

# MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS

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Many serious netball injuries could be avoided if simple safety techniques were observed and game rules were modified for children, a report by Monash University's Accident Research Centre has suggested.

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## First students for KL

A total of 431 students began classes last month as part of the first intake of students at Monash University's new campus in Malaysia.

The Monash University Sunway Campus Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur is the result of a partnership between Monash and Sunway College which builds upon twinning arrangements between the two institutions.

The new arrangement enables Malaysian students to undertake an entire Monash degree while remaining in Malaysia.

Monash's vice-chancellor, Professor David Robinson, said the new campus was part of the university's plan to establish a range of campuses and extension centres throughout the Asia-Pacific region and in other selected countries.

"The Sunway campus will benefit Malaysian students who want a Monash qualification but can't, for whatever reason, come to Australia to study. It will also be an attractive option for students from other countries in the region," he said.



Vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson does the honours at Monash Malaysia.

"Australian students will also benefit by having this additional option to spend a semester studying in another country."

Monash was the first foreign university to be invited to operate a full campus in Malaysia. It has accepted large numbers of Malaysians onto its Australian campuses since the 1970s and now has the largest

number of Malaysian alumni of any Australian institution.

Monash Malaysia will provide a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in engineering, science, information technology, business and the arts, and will also foster a strong research base.

The main intake of students at the campus is expected at the beginning of next year.

## Indon plan gets boost

Monash has commenced a feasibility study in consultation with the Indonesian Government and the rectors of Indonesian universities on establishing a full Monash University campus in Indonesia.

Speaking at the end of a visit to Indonesia last month, vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson said Monash's desire to participate fully in the Indonesian education sector over the long term had remained unchanged by the recent events in that country.

"Despite the current economic crisis in Indonesia, Monash is very optimistic about the country's medium and long-term outlook. The university remains strongly committed to forging links with Indonesia's education sector, even during these times of difficulty," he said.

Professor Robinson said Monash would continue its university preparation and language courses in Jakarta and Bandung through its joint venture entity, UniSadhuGuna.

## Myths debunked in language study

By JOSIE GIBSON

**Linguistic diversity is more evenly spread in Melbourne than in Sydney or Adelaide, Monash researchers have found.**

And claims of language 'ghettoes' in these cities are not always supported by the facts, according to the report, 'Language Concentrations in Metropolitan Areas', by Professor Michael Clyne and Ms Sandra Kipp of Monash University's Linguistics department.

Using data from the 1996 Census, the researchers focused on Local Government Areas (LGAs) in a project which mapped community language distribution in the three cities.

In Australia, community languages are concentrated in state capitals, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne, where more than a quarter of the population speak a language other than English at home. In Adelaide, the city with the next-highest proportion of home users of languages other than English, the figure is about 15 per cent.

According to Professor Clyne, the findings could help urban planners seeking to provide language-specific services where they were most needed. And, he said, they also debunk a few myths.

"The idea of Chinese-speaking ghettoes, for example, is simply not supported by fact," he said. "Our research shows that Mandarin and Cantonese have relatively low concentration factors."

The researchers classified LGAs into various types, based on the presence and spread of community languages. Concentration levels were calculated using 'language groups' actual and relative numerical strengths

and overall population figures. For example, while the Melbourne LGA with the largest number of Vietnamese speakers was the large and ethno-linguistically diverse municipality of Brimbank, the language was most strongly concentrated in the much smaller LGA of Maribyrnong.

The researchers found that Sydney had more municipalities with only one significant community language (Type A) than Melbourne or Adelaide. And both Sydney and Adelaide had far more

Type E municipalities (no significant presence of community languages) than Melbourne.

In contrast, Melbourne had a far higher proportion of Type B (linguistically diverse but with one dominant community language) and Type C (linguistically diverse but with no dominant community language) LGAs than either Sydney or Adelaide.

"In Melbourne, linguistic diversity is spread over much of its area," Professor Clyne said. "The large

number of Type A areas in Sydney, on the other hand, can be attributed to the stronger concentration of newer languages.

"Adelaide's smaller number of language co-clusters reflects the fact that it has undergone less substantial changes to its ethno-linguistic profile in recent times, as well as its overall smaller existing community language base."

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Goal: Mitch Smith (light shirt) keeps his eye on the ball as Monash's men's netball team heads for victory over The University of Melbourne at the recent SUSA Championships. The win means Monash goes into the Australian University Games ranked first among the Victorian and Tasmanian teams. Full story and photos on page 8.

# US looks to bounce AFL

BY JOSIE GIBSON

**Australian Rules football could face a tough competitor if American football powerbrokers proceed with plans to establish their multi-billion dollar game Down Under.**

The powerful National Football League (NFL) has confirmed its intention to stage its first-ever game in Australia, perhaps in the year 2000, as part of a long-term worldwide expansion program.

According to Mr Francis Farrelly, a lecturer in Monash University's Marketing department, Aussie Rules should not underestimate the NFL.

"The NFL's marketing strategists feel Australia offers great potential," he said. "They believe Aussie fans are curious about American imports and that if the game is explained, presented and marketed well, Australian interest in the sport will grow."

Mr Farrelly and Mr Rick Burton, from the University of Oregon in the US, are looking at marketing of the NFL and other 'global' sports as part of their research into sports sponsorship.

They recently interviewed the NFL's senior vice-president Mr Don Garber, who is also managing director for NFL International, about the organisation's global expansion program.

"From the NFL's point of view, Australia is pretty much ideal," Mr Farrelly said. "We have an insatiable appetite for sport, especially the more rugged varieties, and a pool of potential talent, and we are familiar with



photo by Francis Farrelly

*Hoopla: American football provides spectacle as well as sport.*

American football because it has been broadcast here for nearly 20 years.

"More significantly, Australia is a potential gateway to the Pacific Rim countries."

The NFL has already created a beachhead in Europe with the three-year-old World League of Football (now renamed NFL Europe), and the game is currently played in about 35 countries ranging from Germany to Japan.

But will Australians' sportiness allow them to be wooed to a game fundamentally different from their own national sport? Australian Rules football is virtually non-stop action with little or no protective equipment – far removed from the stop-start action of well-armoured teams in the American variety.

Mr Farrelly said the phenomenal international success of American league basketball showed that canny marketing could overcome cultural boundaries – with lucrative rewards.

Outside the US, for example, National Basketball Association licensing generates revenues of more than US\$500 million a year.

And, he said, technology was making it easier to exploit the growing global demand for sports action.

"With the advent of computer technology and cunning media barons who scour the planet for viewers, sport is a colossal digital product," he said. "Who plays and wins may not matter. What's important is that the game can be seen by anyone, anywhere, anytime, and in the eyes of big business, that's an opportunity that simply can't be missed."

"Four US television networks paid US\$17.6 billion for the rights to broadcast NFL games for the next eight years, so imagine what the asking price might be if there was strong international market penetration."

For more information on the sports marketing research project, contact Mr Farrelly on (03) 9903 2364.

## Teachers to meet on PEEL

**Up to 200 teachers from across Victoria will converge on Monash University on 24 and 25 August for a conference on internationally-lauded classroom teaching techniques.**

Conference coordinator Ms Ruth McKinnon says it's the first time the PEEL annual conference has been held at Monash – the main provider of PEEL information in Victoria.

PEEL – the Project for Enhancing Effective Learning – aims to refine classroom teaching approaches to help stimulate and support learning, bringing benefits to both teachers and pupils.

Hundreds of Victorian teachers have successfully used PEEL techniques since their development as part of a research project at Laverton High School in the mid-1980s.



*Teacher Jo Osler, who has just returned from a PEEL conference in Sweden, puts the PEEL techniques to work at Drouin Primary School.*

Ms McKinnon says the teaching approach has also proved popular overseas, especially in Scandinavian countries.

