

Indonesians applaud Australian film expertise

A worldwide audience will soon be able to view several historically important Indonesian films as a result of a subtitling project by two Monash academics.

Dr David Hanan (Visual Arts) and Basoeki Koesasi (Indonesian and Chinese Studies) have been asked by the National Film Council of Indonesia to provide English subtitle text for 12 films made between 1950 and 1970.

The films represent the birth of the country's indigenous cinema and are regarded as among the most important surviving works produced in the early years of Independence.

Most were made during the Sukarno

period and have never been shown abroad.

The project arose from earlier work by Dr Hanan and teaching staff in the department of Indonesian and Chinese Studies.

In 1986, Dr Hanan and Barbara Hatley, with the assistance of Mr Koesasi and Paul Tickell, produced subtitles for *R.A. Kartini* (1983), a film based on the life of the well-known Javanese women's liberationist.

Members of a delegation visiting Jakarta to select films for the first major retrospective of Indonesian films to be held in Holland believed *Kartini* was the best subtitled Indonesian film they had seen.

Diverse

Not surprisingly, they advised the National Film Council to make greater use of academics from Monash.

Kartini was screened last September at the Dutch Days Film Festival in Utrecht, together with Dr Hanan and Mr Koesasi's first subtitled film, *Six Hours in Jogja* (1951). It was subsequently screened at film festivals throughout Asia.

Kartini, *Six Hours in Jogja*, and at least two other Monash subtitled films are expected to be included in a major retrospective of Indonesian films to be shown in the USA next year.

Dr Hanan and Mr Koesasi are at present subtitling *The Tiger from Tjampa* (1952), a would-be revenge tale dealing with the Islamic philosophies of restraint behind *pencak silat*, a West Sumatran form of self-defence.

According to Dr Hanan, it is the first genuinely regional Indonesian film and is of considerable interest to anyone interested in film-making in the Third World.

Other films to be subtitled include *Tamu Agung*, a satire about charismatic political leadership in Indonesia in the 1950s, and *Whipfire*, a regional film which is an amalgam of traditions from different areas.

Genuine

"The full spectrum of attitudes in Indonesian society at the time is no longer to be found in the surviving films from the period," Dr Hanan said.

"But we hope to provide as diverse a view as possible through the choice of films we select to subtitle."

Dr Hanan hopes that many of the films will eventually be made available in Australia through the National Library's film collection or will be shown on SBS Television.

Dr Hanan's celluloid connection with the Indonesian archipelago doesn't end with the subtitling of its films.

In November, together with Tait Brady, he presented an Australian Film Week to enthusiastic audiences in Jakarta.

"Despite the approaching rainy season — many film-makers were busy trying to complete shooting schedules — the week was attended by some of Indonesia's top film and television directors, journalists, writers, teachers and film students, as well as by members of the public interested in learning something about Australia," Dr Hanan said.

Five major features, including *My First Wife* and *The Year My Voice Broke*, and 12 documentaries and short films were shown to near capacity houses at the Taman Ismail Marzuki cultural complex in central Jakarta.

In the past, says Dr Hanan, Australia has been backward in developing cultural relations with the Indonesian people, particularly in its use of film.

Other countries, especially Japan, Germany and France, all organise film weeks in Indonesia more regularly than the Australians, he said.

"We need to remember that in countries like Indonesia, the presence of foreign cultural centres running really good programs helps strengthen the civil society there, and helps facilitate genuine information exchange."

Dr Hanan said the highlight of the Indonesian press reactions to the film week was a review by internationally renowned Balinese playwright Putu Wijaya.

Wijaya attended most of the films, and devoted a lengthy review to them in the Indonesian weekly *Tempo* under the title: From Australia Without Kecap.



MONASH

REPORTER

A MAGAZINE FOR THE UNIVERSITY

Registered by Australia Post — publication No. VBG0435

NUMBER 3-89 | April 26, 1989



Senior lecturer in the School of Music at the Victorian College of the Arts, John O'Donnell, pictured at the business end of the university's Hubbard harpsichord during a recent recital in the Music Department.

Mr O'Donnell, an internationally recognised exponent of baroque music and organ consultant to the Sir Louis Matheson pipe organ, is one of the many artists appearing in a series of Thursday lunchtime concerts presented by the department.

In the next few weeks audiences in the Music Auditorium (eighth floor, Menzies Building) will be treated to a variety of western and non-western musical performances. The next concert, a presentation of South Indian

dance, will be held on 4 May, beginning at 1.10pm.

(The Hubbard harpsichord, manufactured by a firm of Boston instrument makers to a 17th Century French design and built from a kit by local maker Richard Ireland, was presented to the Music Department in 1974 by Mrs Vera Moore. The gift is in memory of her son, Kenneth, a student from the department who was killed in a car accident.)

Photo: Scott Fitzpatrick.

Bringing classical studies to life

Mrs Maria Kouppas (right), a director of Opal Male Fashions, talks to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan and Professor Alan Henry of Classical Studies.

The envelope in front of Mrs Kouppas contains a cheque presented to the university by Opal to pay for a return airfare to allow a Monash student to study at the Australian Institute of Archaeology in Athens.

