brian Dixon (left) and Recreation Officer, Mr Leigh Branagan. Pictured right is the building as it looks from the outside. Pictures: TONY MILLER.

THE former State Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr Brian Dixon, took the opportunity to try out the world's only squennis court with Recreation Officer, Mr Leigh Branagan, during a recent visit to Monash.

Squennis is a new game which combines the skills of tennis and squash without demanding the ability of being able to play either.

It is played on a small enclosed rectangular court and can involve two or four people. Although the court has two nets, the rules of the game are very similar to squash.

The racquets are not unlike those used in racquet ball and the ball is the same size as a tennis ball but is soft and spongy.

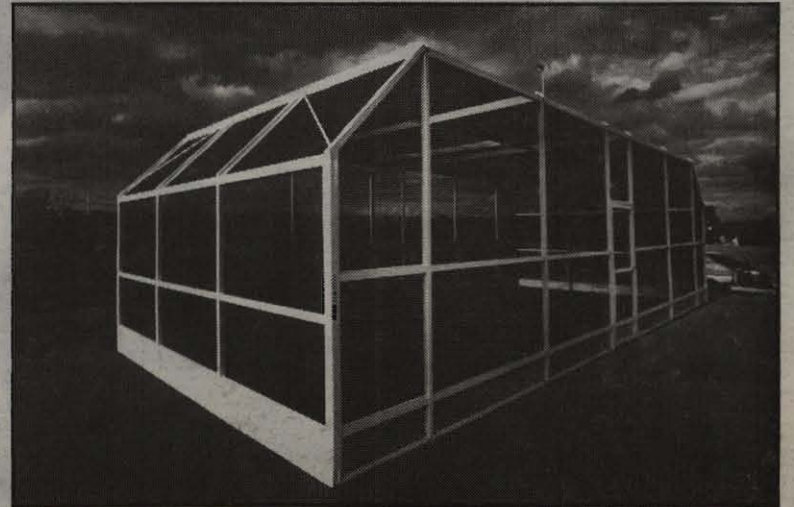
The game has been designed for both the highly skilled person and those who have difficulty with squash and tennis but still want to have fun and keep fit.

The Monash squennis court is located between the pool and the tennis courts.

A Squennis Cup tournament will be held later this month to find the best male and female squennis player. There will also be a men's and ladies' doubles and mixed doubles competition.

The court is free to hire and is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

Anyone interested should contact Leigh Branagan at the Sports and Recreation Centre or inquire at the centre's general office.



Runners sweat it out for kidney foundation

ABOUT 200 people ran rings around Monash recently as part of the sixth annual Australian Kidney Foundation (AKF) fun run.

The runners completed two laps of the ring road, a distance of approximately 4.8 km, while a string quartet, consisting of talented musical students, provided the inspiration.

The winner was Ian Leitch, a PhD pharmacology student, who completed the course in 14.17 minutes.

Kylie Lucas, a medical student, took out the women's prize with a time of 17.40 minutes. The first medical student to finish was Andu Borsaru in 16.16 minutes.

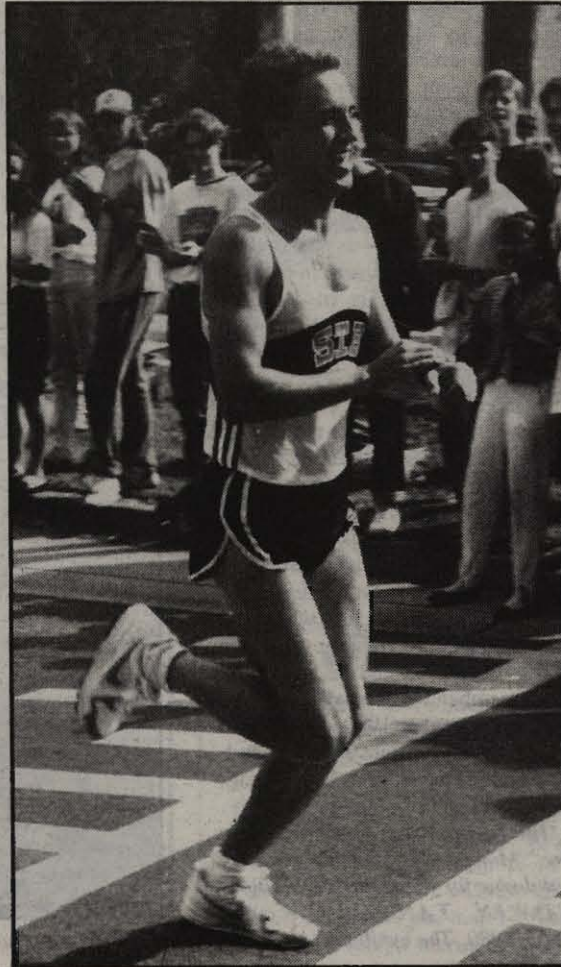
The winners both scored a dinner for two at Stavros Greek Tavern or Minootz Restaurant, and every runner received a free T-shirt and drinks (provided by Schweppes).