"The trick is to get teachers involved at the grassroots level – it's not imposed from above," she says. "PEEL works because the strategies and classroom techniques work ... and the kids like them."

According to Ms McKinnon, PEEL techniques get students to talk about what they're learning, to

question what they're taught, and to take charge of their own research.

"Writing lots of notes on a blackboard and expecting the students to copy them down is definitely not PEEL. Instead, a teacher might give students a series of terms and definitions and get them to discuss how all these things are connected."

For more information about the PEEL conference, contact Ms Ruth McKinnon, email Ruth.McKinnon@Education.monash.edu.au

## Myths debunked in language study

*Continued from page 1*

According to the research, the most strongly concentrated languages were Macedonian and Maltese (Melbourne), Macedonian and Vietnamese (Sydney), and Vietnamese and Serbian (Adelaide). The most dispersed were German and Greek (Melbourne), German and Polish (Sydney) and Spanish and German (Adelaide).

Professor Clyne said the relatively low concentration of German was due to a number of factors. Areas where German speakers had once congregated had been overtaken by other community languages as the German

speakers dispersed, he said. And the fact that German speakers came from a number of European countries meant the language was spoken by a diverse group of people who may not wish to congregate.

Professor Clyne said the research had some interesting implications in light of the rise of Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party and some of its policies.

"On the basis of public opinion polls, it appears that One Nation has attracted greatest support in what are basically monolingual regional areas, where there are very few non-English speakers and, by implication, exposure

to people from other cultures," he said. "Support is least in linguistically and culturally diverse areas like Melbourne. So, it's not the people living among migrants who are saying they're against multiculturalism, but those who have little or no exposure to other cultures."

A full report of the research is available in the current issue of *People and Place*, published by Monash's Centre for Population and Urban Research. For a copy, contact the centre on (03) 9905 2967.

*Professor Michael Clyne looks at the language of exclusion on page 5.*

## Self breath testing – a public benefit or a private cost?

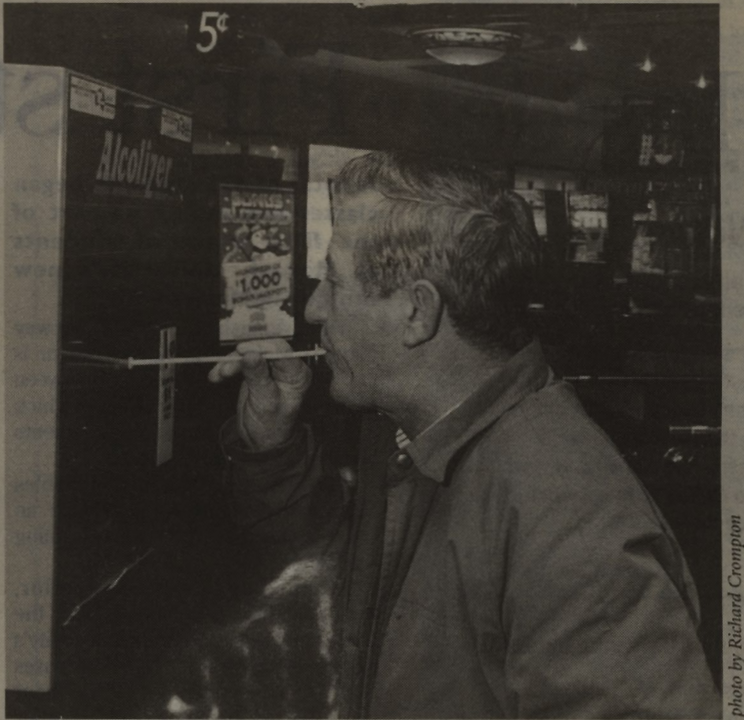


photo by Richard Crompton

*Testing the intake: A customer checks his alcohol level at Melbourne's Matthew Flinders Hotel.*

BY KAY ANSELL

**The introduction of breath-testing machines in hotels has been hailed as a breakthrough in the self-regulation of responsible driving. But why do as few as one in 10 drinkers bother to use them?**

Drinkers, it seems, are extraordinarily price-sensitive when deciding whether or not to use these breath-testing machines, according to a report by Monash University's Accident Research Centre (MUARC).

The Monash researchers are assisting road safety authorities and the hotel industry in finding ways of getting drinkers to breath-test before they get into their cars. They are investigating the effectiveness of the machines in reducing drink-driving and its resultant road trauma costs against the costs of producing and running the machines.

Dr Narelle Haworth from MUARC says research by the centre has found that twice as many people tested themselves at machines that cost \$1 per test as opposed to the \$2 machines. However, fewer than 15 per cent of patrons used the machines even at the lower price.

This raises the fundamental question of how to increase usage rates. Is it a question of better promoting the use of the machines, or is it simply a matter of further reducing the fee per test?

The research evaluated the merits of promotional campaigns versus lower breath-test charges in trying to achieve a usage rate of better than 10 per cent by drivers with a blood alcohol content of .05 or above.

The research was conducted by Dr Haworth together with Ms Lyn Bowland, Professor Peter Vulcan and Dr Caroline Finch. It was funded by VicRoads, the Transport Accident Commission, and the Federal Office of Road Safety.

Three fee levels were measured – \$2, \$1 and 20 cents – and two types of promotional campaigns – one using posters and coasters at venues, and a second that added in-house promotions and local media coverage.

"We found that the 20 cent machines gave the highest usage rates – almost double that of the \$1 machines," Dr Haworth says. "The promotions used didn't seem to be effective, but we are not certain if this is because the wrong types of promotion were chosen or there was simply not enough promotion."

The report concluded that the benefit-cost ratio to the Victorian community, taking into account road trauma costs, would be greatest if three hundred 20 cent machines were installed at the 150 highest volume liquor venues.

The bad news for the hotel industry and the breath-testing machine manufacturers is that while usage was greater with lower fees, the overall revenue was less.

"If the reason for installing these machines is to reduce trauma rather than make revenue, then 20 cent machines are clearly the best option," Dr Haworth said.

She said the machines would need to be installed at the most appropriate venues, such as high-volume turnover hotels and hotels where people are likely to drive home rather than walk or use public transport. There were also potential benefits in putting the machines in other licensed venues, including wedding reception centres, sporting venues and licensed restaurants.

According to Dr Haworth, the most useful benefit of the machines may be their self-educational purpose – educational campaigns teaching the public how to keep under .05 by counting drinks were problematic.

"Standard drinks are a very difficult concept," she said. "For example, a red wine served at a pub is likely to be two standard drinks. People are counting glasses and their calculations are sometimes way off. The machines offer an accurate reading if used according to the instructions."

Given the potential benefits to the public, should the breath-testing machines be mandatory at licensed venues at an attractive price and subsidised by taxpayers? That's now up to the road safety authorities to decide, said Dr Haworth.

# Benefit helps more: report

By Kay Ansell

Despite the Federal Government's new Youth Allowance attracting criticism from Opposition parties, more tertiary education students will be better off than under the schemes it replaced, Monash University researchers say.

More than 50,000 students who would not have qualified for Independent status under AUSTUDY will meet the Youth Allowance's Independent eligibility criteria, according to the director of Monash's Centre for Population and Urban Research, Dr Bob Birrell, and Mr Ian Dobson, who is an associate to the deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development).

This is due to more liberal provisions for claiming Independent status under the new scheme, which came into effect on 1 July. The Youth Allowance subsumed all employment-related welfare benefits and AUSTUDY for people under 25. AUSTUDY still applies for students aged 25 or older.

The Monash researchers' estimate of the number of university and TAFE students who have become eligible for the Youth Allowance (above 50,000) is more than double the Federal Government's predicted figure.