Opal Male Fashions has become a corporate member of the Monash Friends of the Institute, and has offered its services for future fundraising activities.

The institute was established in 1981 to allow Australian scholars in any aspect of Greek culture, ancient or modern, the opportunity and facilities

to study in Greece.

Its premises in Athens include accommodation, space to study and a small library. Already the institute is conducting its own archaeological excavation at Torone in northern Greece.

Mrs Kouppas said her company through its managing director, Mr Tony Toumbourou, had sponsored several other worthwhile causes.

"But people nowadays don't seem to sponsor students. We felt this would be useful. After all there's nothing like going there and seeing your studies come to life."

Professor Henry said the money would be used as the basis of a travelling fellowship or scholarship which would be advertised later in the year.



John Browne's many legacies

Former Finance Development Officer, John Browne, died this month after a long illness. He was 62.

Mr Browne came to Monash in 1970 as Finance Development Officer, and held that position until his retirement at the end of 1986.

He instituted fundraising programs including the very successful appeal for the pipe organ in Robert Blackwood Hall.

He established the Library Fund Appeal in 1970 for the purchase of books, and almost \$600,000 was raised for this fund in his 16 years at Monash.

Mr Browne was responsible for the setting up and developing of a computer system which stores records of donors, friends and alumni and facilitates better

communication between the university and its members.

He encouraged faculties and departments to develop closer links with their graduates and enabled the setting up of alumni groups in the faculties of Law, Medicine and Engineering.

His forethought laid the groundwork for the development of many other alumni associations which have been formed in recent years.

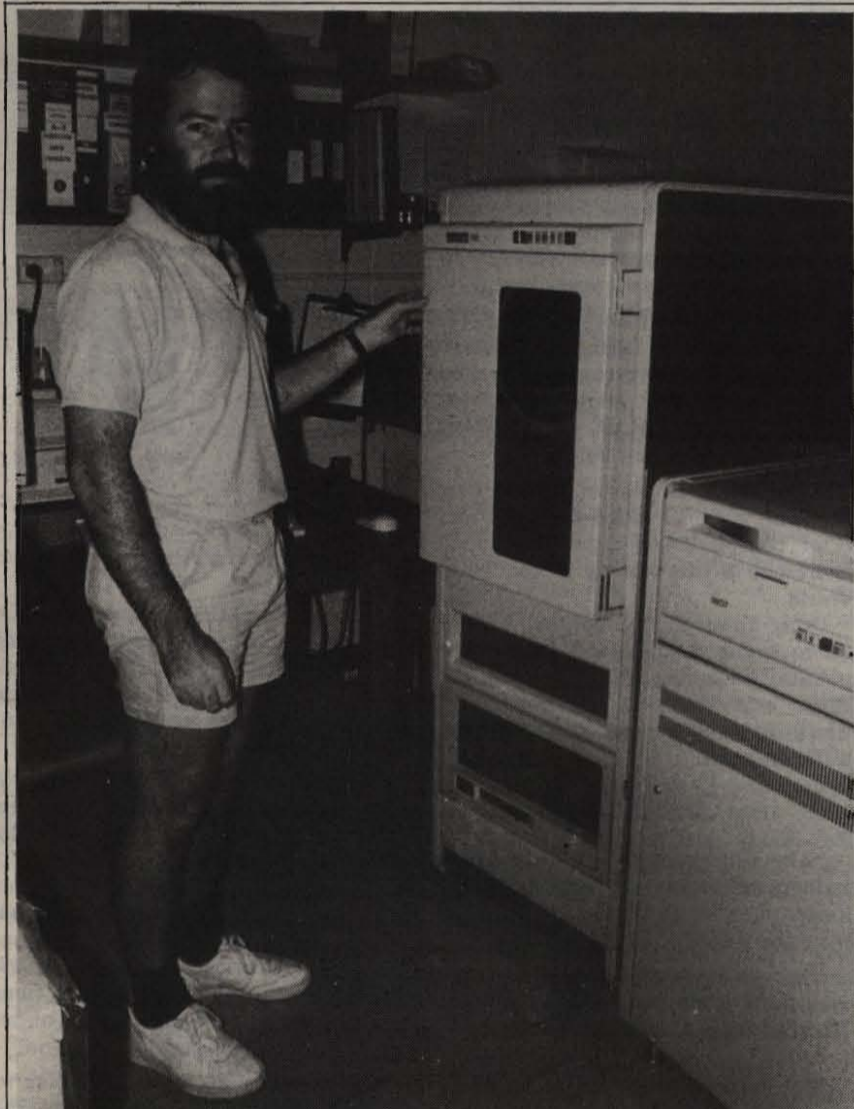
He will be remembered by many staff members for his efforts in organising financial assistance for projects and travel costs through his contacts with philanthropic trusts and foundations.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and three sons.