The fun run is organised by the third-year medical students to help raise money for the AKF. In the last 10 years, Monash medical students

have raised \$100,000 for research into kidney disease with their annual street collection and fun run.

Students from Melbourne University and Lincoln Institute have also participated over the years in the street collection which is loyally supported by the Hilton, Hyatt and Menzies hotels.

The total amount collected in 1989 by all three institutions was almost \$13,000. This year, the students hope to increase that figure significantly.



The winners of the Australian Kidney Foundation fun run, Kylie Lucas (left) and Ian Leitch, cross the finishing line. Pictures: RICHARD CROMPTON.

Spanish opera

COMBINE Spanish surreal carnival paintings, elements of Russian architecture, and burlesque humor and what do you have? Well, according to director Barrie Kosky, you have his recent production at the Alexander Theatre of Rossini's popular opera, "The Barber Of Seville".

The opera played two nights — to very enthusiastic audiences — as part of the Alexander Theatre's inaugural Monash Theatre Season.

Conceived by the Victoria State Opera (VSO) as its touring opera for the Victorian Arts Council, the idea was to mix very experienced opera singers with the opera stars of the future, who are part of the VSO's Young Artist's Program.

Polished professional, Roger Howell repeated his acclaimed portrayal of Figaro, having played the Barber last year at the State Theatre, while another well-known operatic name, Ian Cousins, enjoyed the character role of Dr Bartolo.

Joining them were two of the VSO's younger singers, Michael Terry and Kathleen Southall-Casey as the young lovers Almaviva and Rosina.

"It's quite exciting for the young singers to be able to work with these experienced performers, but it's also exciting for the experienced singers because there's an extraordinary energy and enthusiasm about the whole process, which is great," said Mr Kosky.

Barrie Kosky himself is no slouch when it comes to enthusiasm and achievement.

Last year Mr Kosky was the winner of the Channel 10 Medibank Private Young Achiever Of The Year Awards (Arts Category), and

was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Trust Award.

He added to these achievements his production of the Australian premiere of Sir Michael Tippett's opera "The Knot Garden" for the 1989 Melbourne Spoleto Festival.

One aspect of opera which is very important to Mr Kosky is the use of English as the language to perform a work.

"It makes an enormous difference — operas should be performed in the vernacular in Australia. To have a comedy in which the audience are glued to the subtitles or just smiling at the lovely bits of Italian which are being flung at them, is basically irrelevant and incomprehensible."

Mr Kosky maintains that the audiences at the "Alex" enjoyed hearing the opera in English.

"It was very exciting, to do an opera with the audience laughing along with the performers spontaneously, rather than as a delayed reaction from the subtitles. So rather than just relying on the visual stuff, you can actually have great humor coming from the words," he said.

A talented young man of definite artistic views, Mr Kosky summed up what he was trying to do to the audiences who came to see "The Barber Of Seville" at Monash.

"Rather than just present a glitzy, campy comedy, we tried to invest the comedy with a bit more satirical and black humor. The audience seemed to find it quite interesting!"

Judging from the comments heard around the theatre on those two March evenings, it would seem that Mr Kosky succeeded in a big way.

Julie Houghton
Melbourne correspondent
for ABC-FM's "The Showman"