According to Dr Birrell, the Youth Allowance goes against the user-pays trend in education. Since taking office in 1996, the Coalition has raised the Independent age for AUSTUDY from 22 to 25, toughened its means-testing provisions, and increased and tightened HECS repayments.

Students must be at least 25 years old to qualify for Independent status under the Youth Allowance's age provision, as was the case under AUSTUDY, but those under 25 may qualify for Independent status under the new, more liberal provisions. These are:

- working part-time for 15 hours per week for two years (instead of 20 hours per week as originally proposed);



- working full-time (at least 30 hours per week) for 18 months within a two-year period and earning \$13,800 over that time (originally it was \$17,000);
- being in a de facto relationship of 12 months' duration (instead of two or more years).

These new rules mean that if prospective students delay university entry for 18 months, during which time they earn \$13,800 or more, for example, they can receive the Youth Allowance as an Independent, free of any means test on their parents' financial situation.

As well, students who start an undergraduate degree before turning 25 can apply to receive the Youth Allowance as Independents once they turn 25. And while they will still have to undergo a personal means test, under the previous provisions they had to be assessed on their parents' income and assets.

Another benefit of the Youth Allowance is the more generous rental assistance provisions for students living away from home, including the removal of the minimum \$1000 bond payment

that had been required under AUSTUDY.

According to the researchers, only 33 per cent of younger students were receiving AUSTUDY. For students to qualify for full AUSTUDY, the combined annual taxable income of the student's parents had to be \$24,024 or less per year.

Hardest hit under the old system were students from lower middle-class or blue-collar families who could not qualify for AUSTUDY but whose parents could not afford to fund their university education, according to Dr Birrell.

"Lack of access to government assistance, especially for students in the lower to middle-income spectrum, is an important factor when deciding whether to go on to tertiary education."

The findings are detailed in the current issue of *People and Place* published by the Centre for Population and Urban Research. For a copy, contact the centre on (03) 9905 2967.

# Cross-border education to be examined

Telstra has joined forces with Monash University to research the delivery of education services across national and cultural borders.

The telecommunications giant has given Monash's Faculty of Education \$80,000 for the year-long venture, which will focus mainly on the growing education markets in Asia and Africa.

The project will be run by the Monash Centre for Research in International Education within the Education faculty.

Project manager Mr Lucas Walsh, a research fellow at the centre, said the project was primarily concerned with the growing internationalisation of education.

"It concerns a range of activities, practices and processes to do with learning on a global scale," he said.

"For example, it will cover everything from the use of information technology such as the Internet and email to new flows and patterns of students around the world."

Mr Walsh said the project would be a team effort, drawing on a wide range of relevant skills and expertise in Education and other faculties.

He added that the collaboration with Telstra would be valuable given the company's growing presence in Asia and its experience in developing educational activities such as 'Learn It'.

"The aim is to develop some new pedagogies for culturally sensitive delivery," Mr Walsh said.

"We want to figure out how to deliver education services to those regions in a way that is relevant to their needs and culturally sensitive, and the role technology can play in facilitating this."



Mr Walsh right, with Professor Fazal Rizvi, director of the Centre for Research in International Education, and Dr Dallas Isaacs from Telstra.

# Civics project launched

A national civics studies project using both radio and the Internet was officially launched in Canberra last month by the Federal Minister for Education, Dr David Kemp.

The project, *Discovering Democracy*, has been funded by the Federal Government and produced by Monash University and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr Chris Baker, of Monash's National Centre for Australian Studies, is academic adviser to the project, which incorporates radio and the World Wide Web and will eventually include at least two television documentaries.

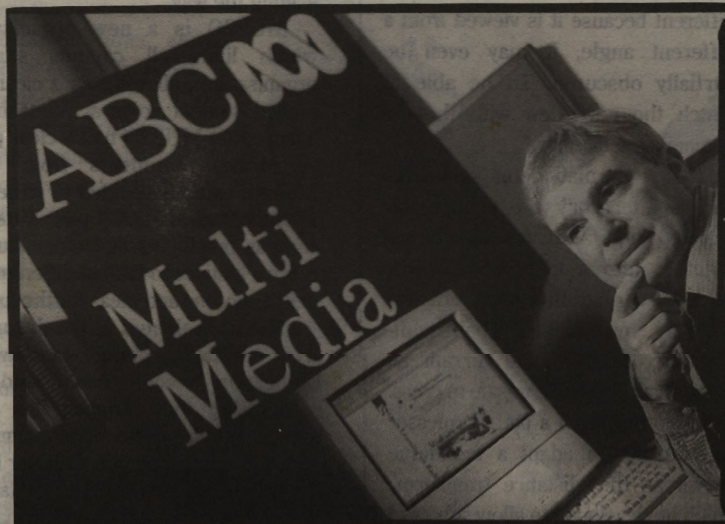
"Discovering Democracy is aimed at addressing major concerns about widespread ignorance of the Australian political system and how citizens relate to it," he said.

"Most civics programs don't use radio or the web. There are individual websites around the globe, but encompassing it in an umbrella, if you like, as a national initiative, is unique."

The Monash-ABC team had trialled the radio-website concept with the highly successful 1997 tourism program *Wish You Were Here*.

"We were so happy with the product that we decided to use that model again and refine it," Mr Baker said.

The radio series, called *The Good Citizen*, is broadcast on the ABC's Radio National twice a week, the



Mr Chris Baker from the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University, at work on *The Good Citizen* at the ABC's Southbank Centre in Melbourne.

website reflecting and developing the radio content.

Dr Baker said the two mediums lent themselves to different aspects of the topic.

"We start with the core radio program and ask what can best be done by radio," he said. "But there's a considerable range of other material that needs to be addressed - images, text, transcripts of programs, links to other sites - and that's where the web comes in."

"It's cutting edge, in terms of melding the two mediums. The really interesting challenge will be the

convergence of television, radio and multimedia. We're warning up to that."

The National Centre for Australian Studies' *Discovering Democracy* project team includes staff with expertise in multimedia programming. Research associate Dr David Crean specialises in web imaging, while researchers Dorota Roslaniec and Vanessa Toholka have been focusing on integrating web product with the radio material.

*The Good Citizen* airs on Radio National on Fridays at 5.30 am and 2.30 pm. The website is at [www.abc.net.au/demcc/](http://www.abc.net.au/demcc/)

# Access points help students reach VTAC

Prospective undergraduate students can now apply electronically to the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) for a place to study.

VTAC Access Points have been installed at four Monash campuses - Clayton, Caulfield, Peninsula and Gippsland - and several other Victorian tertiary institutions.

The Access Points are workstations which allow prospective students to access the VTAC Guide to University and TAFE Courses and application form on the Internet.

The manager of Monash's Prospective Students Office, Ms Caroline Knowles, said this year was the first time applicants had been able to apply to VTAC over the Internet.

"VTAC Access Points, which cost nothing to use, have been established to ensure that those students without personal access to the Internet can still make use of the technology," she said. "Students use

the VTAC guide to select courses at any Victorian tertiary institution, fill out the application form and lodge it - all electronically.

"Applicants still pay an application fee, but this is done through Australia Post after lodgement."

VTAC applications close on 30 September. Lodgement costs \$15 for Year 12 students and \$25 for all other applicants. Late applications will incur a late fee.

Prospective students can also apply to VTAC using the traditional hard-copy application form, and Year 12 students have the additional option of using an interactive phone system.

VTAC Access Points are located in the libraries at Monash's Caulfield, Peninsula and Gippsland campuses, and in the Prospective Students Office at Clayton campus.

For further information, call the university's Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 1320 or VTAC on (03) 9690 7977.

photo by Christopher Alexander

photo by Shannon Mattinson

# New challenge for robot rover

Monash researchers are working on plans for the ultimate all-wheel drive using a Russian-built rover to handle the roughest Martian terrain.