John Kearton
Administrative Officer



• The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens will hold a special exhibition of Celia Rosser's Banksia paintings in July to mark the re-opening of the National Herbarium. At a recent function at the gardens, guests of the Friends were able to meet the artist and view some of her prints and working drawings (above). The exhibition of 48 paintings by the Monash botanical artist will be held in the Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, from 14 July to 30 July. Hours are 10.30am-4pm, Monday to Friday, and 10.30am-4.30pm, Saturday and Sunday.



• It is not often that a simple request brings such a satisfactory response. When the Flow Cytometry laboratory in the department of Pathology and Immunology needed a second computer system to collect data from its flow cytometers (instruments used in the high-speed analysis and separation of living cells), Dr Leon Martin (pictured) wrote to a number of computer dealers hoping for a donation. The result? Capricorn Computing Services (Sydney) made a gift of a PDP 11/44 system, Ipec Hi-Tech Express provided free transport, and the CSIRO Department of Mineral Engineering donated a similar machine. The laboratory in the Monash Medical School at the Alfred Hospital will use the new system in its research and diagnostic work.

African Sanctus at RBH

In what may be one of the year's biggest choral concerts, 250 voices from three choirs will combine to present David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus* at Robert Blackwood Hall on Friday 28 April.

Fanshawe's masterful blend of traditional African tribal music and the ancient words of the Latin sanctus, set to modern rhythms, will be performed by the Monash University Choral Society and choirs from the University of Mel-

bourne and the Melbourne University Institute of Education.

The concert will be conducted by Faye Dumont, and guest soprano soloist will be Merlyn Quafe.

The performance will begin at 8pm. Tickets are \$14 and \$8 concession, available from Robert Blackwood Hall and at the door.

For further information, contact Ms Katie Purvis on 29 7735.

New set of questions for learner drivers

Written tests for learner and probationary drivers in Victoria will soon be composed of questions devised by a research group in the Education Faculty.

The Evaluation Studies Group, headed by Reader in Education, Dr Paul Gardner, has been asked by the Road Traffic Authority to prepare the tests, based on the recently published second

edition of the *Victorian Traffic Handbook*.

The group will prepare 100 questions in all, taking into account new laws, such as those prohibiting blood

alcohol in L-plate and P-plate drivers, that have been introduced since the first handbook was published in 1985.

Dr Gardner says several members of the group have experience in public examining in biology and physics, subjects pertinent to driver education in areas such as alcohol uptake and vehicle collisions.

"We have to analyse the content of the handbook and translate it into testable skills," he said.

"In this exercise we are asking what are the objectives? What do people wish to know?"

The group has been conducting studies for the RTA since 1984 when it began evaluating the effectiveness of the road safety programs, "Bike-ed", "Roadwork" and "Science and the Road".

Subsequent studies by the group of the "Roadwork" program have found that, while there has been some increase in children's knowledge of road safety, the program has had little effect on their attitude.

Dr Gardner says one of the strengths of the Evaluation Studies Group is that it can call on a wide range of people with different areas of expertise.

"We have a set of skills enabling the

analysis of educational material of all types," he said.

"If it moves we can evaluate it."

Writing workshops

Visiting writer in the English Department, Australian novelist and teacher, Carmel Bird, will be conducting a series of workshop seminars in May on the writing of fiction.

Ms Bird is the author of *Dear Writer*, *Cherry Ripe*, *Births, Deaths and Marriages* and *The Woodpecker Toy Fact*.

In recent years she has established an impressive record as a teacher of creative writing to students at all levels.

The course begins on 3 May and will be held between 1.15pm and 2.10pm over four consecutive Wednesdays. The seminars have been sponsored by the Literature Board of the Australia Council, the Vera Moore Fund and the Acting Dean of Arts, Associate Professor Jim Whitelaw.

For further details and registration, contact Mr Ian Laursen, English Department, ext 2136.



Storage crisis: A kilometre of paperwork

An archive, according to the dictionary, is a document or record relating to the activities, rights, claims, treaties or constitutions of a family, corporation, community, or nation.

No mention of a tertiary institution, yet the volume of paperwork produced in a university would rival that of any of these organisations.

Accountants open the books

Representatives of more than 25 accounting firms spoke to students at the university's first Accounting Open Day this month.

An estimated 300 students, most of whom will complete their courses this year, attended the Open Day in Robert Blackwood Hall.

Organised by Careers and Appointments, the session was modelled on the Employer Contact Centre run in conjunction with re-enrolment each December.

Counsellor for final-year students and graduates, Ms Rosemary Gall, said feedback from both students and employers was extremely positive.

Ms Gall plans to arrange similar Open Days for students from other faculties in 1990.

According to the university's Records Manager and Archivist, Dr Ann Mitchell, there are about 1000 linear metres of non-current records in storage around campus, including the archival repository in the Main Library.

That's one kilometre of 110,000 non-current files, audio-visual material, Board and Council Minutes, books and other records.

The tally of current files is similarly overwhelming. The current central records system contains about 8000 administrative correspondence files, 18,000 student files and 5000 staff files.

The ever-increasing volume of material, and an ever-decreasing space in which to house it, is being compounded by the university's lack of an archive policy, says Dr Mitchell.

A solution may come from outside in the form of the Public Record Office, a statutory authority whose ambit includes universities, which are statutory bodies themselves.

Strictly interpreted, the Public Records Act obliges Monash to follow Public Record Office rules, including the provision of a proper repository and reading facilities.

"No archivist is happy absolving responsibility for institutional records, so the fact that we haven't got a policy means that we are vulnerable.

"It also means that nothing is being thrown out at this stage."

At present, faculties are storing large quantities of non-current records because their importance is unknown and no one has the time to appraise them.

"At the moment, there are no guidelines to inform staff what to do with their papers, including academics' research papers," Dr Mitchell said.

"For example, after the death of Jock Marshall (the university's first professor

of Zoology) we were given his administrative papers, but his scientific papers which were kept at his home were subsequently gifted elsewhere."

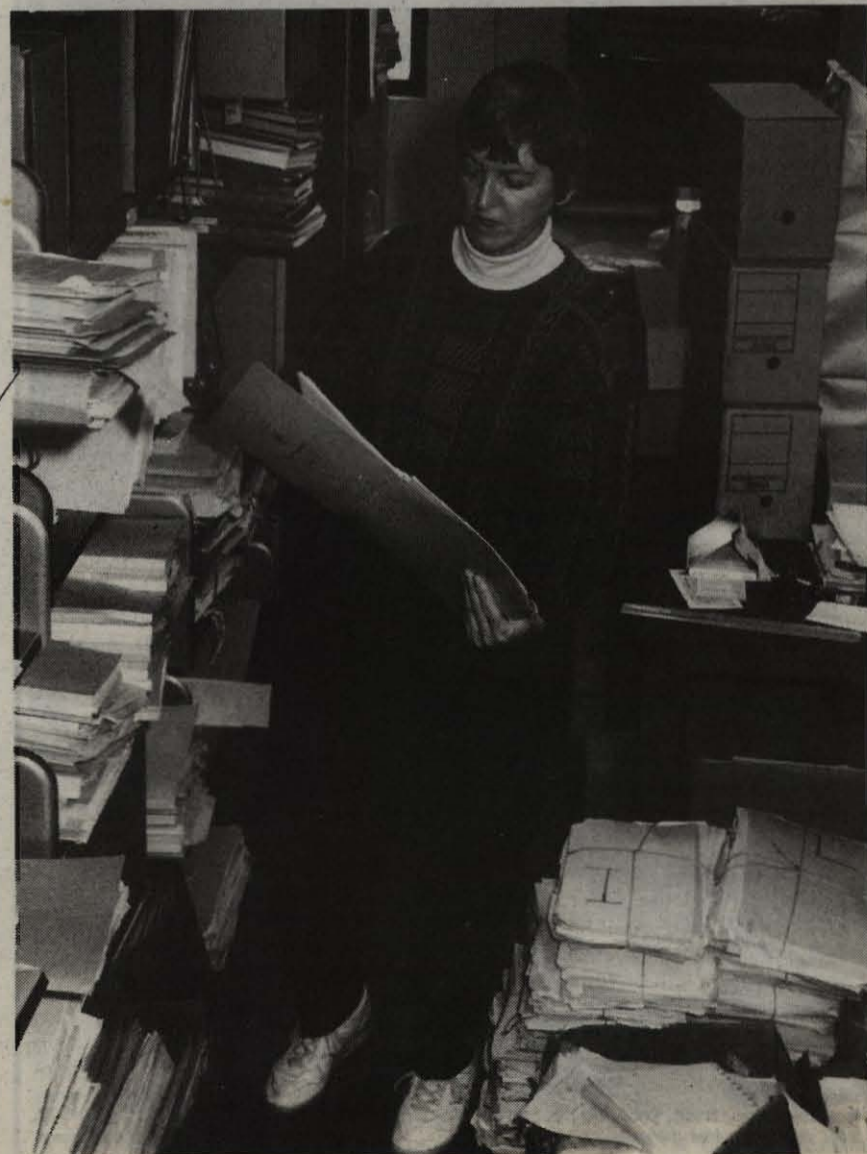
It's a very sensitive area, says Dr Mitchell, and one that requires the framing of an equally sensitive policy.

"There is no point maintaining an ar-

chive and not using it," she said.

The university has reached a stage where an institutional strategy embracing all university record-keeping practices is at least feasible, says Dr Mitchell.

"With an acknowledged storage crisis and an existing backlog of unprocessed records, it is time to bite the bullet."



High-powered meeting of minds

Forty-two mechanical engineers attended the eighth Electricity Supply Association of Australia Mechanical Residential School in Power Generation in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in February.

In addition to delegates from all Australian states, there were 10 overseas delegates, comprising four from New Zealand, three from Malaysia, two from Hong Kong and one from Singapore.

The school was resident for three weeks at Mannix College.

Lecturers were drawn from the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The gains to delegates in terms of updating their knowledge of technological developments are clear, but the university also gained through this important contact with the power generation industry.

As well as attending lectures, the delegates visited a number of sites of special interest and relevance.

They spent a full day visiting three power stations in the Latrobe Valley,

where about 85 per cent of Victoria's power is generated.