Tim Thwaites reports.

Professor Ray Jarvis of Monash University's Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering is a man who likes a challenge.

And that is exactly what he has in the form of a Russian-built model of a planetary rover.

He recently started work on a project to equip and program the remote-controlled, six-wheeled vehicle so that, in theory at least, it could be dropped into unknown and rough terrain on Mars, or anywhere else in the universe, and be able to find its way around, without falling off a cliff, rolling over, or otherwise damaging its high-strength titanium body.

Easy, you might say. R2D2 and C3PO performed similar tasks with style in the Star Wars movies more than 20 years ago. But the reality of robots and remote-controlled vehicles is way behind George Lucas.

Professor Jarvis, who has been working with robots since the Star Wars era, is one of Australia's foremost researchers in the field of robot navigation. For the past three years, he has been financed by a Special Investigator's Award from the Australian Research Council. This money has allowed him to set up the new project which will not only give him a chance to put past work into practice but also allow him to extend his studies.

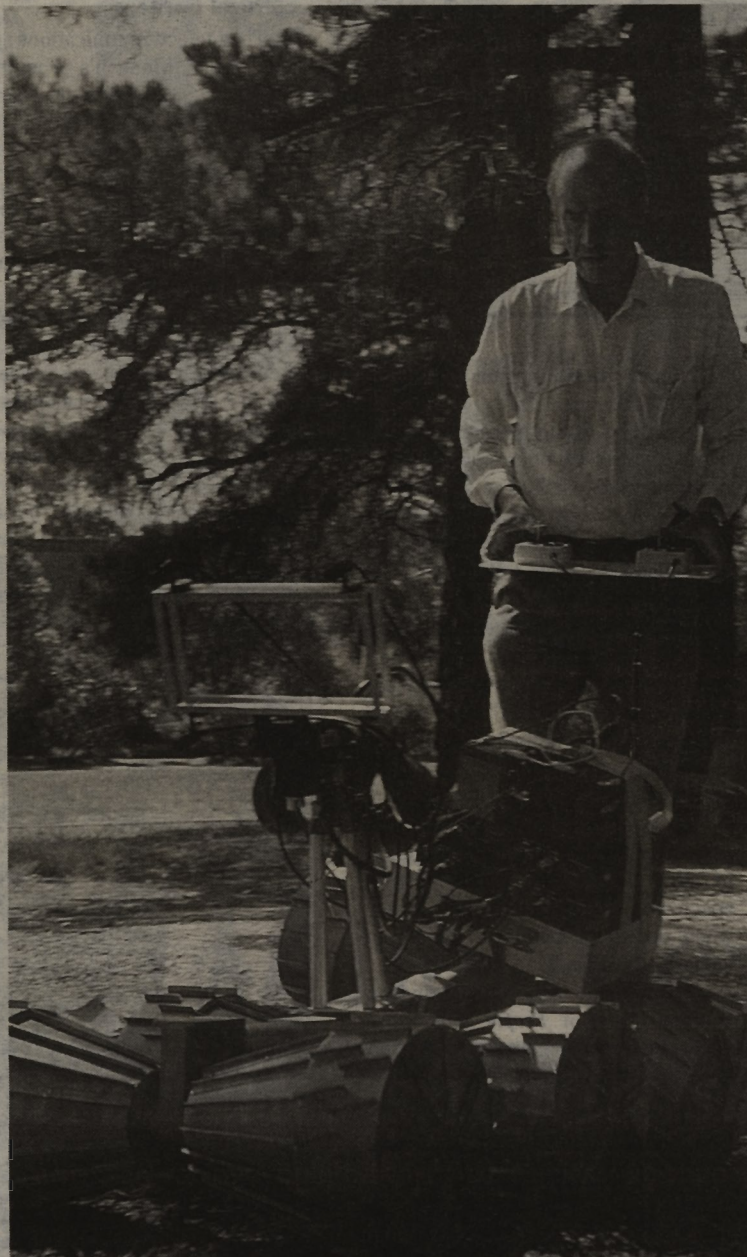
The vehicle which was recently delivered is the real thing – a planetary rover made by engineers from the Transmash company in Russia which supplies similar vehicles for space programs all over the world.

Each wheel of the rover is built out of sheet titanium and can be controlled independently through its own set of gears. In addition, each of the three pairs of wheels can move independently of the others in two dimensions – up and down and side to side.

Providing such a machine with the intelligence to be able to negotiate unknown and rough terrain safely would be a significant jump in capability compared with today's robots, according to Professor Jarvis.

"First, the rover has to be able to locate itself in three dimensions. Previous efforts in robot navigation have typically relied on prior knowledge or preparation of the site. The robot followed a trail of wires laid underground, for instance, or plotted its position with respect to a series of poles individually marked with barcodes," he said.

But Professor Jarvis wants to develop a system that is much closer to human navigation, using natural landmarks in the environment such as rocks, trees and unusual land formations. This means the vehicle would need to perform several complex tasks: "The vehicle will need to be able to discern landmarks and determine their direction and distance from it, so it will have to carry sensing equipment such as cameras and a laser ranger."



Professor Ray Jarvis puts his robot through its paces.

However, in order for the vehicle to use this information effectively, it must be able to store the data and then analyse it using a computer. The computer, unlike the sensors, does not have to be carried on the vehicle itself, as long as the vehicle can communicate with it.

Professor Jarvis wants to develop a system that is much closer to human navigation, using natural landmarks in the environment such as rocks, trees and unusual land formations.

Professor Jarvis said information analysis was essential if the landmarks were to be recognised again. "Once the machine moves, the view of the landmark changes – it may be closer or further away, it may appear

different because it is viewed from a different angle, it may even be partially obscured. To be able to match the new view with the old demands intelligence."

Next, information on landmarks and any territory the vehicle has scanned with its sensors must be put together into a map to allow the vehicle to plan the most efficient pathway towards its goal, while avoiding obstacles and terrain so rough that it would be unsafe to cross.

In plotting such a path, Professor Jarvis plans to adapt a technique known as the 'distance transform', which he developed to allow robots to navigate on flat surfaces such as factory floors. In order to test his ideas, he is planning to build a special sand-pit for the rover to negotiate, with rocks as landmarks and obstacles.

"In an unknown environment, it is inevitable that the vehicle will only have partial information about the terrain," Professor Jarvis said. "So it is important that the navigation system include a fail-safe mechanism. Then, if the vehicle finds itself in a situation where it is likely to damage itself by proceeding, it would automatically stop or back out.

# Students unite on Monash Plan

Monash students have produced their own answer to the university's corporate plan in a document believed to be the first of its kind in Australia. Student representative and MUFSO convenor Jacqui Cameron explains what the students hope to achieve.



Monash University is known for its innovative, motivated students. This year, the Monash University Federation of Student Organisations (MUFSO) has produced *The Monash Student Plan: Unified and Localised*, an enterprising document which we think proves that Monash students are forward-thinking and creative.

Believed to be the first of its kind in Australia, *The Monash Student Plan* is an unprecedented move from an entire student body. The plan is a response to the university's own corporate plan – *Leading the Way: The Monash Plan 1999-2003*. It has been written to outline the future of MUFSO and campus student organisations and to define how students are going to work with the university.

*The Monash Student Plan* was passed at University Council's July meeting and was officially launched through student organisations at Caulfield campus on 27 July. The plan will be available to all Monash student representatives and university staff, as well as being distributed to other university campuses around Australia as an example of Monash students also leading the way.

MUFSO is a new organisation which links all campus student organisations, allowing for a clear and unified student voice at Monash. To ensure that MUFSO had a clear place at Monash, students from each Monash campus decided to write *The Monash Student Plan*. It was written by campus presidents and other student representatives to take in different student concerns and ideas for the future.