There were also visits to Newport Power Station, the SECV's Herman Research Laboratory, Smorgon Industries Steel and Paper Mills and the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centre at Preston.

The school concluded with a formal dinner at the Monash University Club at which the speakers were Mr Jim Smith, SECV Chief General Manager and ESAA President, and Professor Peter Darvall, Dean of Engineering.

Mr Smith spoke on the driving forces in the power generation industry with emphasis on reliability and risk engineering while Professor Darvall spoke about the self-image of engineers and recent tertiary education politics.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering can take great satisfaction that the Monash school continued the very high standard of achievement set by previous schools in this series.

Dr Terry Berreen
Mechanical Engineering

Mr Jim Smith, SECV Chief General Manager and ESAA president, speaking at the mechanical school dinner. Seated from left are Dr Terry Berreen (school organiser), Mr Keith Sutherland (school manager) and Mr George Bates (Deputy Chief General Manager SECV). Photo: John Millar.



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they may teach the teacher and be the future leaders of their profession.

What has Mr Dawkins done to recognise their especially significant, priority role in our educational and research establishments into the 21st century?

Thirdly, I believe that Mr Dawkins must address, as a matter of the very greatest urgency, the issues of academic salaries, not only for medical schools, but for the whole of the host unified national system.

As a dean of a medical school I face the problem of the growing impossibility of recruiting those key, essential staff on which the future of medical education and the future of health care delivery in the community will depend.

Academic salaries have declined in buying power and the salary of a lecturer, once regarded as a high level career position, compares unfavorably with the median average wage.

All the exhortations of Government to produce innovations in our universities, and exploit these in the industrial marketplace, will be to no avail if we are unable to recruit and retain top level academics who make up the brainpower on which creative innovations and our future depend.

So the universities must receive adequate funding. The clawback must be analysed and understood. It is appropriate to take it back indiscriminately.

I would contend that the medical schools, far from needing to suffer a clawback, have demonstrated their leadership role in accountability and performance and should be rewarded with a larger slice of the total recurrent funds available for tertiary education.

But even after an adequate baseline is established, NH & MRC will need much greater and much more realistic funding to enable those restored university departments to fulfil their promise and to conduct the excellent research which will underpin advances in health care for this nation and for the benefit of its people into the 21st century.

Monash Reporter

The next issue will be published on Wednesday, 24 May, 1989.

Copy deadline is Wednesday 10 May and early copy is much appreciated.

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



● Noted cinematographer and scientific film maker, David Parer (pictured right), is congratulated by his brother, Michael, after receiving an honorary degree of Doctor of Science. (Dr Michael Parer is Head of the Educational Development and Research Unit at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education.)



● Try this one for size! Associate Professor Mick Gould of Biochemistry swapping regalia with son Jonathan, who had just received his B.Sc (Honors) degree at a graduation ceremony at Robert Blackwood Hall.



● Julie Aitkin, B.Sc, pictured with her father, Dr Lindsay Aitkin, Reader in Physiology, after receiving her degree. Photos — Richard Crompton.

'Clawback' of funds will hasten demise

The Dean of Medicine at Monash, Professor Bob Porter, tackled the problems of research funding at a recent gathering of scientists at Melbourne University. His talk, which follows, focused on medical research funding. Other speakers at the meeting included the Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University, Professor David Penington, and the director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Professor Sir Gustav Nossal.

In a special article in "The New England Journal of Medicine", published on October 20 last year, Dr Bernadine Healy tackled the matter of *Innovators for the 21st Century* and posed the question "Will we face a crisis in Biomedical Research Brainpower?"

Although her account deals with the North American scene, it addresses issues which have even more direct and dramatic urgency for Australia because of the marginal status of our present biomedical research effort and because of our extreme vulnerability to the actions following from the Dawkins white paper.

In Dr Healy's view the principal question to be asked is "What is our current and future ability to capture and retain creative and innovative brainpower in biomedical research?"

It is the question which Mr Barry Jones poses for the whole of scientific research in Australia.

And protocols that are developed for our country's research effort and its contributions to our economic development, industrial success and export earnings should first of all recognise the need to recruit, encourage, foster, sustain and develop that creative and innovative brainpower on which the advance of the political, scientific, industrial and economic agenda will ultimately depend.

Jeopardy

How do the Dawkins proposals contribute to this vital and essential function of our universities and our medical schools?

In relation to biomedical research specifically Dr Healy has this to say:

"Although the external factors of health and disease provide a political rationale for federal and societal support of biomedical science, the demands for research brainpower are driven more by forces intrinsic to medical science. There must be sufficient numbers of researchers to maintain the vigor and strength of the existing biomedical-research effort, based both in academia and in industry; brainpower enough to ensure that we can respond to scientific opportunities, to explore new ventures, and to investigate health crises effectively; and research faculty to train manpower for tomorrow, both for research and for clinical practice."

If biomedical science in the USA is in jeopardy because of a marked decline in available brainpower (and there are facts to indicate that this is the case) should we, in Australia, be yielding without protest to the Federal Government's increasingly interventionist role in setting the research agenda, in specifying priorities and in controlling the availability of resources and reimbursements for both medical education and biomedical research?