The main themes in the document are *unification and localisation*. Unification comes from students recognising that Monash has centralised administration and planning, and that it would be beneficial for both the university and students to have a streamlined channel for information exchange. The theme of localisation arises from existing student organisations already having close community

contacts and being best suited for providing services and representation to students of that campus.

*The Monash Student Plan* also encompasses the three main themes of Monash: innovation, engagement and internationalisation. Innovation for MUFSO means skilling student representatives, ensuring that Monash students can discuss issues such as course quality and the implementation of information technology within courses. Innovation also covers how the university and MUFSO will resource student organisations and maintain a dialogue on course quality and learning and teaching.

The plan has been written to define how students are going to work with the university.

Engagement in *The Monash Student Plan* looks at how students will interact with the university, including information campaigns run jointly with MUFSO and the university, and students having an opportunity to comment on university policy in its formative stages. Internationalisation of MUFSO is something students are looking forward to, with Monash setting up campuses around the globe. Currently MUFSO is looking at the internationalisation of the Australian curriculum and the needs of international students.

*The Monash Student Plan* is designed to be added to and redrafted each year to accommodate change in the tertiary education environment and in the composition of the student body. It is envisaged by both the university and MUFSO that *The Monash Student Plan* will be presented each year to Council and that it will define MUFSO and cross-campus student activities for the following year.

## The Monash Student Plan

The plan is aimed at positioning MUFSO to:

- ensure effective communication between students and Monash University;
- represent all Monash students in a consultative, methodical and considered manner;
- recognise individual campus needs;
- provide advocacy on a broad range of student issues;
- organise student representatives and student organisations to avoid overlap in duties and activities;
- contribute to the development of university policies.

Source: *The Monash Student Plan: Unified and Localised* (June 1998)

# Lessons learned in Asian crisis

When cracks began appearing in the financial armour of several Asian 'tiger' nations 12 months ago, few expected the repercussions to be as widespread and dramatic as they turned out to be. Mohamed Ariff argues that the Asian miracle is far from over, with the currency crisis teaching Asia some valuable lessons.

Few people would now be unaware of the year that shook the Asia-Pacific region to its core, the period between June 1997 and May 1998 when a number of Asian currencies lost value with catastrophic rapidity.

In cases such as Indonesia and South Korea, the decline was unprecedented in peace time, especially given the alleged strong macroeconomic conditions.

Many Asian countries had become accustomed to annual growth of about 10 per cent, and for them the currency crisis came as a shock. Some had been tagged 'miracle' economies to describe their unprecedented resilience over a lengthy period - 1979-96 - when they built growth through heavy reliance on exports.

As we now know, a cash crisis developed, and help was sought from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the rest of the region to face the cash crunch. A total of about US\$117 billion will be involved in the bailouts.

The first four countries (see the table) dramatically reduced their imports as they could not sustain them at the same level as before the crisis. Therefore, the currencies of Australia, Hong Kong and Japan - nations with strong trading ties with the stumbling 'tigers' - came under stress. Hong Kong, which had large foreign reserves, successfully defended its peg to the American dollar and did not suffer any devaluation. The Japanese yen devalued by about 12 per cent, and the free-floating Australian dollar lost about a quarter of its value during the year.

The various reasons why the crisis occurred have been well-aided and debated and will be by-passed here. But what about the cost and consequences of the Asian financial meltdown?

**Political changes with far-reaching consequences have also been unleashed**

A year since the onset of the crisis, economic growth in the Asia-Pacific, which used to hover anywhere from 4 to 11.4 per cent, has collapsed. All economies have registered declines in growth, and the second half of 1998 is forecast to be particularly bad before recovery begins. There will be a mounting debt burden for a few years to come.

But the news is not all bad. Because many of the Asian economies have now gained price competitiveness, their exports have registered rapid growth. This will improve currency values: one recent report stated that exports from Asia to the US had jumped by more than 50 per cent. Another source claims that the cheaper won has made it possible for Korea to build up a sizeable reserve. That shows that the long-term recovery may well come from exports, a traditional strength of these economies.

Political changes with far-reaching consequences have also been unleashed by the crisis. Notable examples are the institutional changes taking place in Indonesia, South

Korea and Thailand. These nations are moving away from oligopolistic economic policies based on a cosy relationship between the government, financial institutions and big business. Democratic forces have been spurred on. Citizens have taken steps to empower governments that are likely to pursue policies promoting orderly but equitable growth. This is creating political conditions which are expected to help prevent powerful interest groups from dominating economic activities as in the past.

Meanwhile, there is ongoing IMF-sponsored economic restructuring taking place in Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand. Fundamental economic indicators have begun to respond. The currencies of all three nations have begun to stabilise - the Thai baht and Korean won in January and the Indonesian rupiah in June. Restructuring in the financial sector

has led to the closure of many financial institutions, and the merger of a few, to strengthen the banking sector. Central banks are gaining greater independence from politicians and big business connected to politicians. Pro-competitive policies are fast replacing the cartel-like arrangements which promoted inefficiency, particularly in the primary and extractive industries.

These reforms have been initial, necessary steps for the financial institutions to gain credibility. As a result, productivity gains in many sectors are expected.

The macroeconomic and public sector reforms of the late 1980s made many South American and eastern European countries efficient producers. These countries are now in straight competition with the Asian tigers, and will compete with the large emerging economies of China, India, Indonesia and Vietnam. The likely

result of this increased competition is that Asia's erstwhile miracle economies will be pushed to grow more from productivity-based efficient economic management than through fast-paced increases in foreign capital and input of unused local labour/land to extract growth.

The 1997-98 Asian currency crisis will prove to be a watershed for ushering in to Asia an awareness that good macroeconomic governance is based on transparency, promoting competitiveness in production and, also, on promoting reasonably independent central banks bent on high standards of prudential supervision. Of course, the politics of the clan and interest groups must give way to democratic governance.

*Dr Mohamed Ariff is a specialist on Asian finance. He is professor of finance at the Monash Mi Eliza Business School.*

## The 1997 Asian currency crisis

Economies	Currency value per US\$ around Feb-May 1997	Currency value per US\$ around June-July 1998	Percentage decline (local residents)
Indonesia	2800 rupiah	14,400 rupiah	514
Korea	850 won	1350 won	59
Malaysia	2.62 ringgit	4 ringgit	53
Thailand	28.5 baht	40.5 baht	42
Singapore	1.44 S\$	1.72 S\$	19
Australia	1.32 A\$	1.61 A\$	22
Japan	123 yen	138 yen	12
Hong Kong	7.75 HK\$	7.74 HK\$	0

Source: *The Economist*

# Australians should shun language of exclusion

Australian society could be torn apart unless we shun the language of exclusion, says Monash language expert Michael Clyne.

When the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, ignored Pauline Hanson's outrageous statements, he appealed to 'free speech' and referred to an over-use of the term 'racist'. He also gave respectability in the public domain to a kind of language used by those whose ideology many hundreds of thousands fought against and which many died to protect Australia from.

The essence of racist language is to divide people into an in-group and an out-group on the basis of physical features and/or ethnic origin. It is 'us' and 'them'. They are the scapegoats, 'our misfortune', as the National Socialists put it, when 12 of them were elected to the German parliament in 1928. It was the first time they had fielded candidates. For the Nazis, 'us' were the Aryans. They were Jews or other non-Aryans who were allegedly involved in an international conspiracy with Communists, the allied countries, and the League of Nations, the forerunner of the United Nations. And so 'they' had to go, as Germany was redefined as 'one people' with 'one leader'.