It is perfectly proper and understandable, and most of us would completely support, the white paper's requirements for more open accountability, for demonstrated performance, for achievement of goals and for quality productivity.

We would claim however, that, through the NH & MRC's system, those of us engaged in biomedical research in universities and research institutes have been operating in this way for the last 25 years or more.

We have a long history of funding of our research activities competitively, and only after stringent external and independent peer review. The track record of biomedical research scientists in Australia, by whatever performance indicators one cares to employ, rates very well on international comparisons.

Mr Dawkins must be aware that these are the facts.

Yet the opportunity to continue to contribute to Australia in this proven-to-be-successful manner is already seriously eroded and its very existence is threatened by the two major issues which must be highlighted here tonight.

- Australian university medical schools (in which the vast majority of our biomedical science is conducted) can not survive, and continue to sustain their research effort, in the face of the abolition of their infrastructure for research which will result from the "clawback" of funds from universities. I shall give some examples of the problem in a moment. These reveal that we are already in such an impoverished state that the clawback will only hasten our demise.

- There is an *absolute* requirement for an additional allocation of very substantial extra new monies to the budget of the NH & MRC for 1990 and thereafter. Severe budgetary restraints over the last few years, in spite of the relative successes of Dr Blewett in maintaining a standstill level of appropriation to the Medical Research Endowment Fund, have allowed no new major equipment to be purchased with NH & MRC support, have led to a decline in the proportion of applications that could be funded (to less than 30 per cent), have allowed for only partial funding even of highly successful applications and have enormously prejudiced the career structure for young investigators on whom the future will so critically depend. We will indeed lack the creative and innovative brainpower on which our developments into the 21st century depend if we fail to expand on the opportunities for and the adequate sustenance of our young career scientists.

Moreover, *BOTH* these aspects need to be addressed. The infrastructure for research in the medical schools must be restored and developed to a level that is appropriate for preparation for the 21st Century *AND* the NH & MRC must have a substantial increase in funds to allocate competitively to the most able, productive and effective research enterprises in Australia using its well-tried and proven evaluation procedures which are acknowledged to demonstrate high levels of accountability.

Now what is the state of the *infrastructure* and why can it stand no further erosion?

In university medical schools the infrastructure for research has already almost completely disappeared.

A clawback of even a token amount will remove the infrastructure altogether.

For many years the allocations of federal funds to universities for teaching and research have been falling short of the requirements needed for modern and appropriate teaching of medical students, and far from providing, in addition, the infrastructure for research, the experience has been that the inadequate recurrent funding levels for teaching have produced a deterioration of existing equipment and the inability to replace aging and obsolete items, even simple and essential routine things like balances and light microscopes, let alone expensive ones like electronmicroscopes and ultracentrifuges.

So, in an increasingly technological environment, there is no opportunity to establish a baseline research facility on which programs may be built which utilise modern, sophisticated, sensitive state-of-the-art equipment.

We try to operate using patched and repaired, reconditioned old models which are slow, insensitive and unreliable. We work in the Third World in our medical schools.



But even this is capable of remedy at modest expense if the grants to universities and to NH & MRC are both increased with specific funds for equipment purchase and replacement.

A much more complex issue is the one of adequately trained manpower, their relevant education and their adequate recognition through career structures and remuneration packages that recognise their crucial role in Australia's development of a future of our society into the 21st century.

People resources are disappearing from biomedical research.

Adequate numbers of technicians and research associates and persons with appropriate skills in these technical areas can not be employed in our medical schools.

This is having a disastrous effect, especially on our clinical departments and their patient-oriented research.

It is not just that the system is not training enough of these people (although we have in Australia a major crisis in mathematics and science education throughout the whole schooling period as well as at universities and technical institutes and colleges) we cannot offer them recognition or salary packages that in any way accord with their importance to the country, their long years of training, or their skills and responsibilities.

There are then, three additional areas of special concern in relation to trained

personnel and biomedical research careers which I identify as a dean of a medical school.

First, research careers for *post-doctoral scientists*, highly trained and able to make their own creative and independent contributions to Australian science are so insecure, so inadequately paid, so lacking in a future, and so uncertain that they will be able to get their foot on the ladder of career development by gaining an NH & MRC grant, that they are leaving biomedical science to become computer programmers, or go into business.

Poised

They find they must do this because, as mature individuals at a well developed stage of their career, while they are poised to contribute substantially to Australian biomedical science, they also have family responsibilities, a mortgage and the education of their children to consider.

For some, the only way to meet these obligations is to leave science. Here in this state we have seen recent examples of post-doctoral scientists leaving biomedical science careers to go into an electrical contracting business, the computer industry, a dial-a-curry take-away food service and to become a contract painter.

Is this good for the future health of Australian biomedical science?

My second special concern is the training of Ph.D graduates — one of the major areas of a university's responsibilities.

In this field it is an obligation for a Faculty of Medicine to create an environment in which some of the brightest, most able and intelligent of our graduates will pursue research in a field for which they have especial aptitudes and will prepare themselves for research careers by Ph.D training.