In One Nation-speak, 'they' are 'the Asians', including both foreign countries and companies and Australians of particular ethnicities, and there is another 'international conspiracy' involving the United Nations and the rest of the world. Members of the in-group who are badly-off are 'battlers' and need to be helped, while members of the out-group who are badly-off are

'useless migrants' who 'should go somewhere else'. As in the late 1920s and 1930s in Germany, the context is difficult economic times and widespread economic disenchantment.

The language of discontent soon becomes the language of envy and resentment, then that of exclusion. I am not suggesting that the Australian landscape will be dotted with extermination camps. But 'we don't want them here', spoken recently by the leader of the One Nation Party, is the same utterance associated with ethnic cleansing in other parts of the world. And where there is verbal violence, physical violence is often not far away.

Was it perhaps the slogan 'For all of us' that started it all? On the surface, as laudable a slogan as one can imagine - steeped in

Christianity and European humanism. But who is 'us'? Was this an appeal to racist instincts or an invitation to re-

define the categories of the advantaged and the disadvantaged? Did Mr Howard's own allergy to the term 'multiculturalism' have anything to do with it? I sometimes wonder if this may have influenced his reluctance to respond to Mrs Hanson.

Australia has a proud record of national harmony. Our achievement of unity within diversity has been cited internationally as an example to the rest of the world.

Our multiculturalism is not ethnic separatism; it has led to a dynamic nation strengthened by the common will to contribute

to the whole. The 'Asians' are part of our wonderful nation like everyone else. As in other parts of the world, harmony is at its

greatest where there is much contact between people of different backgrounds. Where the cultural mix is less present, there is more opportunity for prejudices to spread because people have little or no personal experience with the groups being stereotyped. This was exemplified with the recent Queensland elections.

Recent statements by the Prime Minister have focused on the economic liabilities of the One Nation Party's policies and their impact on the economic well-being of all Australians. But there are even greater costs, ones to which others, such as Victorian Premier Mr Jeff Kennett, have alluded.

The damage in terms of social cohesion at home and our reputation abroad will be irreparable if we allow our nation to be divided and torn apart by the language of exclusion. After all, if we send all immigrants and their descendants 'back to where they came from', who will remain eventually?

*Michael Clyne, AM, is professor of linguistics at Monash University. He has been studying migrant language issues for many years and is currently coordinating a research project on Australian English.*



# Impact of poet on show

BY STEPHANIE GOETZE-THIES

The Monash University Gallery will open a landmark exhibition on 23 August to mark the centenary of the death of French poet Stéphane Mallarmé.

The exhibition, titled *On the Ashes of the Stars ... Stéphane Mallarmé - A celebration*, aims to create an awareness of Mallarmé and his work in relation to the visual arts over the last hundred years.

Mallarmé (1842-1898) had a strong connection with many aspects and exponents of the visual arts. Artists such as Edouard Manet, Berthe Morisot and Edgar Degas were close friends of Mallarmé, while many other artists have been directly inspired by his work.

Organised as part of the Melbourne, Mallarmé and the 20th Century Festival, the exhibition will consist of 19th and 20th century works by artists such as Manet, Whistler, Morisot, Degas, Redon, Gauguin and Vuillard.

The exhibition will also feature a diverse selection of works, ranging from illustrations by Matisse for a deluxe edition of Mallarmé's *Poésies* to a 1970s piece by Broodthaers and artworks created especially for the exhibition.



Matiü Gerkez's 1994 work '13 July 2038', one of the pieces in the exhibition.

**What:** *On the Ashes of the Stars ... Stéphane Mallarmé - A celebration*  
**When:** 23 August to 26 September  
**Where:** Monash University Gallery, Clayton  
**Who:** The Gallery, telephone (03) 9905 4217

# Third world blues for Vietnam vet



Jack Finsterer as Vietnam veteran, Dennis in *Third World Blues*.

**War is hell - but so is coming home to find your wife has taken up with another man.**

So runs the thread of David Williamson's new play, *Third World Blues*, which takes a fresh look at Australian society during the Vietnam War.

Australia's best known playwright has revisited his early work *Jugglers Three* to come up with a moving and funny chronicle of Australia's reaction to the war in Vietnam.

The Sydney Theatre Company production, which opens at Monash University's Alexander Theatre on 18 August, is vintage Williamson - daring, hilarious and reflective of the turbulence and uncertainties of the times.

Directed by Wayne Harrison, *Third World Blues* is set in inner Melbourne in 1972 in a climate where liberation of all kinds is being demanded - national, cultural, political and sexual.

Graham, played by Matthew Dyktynski, returns from the horrors of Vietnam to find his wife, Keren

(Kelly Butler), involved with another man, Neville (Grant Dodwell). A series of events ensues that makes Vietnam seem tame by comparison, as Neville's estranged, pregnant wife arrives, Graham's best friend comes out of the closet, and his Vietnam buddy Dennis gate-crashes the gathering after robbing a petrol station.

Amid all this turmoil, Graham and his wife must try to find a positive path into an uncertain future.

David Williamson's other plays include *The Removalists*, *The Club*, *Don's Party* and *Travelling North*. He has won many awards, including the George Devine Award, the AWGIE and the AFI Award for Best Screenplay.

**What:** *Third World Blues*  
**When:** 18-22 August  
**Where:** Alexander Theatre, Monash University, Clayton  
**Who:** Monash Box Office, (03) 9905 1111

# 'Closer' to the Alex



Asher Keddie (Alice) and Marco Chiappi (Dan) get together in *Closer* - but not for keeps.

**An award-winning story of four strangers joined by love and separated by desire comes to Monash University's Alexander Theatre on 1 September.**

The play *Closer* took London's West End by storm last year and won playwright Patrick Marber a swag of honours, including the Laurence Olivier Award for best new play, the London Critics' Award for best play, and *The Evening Standard* Award for best comedy.

The Melbourne Theatre Company production is presented by arrangement with London's Royal National

Theatre and features Marco Chiappi (Dan), Asher Keddie (Alice), Jane Menelaus (Anna) and Robert Menzies (Larry), under the direction of Bruce Myers.

Dan, a journalist-turned-novelist, comes to Alice's aid after she is hit by a taxi. They fall in love, promising never to lie to each other, and he bases his new novel on her vivid past. Dan then meets Anna, an up-and-coming photographer. To complicate matters, Larry (the doctor who treated Alice after her accident) meets Anna after an erotic encounter on the Internet.

Both a romantic comedy and a brutal dissection of life in the 1990s, *Closer* exposes the games people play, and the lies they tell, all in the name of love.

Hailed as one of the hottest young properties on the British stage scene, Patrick Marber's first work, *Dedert's Choice*, was staged to great acclaim in Melbourne in 1996.

**What:** *Closer*  
**When:** 1-5 September  
**Where:** Alexander Theatre, Monash University, Clayton  
**Who:** Monash Box Office, (03) 9905 1111

# Focus on feminism

BY DEBORAH MORRIS

**A new guide to Australian feminism will give an overview of many unexplored political, social and economic issues, a Monash academic believes.**

Professor Barbara Caine, from Monash's History department, is the chief editor of *The Oxford Companion to Australian Feminism*.

The companion, to be published in November, will "encompass the breadth of contemporary understanding of feminism", she said. "What we've tried to do is to focus on groups or individuals who have made a strong statement against the oppression of women, including those who don't wish to define themselves as feminists or those who see 'white' feminism as exclusive."

The author of *English Feminism: 1780 to 1980*, Professor Caine has been working on *The Oxford Companion to Australian Feminism* for nearly five years. She sees the work as an indication of the strength of interest in women and feminism.



Professor Barbara Caine.

Monash academics such as Professor Terry Threadgold, Associate Professor Katherine Gibson and Ms Jenny Cameron have contributed essays; other editors and contributors include historians Marilyn Lake and Joy Dalmanoff, Marion Sawyer and Bettina Cass. As well, novelist Sara Dowse and renowned feminist activists Joan Bielski, Beatrice Faust and Jocelyne Scott have all contributed personal statements.

# Insight into life of ancient Egypt

A sample of the culture of one of the world's oldest civilisations has gone on display at Monash University's Main Library.

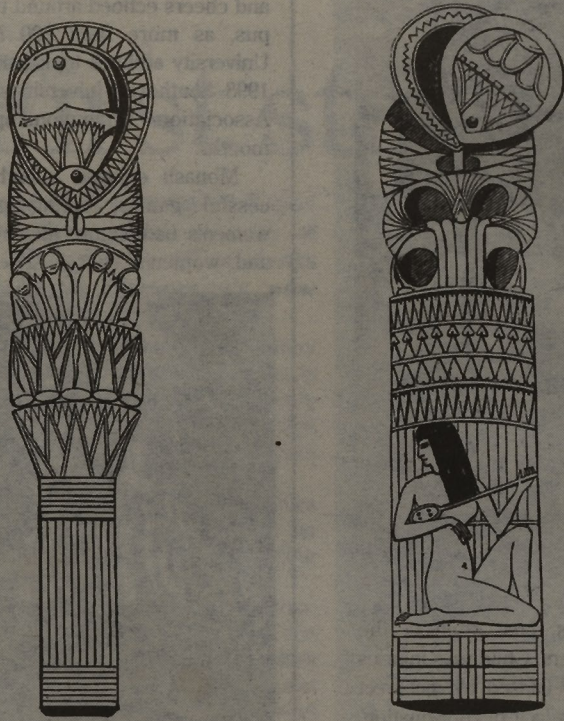
About 35 books, documents and artefacts on Egyptology, including several from private collections, are on show in the Library's Rare Books Section.

The exhibition represents a summary of some of the major discoveries made by a group of about 20 international researchers - including a team from Monash - working at the site of Ismant el-Kharab, ancient Kellis, in Egypt's Dakhleh Oasis.

A primary focus of the exhibition is written material found at the site, which includes almost perfectly preserved wooden books (codices), remnants of ancient texts written on papyrus, and parchment and fragments of pottery vessels, known as potsherds.

According to Dr Colin Hope, an archaeologist and lecturer from Monash's Classics department and a member of the Dakhleh team, the inscriptions deal with a diversity of topics and provide a vivid account of life in the village where they were found.

"We know the affairs of several generations of various families who



The distinctive style of ancient Egyptian boxes.

occupied specific houses over a period of about 100 years," he said.

The artefacts contain examples of major pre-Arab languages and scripts as well as the ancient languages of Egypt (Ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Coptic.)

**What:** Egyptology Exhibition  
**When:** 30 July - 30 September  
**Where:** Exhibition area, Rare Books Section, Main Library, Monash University, Clayton  
**Who:** Rare Books Section, (03) 9905 2689.

## INPRINT

### Australian Trade Policy 1965-1997: A Documentary History

Allen & Unwin  
 (RRP \$69.95)

Over the last 30 years, Australia's approach to trade and industry policy has changed dramatically.

This book - a collection of more than 400 documents - charts important developments in general

industry policy, as well as industry-specific policies and general industry programs, including export and government procurement.

The book examines key developments such as Australia's policy towards the GATT, bilateral and regional trade relations including the recent APEC initiative, and exchange rate and foreign investment policies.

Written by Monash academics Richard H. Snape and Lisa Gropp, and DFAT trade policy consultant Tas Luttrell, the book is a valuable resource for lecturers and students of economics.

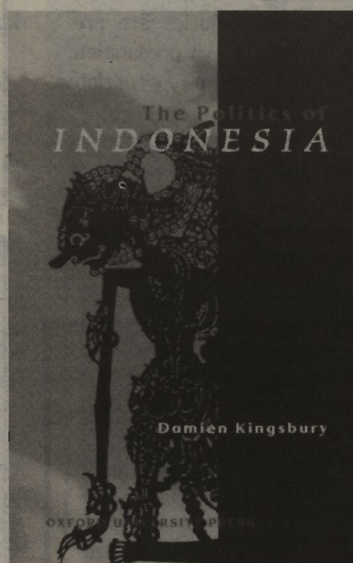
### The Politics of Indonesia

Oxford Press University  
 (RRP \$29.95)

As Indonesia struggles to reform its political institutions and processes, it has come under close international scrutiny.

*The Politics of Indonesia*, by Dr Damien Kingsbury of the Monash Asia Institute, gives readers an insight into the political issues facing Indonesia.

The book begins with a discussion of the traditional and cultural values that have influenced the country, and



traces its development through the colonial era and the period of its emergence as an independent state. It also analyses the rise and fall of President Soeharto, discusses the role of the armed forces and the media, and looks at corruption and human rights issues.

*The Politics of Indonesia* is a valuable resource for students of Asian studies, and those who travel and do business in Indonesia.

All books featured in 'Inprint' are available, or can be ordered, at one of Monash University's four on-campus bookshops. Some on-line ordering facilities are available. Check with your nearest bookshop.

- CITSU (Caulfield), telephone (03) 9529 4753 or email deni@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au

- Clayton, telephone (03) 9905 3111 or email bookshop@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au
- Gippsland, telephone (03) 5122 1771 or email ros@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au
- Peninsula, telephone (03) 9783 6932 or email deni@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au

# MONASH HIGHLIGHTS August '98

## Art exhibitions

Monash University Gallery presents two exhibitions:

**24 August - 26 September**  
 'On the Ashes of the Stars ... Mallarmé - A Celebration'

The centenary of French poet Stéphane Mallarmé's death is celebrated in an exhibition of historical and contemporary artworks illustrating the legacy and currency of Mallarmé's poetry and ideas. The historical context is set with images by Manet, Matisse, Redon, Vuillard and Whistler, with recent works by Marcel Broodthaers, Imants Tillers, Graeme Hare and others. Guest curator: Michael Graf. Part of the Melbourne, Mallarmé and the 20th Century Festival. Floor talk: Wednesday 26 August at 1.30 pm.

**'Project Room'**

The first Australian exhibition by Chicago-based artist Gaylen Gerber brings the living world into the gallery in an installation that considers how artworks are understood in relation to everyday life. Artist talk: Wednesday 26 August at 1.30 pm.

Monash University Gallery, building 55, Clayton campus. Tuesdays to Fridays, 10 am to 5 pm; Saturdays, 2 pm to 5 pm. Inquiries: 9905 4217.

## Theatre

**From 18 August**  
 'Third World Blues' by David Williamson

Set in a time when those who served in Vietnam are facing life back in Australia, this classic Williamson comedy revolves around a game of sexual politics as former lovers try to find a positive path into an uncertain future. Directed by Wayne Harrison in its only Melbourne season. Alexander Theatre, Clayton campus. Bookings: 9905 1111.

**19-28 August**  
 'Draußen vor der Tür' ('The Man Outside')

Monash University German Language Group presents Wolfgang Borchert's post-war drama, performed in German for German Week 1998. A rare opportunity to experience foreign language theatre at its finest. Student Theatre Space, Union building, Clayton campus, 8 pm. Adults \$12 (pre-booked \$10); concession \$10 (pre-booked \$8). Bookings: 9905 3108, or see www-personal.monash.edu.au/~foxtan/muglgt.htm

**For the children ...**

**29 August**  
 Saturday Club Series  
 'Lockie Leonard Scumbuster'

Adapted from the novel by Tim Winton. Blue series (for 8 to 12 year olds). Alexander Theatre, Clayton campus, 2 pm. Bookings: 9905 1111.