This is the essential first stage for the creation of the brainpower the country will need for the 21st century.

Has Mr Dawkins realised what will be the long-term effect on this most crucial and most vital element of Australia's future of the introduction of HECS and the graduate tax?

After indexation, the tax liability of a Ph.D graduate, who will have spent four years in obtaining an Honours degree and then at least three years in getting a Ph.D, will consume a substantial proportion of his or her commencing salary, assuming the graduate is able to find post-doctoral employment.

Disincentive

Already the message has gone out. Mr Dawkins' white paper determinations provide a major disincentive to potential Ph.D applicants. Why should they even start?

And those who are part way through Ph.D studies will find the pastures looking greener overseas where they can escape the tax liability. We face a brain-drain of the very brainpower on which our future depends.

What a great outcome for Australia's revisions of its educational direction and philosophies. And how much worse for those key individuals who are the mainstay of our medical schools, the MD/Ph.D graduates who are expected to train in research for a Ph.D after a six year medical course and several additional years of specialist training so that

● Continued page 4

New views needed for new era

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● Lack of Sympathy for Universities and University Values

During both the Menzies and Whitlam eras, members of Government and senior public servants and administrators appeared to share traditional academic beliefs as to the nature and role of universities and their value to society. My impression is that such beliefs, to a considerable extent, no longer hold sway; that if anything there appears to be an element of resentment or hostility towards universities and traditional university values. While lip service is still paid to notions such as "pursuit of excellence", "maintenance of standards", "academic integrity" and "independence of universities", in truth universities are frequently resented and regarded as elitist, and the process of bringing them to account has been pursued with a degree of relish. The reason for such attitudes is difficult to understand. In fact our universities are something we can be proud of. For a country the size of Australia to have produced so many universities of such high quality is a remarkable achievement. Nonetheless, it would be foolish to ignore the existence of a degree of antipathy towards traditional universities on the part of some members of the government and the public service.

● Growth of the Ideal of Economic Rationalism in Education

During both the Menzies and Whitlam eras education was viewed in traditional liberal terms as something fulfilling for the individual and worthwhile in itself. In its founding Act of Parliament it is stated that Monash University "shall aim to foster a desire for learning and culture and for a knowledge of the social and cultural as much as the technical and practical aspects in branches of learning and an understanding of their relation to the whole field of human life and knowledge". While lip service may still be paid to such ideas, in truth they appear to have been largely displaced in favor of theories of economic rationalism or utilitarianism. The value of education is ultimately, according to these ideas, to be determined by what it is able to produce in terms of dollars and cents.

● OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEW ERA

If the analysis presented above is accurate, indeed if it is anything approaching accurate, then the period we have entered into is one giving cause for very grave concern as to the future of tertiary education in this country.

Nonetheless, it seems to me that at least four aspects of the changing environment present significant opportunities to a quality institution such as Monash.

● A More Competitive Environment for Tertiary Institutions

The destruction of the binary system means that there is no longer any magic in the title "University", nor any presumption that universities are to be regarded equally or funded equally. This is, of course, the norm in other countries. In England, Oxford and Cambridge stand at a level quite different from that of the newer universities, and in the United States and Canada the reputation and quality of universities varies enormously. While the destruction of the binary system has been hailed by colleges as desirable, there is no presumption that they are going to do better under the new regime. In a period of open competition with universities they may well do worse. Within the Victorian tertiary sector it is commonly believed that the University of Melbourne and Monash University are the strongest of the four universities, and that all four of the universities stand at a level above any of the colleges. If this belief proves demonstrably true, then Monash is in a position to do well in the context of a more competitive environment.

The White Paper proposed a freeing up of university salary structures, and the Council of Monash University has now approved in principle the paying of salary loadings in areas of "high market demand". The Government does not, however, propose to fund universities for these loadings, and the 1989 Monash Budget does not have any funds earmarked for such loadings. Nonetheless, we are seeing the beginning of at least a partial collapse in academic salary structures which in the medium term may result in quality institutions being given the capacity to pay their better staff salaries more in accordance with their

worth than is presently the case.

● Closer Association with the Commercial and Professional World

Central to Government policy is the notion that universities should seek significant outside funding to support their activities. Such a policy involves the introduction of a real element of free enterprise into the university sector. Those institutions which can convince the outside world of the worth of their activities will prosper, and those that cannot will decline. Competition of this sort, leading to closer association and collaboration with the outside commercial and professional world is to be welcomed. Despite the tremendous achievements in university education in the 60s and 70s, it is my view that this period did foster an element of cargo cult mentality in relation to Government funding, the passing of which is not to be regretted.

In this context Monash has achieved a degree of early success. A large grant from the Pulp and Paper Industry has financed the establishment of a National Institute in pulp and paper technology. A Road Accident Research Unit has been set up with State Government funding. A Chair in Communications and Information Engineering has been set up with money from Telecom, and a Chair in Forensic Medicine has been established with funds from the Attorney-General's Department. These and similar recent initiatives at Monash constitute examples of the sort of co-operative development with outside bodies which universities should increasingly be seeking to achieve.