## Music

**Musica Viva at Monash**

**13 August**  
 Young Virtuosi

Brilliant young artists Liwei Qin and Tahu Matheson will explore some of chamber music's most dazzling repertoires. Liwei Qin begins with the penultimate of Bach's solo cello suites, while Tahu Matheson explores some dazzling Liszt piano solos. The two musicians will perform Shostakovich's Sonata for Piano and Cello, offset by the virtuosic showcase of Tchaikovsky's 'Capricious Piece'. Robert Blackwood Hall, Clayton campus, 8 pm. Bookings: 9905 1111.

## Free Lunchtime Concert Series

**6 August**

Nick Tsiavos, double bass, and Deborah Kayser, soprano

Outstanding string and vocal duo performing chamber music.

**13 August**

Sugata Marjit - 'The Music of North India'

One of India's foremost exponents of classical North Indian vocal music, accompanied by tabla, harmonium and drone tanpura.

**20 August**

Anastasia Chebotareva, violin, and Robert Chamberlain, piano

Making her Australian debut, Anastasia Chebotareva performs works by Brahms, Franck, Wieniawsky and Paganini, accompanied by Robert Chamberlain from Monash's Team of Pianists.

**27 August**

Mogilevsky Duo

Violinist Mark Mogilevsky and pianist Elena Mogilevsky display their extraordinary technique and virtuosity.

Religious Centre, Clayton campus, 1.10 pm to 2 pm. Inquiries: Joan Sayers, 9905 1675.

**31 August**

Mikhail Solovei - 'Romantic Recital'

The Hexagon, Gippsland campus. Inquiries: Jenny Vandersteen, 9902 6237.

## Marketing

**8 September**

The Search for Competitive Success

This half-day seminar explores the basis of competitive success, the contribution of marketing to competitive success and the strategies and tactics of successful firms. Inquiries: Robyn Wight, 9903 2283.

**28 September - 2 October**  
 'Marketing Management Principles and Practice'

This intensive five-day program has been designed to meet the needs of those working in consumer, industrial, service and government organisations. It is particularly suitable for executives needing an understanding of the marketing discipline or seeking an update in contemporary marketing techniques. Inquiries: Lynda Cunningham, 9903 2151, or fax 9903 1558.

## Wine and business

**11-16 October (Adelaide)**  
 Wine Executive Program (Residential)

Monash University is hosting its annual five-day residential executive program for senior and middle managers and entrepreneurs in the wine industry. The program is designed to develop knowledge and skills in financial management, marketing, strategy development and implementation, general business management and leadership, and personnel management. Inquiries: Lynda Cunningham, 9903 2151, or fax 9903 1558.

Berwick campus: Clyde Road, Berwick.

Caulfield campus: 900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East.

Clayton campus: Wellington Road, Clayton.

Gippsland campus: Switchback Road, Churchill.

Parkville campus: 381 Royal Parade, Parkville.

Peninsula campus: McMahons Road, Frankston.



# Safety call on netball



By DEBORAH MORRIS

Many serious netball injuries could be avoided if simple safety techniques were observed and game rules were modified for children, a report by Monash University's Accident Research Centre has suggested.

Funded by Victoria's Sport and Recreation Department, the study involved a review of existing data and research on netball injuries with the aim of pinpointing areas for future research.

As the most popular team-based sport in Australia, netball attracts more than 328,000 participants, with 112,000 players registered in Victoria alone. It is the fourth most popular sport among Victorian adults and the third most popular among children aged five to 14 years.

Despite its reputation as a non-contact sport, netball causes a sizeable number of injuries. According to the Monash report, the game is responsible for 9 per cent of adult and 4 per cent of child sports-related injuries reported at hospital emergency departments. More than

80 per cent of adult and 70 per cent of child netball injuries occur during formal competition.

The report examines a range of strategies for preventing netball injuries and recommends areas for further research, development and implementation. These include improving ball-handling techniques, wearing appropriate footwear, using mouthguards, preventing 'over-use' injuries, and changing the existing rules.

The report's author, Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith, said that very few existing safety measures had actually been evaluated.

"More research is definitely needed," she said. "We don't know what the risk factors are for some injuries. For example, we don't know what impact different types of surface or footwear or levels of experience may have. This report is the first step towards developing a systematic approach to reducing netball injuries."

The centre's research showed that knee injuries are generally the most severe and costly injuries associated with netball. Adult netballers most often sustain injuries to the ankles, knees and hands, while children

sustain injuries most often to the hands and fingers. Children's injuries are most likely caused by incorrect technique and a lack of coordination, the report says.

It urges sporting organisations and schools to review playing conditions for children. Professor Ozanne-Smith said this might involve modifying game rules to reduce the incidence of body contact and allowing children to play with smaller-than-standard netballs. The report also suggests encouraging children to play the modified games Fun Net and Netta to help them develop good skills and technique at a young age while keeping injuries to a minimum.

Professor Ozanne-Smith believes the project is the most comprehensive review of injury prevention in netball ever undertaken.

"Many netball injuries are preventable through proper preparation, technique and use of appropriate equipment," she said.

For further information, contact Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith or Ms Ruth Zupo at the Monash University Accident Research Centre on (03) 9905 1808.

## Teams vie for Uni Games spot



By DEBORAH MORRIS

Blood was shed, tears were spent and cheers echoed around the campus, as more than 200 Monash University athletes took part in the 1998 Southern Universities Sports Association Championships last month.

Monash enjoyed a highly successful games, taking gold in women's badminton, men's hockey and women's soccer. The men's

volleyball team took first place in the volleyball section of the championships held earlier this year.

Monash were runners-up in football, men's table tennis, men's touch and women's hockey.

Eighteen Monash teams qualified for the Australian University Games, which will take place in Melbourne in late September. The games will be jointly hosted by Monash University and The University of Melbourne.



Sweet victory: Monash's women's soccer team celebrates its gold medal win over Tasmania. Going for broke: RMIT (dark stripes) dominated the field when its men's rugby union team clashed with the University of Melbourne. RMIT went on to win the encounter.



photos by Richard Crompton

### SpOrTs SpOt



By JOELENE SCHEMBRI

#### Scrum down

Monash students Alison Jennings, Jacqui Johnston and Kelly Webb were selected in the 1998 Victorian women's rugby union team which competed at the national championships in mid-July. Coached by senior lecturer in the Econometrics and Business Statistics department Tim Fry, the team fought hard but unfortunately went down to its northern counterparts.

#### A whole new ball game

Three Monash students are spiking their way to success in the newly-formed Australian Volleyball League. Neil Murchie, a veteran of five intervarsity competitions, was voted most valuable player in his first match for the Melbourne Falcons. One of Neil's team-mates, Dave Stephenson, has represented Victoria in the past and is an active member of the 1998 Monash University side. Cristy Mace, who has played state league games for Monash for many years, is on the Falcons women's team.

#### Top gun

Monash athlete Chris Bowden's recent outstanding performances are reflected in the recently published Australian track and field rankings. Chris is ranked top in the 3000 metres and fourth in the 1500 metres.

#### Marathon man

Monash Peninsula student Phil Sly represented Australia at the World Universities Cross-Country Championships in England last month. Phil finished 61st out of 91 starters. Phil has also represented Australia in cross-country at both university and senior levels and hopes to be selected for the Sydney Olympics in the marathon event. Phil has been a star performer at the last two Australian University Games, winning two gold and two silver medals for Monash. He is the first Peninsula student to be awarded a University Blue.

#### Taekwondo

Alex Haberle recently fought his way to second place in the Australian Taekwondo championships. As a result of that effort, Alex will join the Australian team in the Asian Games in Vietnam later this year. He was awarded a Blue for his outstanding performances at the 1997 Australian University Games, when he was selected in the All-Australian team.

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