● To be continued

Kinder enrolments

Parents of children born between 1 July 1985 and 30 June 1986 are invited to enrol their children in the 1990 four-year-old kindergarten program at the Elwyn Morey Centre.

Enrolment will take place on Friday 26 May between 10am and noon, and 2 and 4pm.

A non-refundable deposit of \$15 will be required and places will be allocated in order of application.

For further information, contact the centre on ext 2887.

\$613,000 grant part of \$1.2m business program at Chisholm

In an article in the March issue of *Monash Reporter*, it was stated that the Department of Japanese Studies at Monash had been granted \$613,000 by the Victorian Education Foundation to teach a program in Business Japanese at the Chisholm Institute of Technology. This was not the full story.

The chairman of the department, Helen Marriott, says the amount is part of a total grant of \$1.2 million awarded to Chisholm by the foundation to establish Business Chinese and Business Japanese programs in Chisholm's David Syme Business School.

Chisholm has contracted Monash, at a cost of \$613,000, to teach the course in Business Japanese over a three-year period.

Ms Marriott says that Monash University's proposal for the course in Business Japanese was a major sub-component of the proposal submitted by Chisholm to the VEF.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 Term 2, Medicine 6 begins
- 5 First teaching round DipEd ends
- 8 Last date for discontinuance of a subject/unit taught and assessed in Semester 1 for it to be classified as discontinued (excluding DipEdPsych, BEdSt, BSpEd and MEdSt) Term 3, Medicine 4 begins
- 10 Graduation Ceremony (Education/Law/Medicine) 2.30pm, Robert Blackwood Hall
- 15 Last date for discontinuance of a subject/unit taught and assessed in Semester I in DipEdPsych, BEdSt, BSpEd and MEdSt for it to be classified as discontinued
- 24 Graduation Ceremony (Arts) 2.30pm, Robert Blackwood Hall



The following activities are scheduled for Robert Blackwood Hall in May:

Monday 1: 1.15pm
LUNCHTIME CONCERT. "Ad-zohu". A program of music and dance from Ghana and Nigeria.
ADMISSION FREE.

Friday 5: 8pm
ORGAN RECITAL by John O'Donnell presenting works by Frescobaldi, Froberger, Kerll and Muffat.

Entree Cards will be available from Robert Blackwood Hall Box Office 544 5448 and Broadcast Music ABC 640 3462/3.

Monday 8: 1.15pm

MONASH REPORTER

LUNCHTIME CONCERT. Sara Grunstein — Piano Recital; Program: Estampes, Debussy Sonata in C Major ("The Waldstein") Op. 53, Beethoven.
ADMISSION FREE.

Wednesday 10: 8pm
ORGAN RECITAL by John O'Donnell presenting works by de Heredia, de Arauxo, Cabanilles, Titelouze, Nevers and de Grigny.

Entree Cards will be available from Robert Blackwood Hall Box Office 544 5448 and Broadcast Music ABC 640 3462/3.

Friday 12: 8pm
"AN EVENING OF LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT" presented by St Margaret's School Choir together with the Hawthorn City Band and guest artists. Compere David Reyne.

Admission: Adults \$10, Concession \$7.

For further information and tickets please contact 763 6813 or 707 1211.

Sunday 14:
6.30pm — JAZZ IN THE FOYER.
7.30pm — MUSICAL MAYHEM CONCERT

University of Melbourne Institute of Education (formerly Melbourne CEA) present a "MUSICAL MAYHEM"

featuring Big Bands, Choirs, Wind Symphony, Clarinet Choirs, Orchestra and many smaller ensembles, including the exciting African Drum and Dance Ensemble.

Admission: Adults \$10, Concession \$6, Family \$25.

For further information and tickets please contact 341 8369 or AH 557 5339.

Monday 15: 1.15pm
LUNCHTIME CONCERT Monash University Orchestra. Presenting popular classics including Finlandia by Sibelius and Fingal's Cave by Mendelssohn.
ADMISSION FREE.

Friday 19: 8pm
LUNCHTIME CONCERT.
ORGAN RECITAL by John O'Donnell presenting an all Bach program.

Entree Cards will be available from Robert Blackwood Hall Box Office 544 5448 and Broadcast Music ABC 640 3462/3.

Sunday 21: 1pm
MELBOURNE ACADEMY BOYS' CHOIR present a Musical Afternoon for parents, friends and the general public to show the development of Choral Music at its best, based on the

Kodaly Method of Teaching. Led by Andrew Blackburn, Musical Director.

For further information please contact Wendy Tan on 801 5136.

Monday 22: 1.15pm
LUNCHTIME CONCERT. Chandrabhanu and the Bharatam Dance Company present a classical Indian dance performance using the traditional Bharata — Natyam dance style.
ADMISSION FREE.

Saturday 27: 8pm
MELBOURNE YOUTH MUSIC COUNCIL present Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra, The Silhouette Swing Choir and the Margaret Sutherland Strings.

Admission: Adults \$8, Conc. \$5. Tickets available at the door.

For further information please contact 690 8624.

Monday 29: 1.15pm
LUNCHTIME CONCERT. Elizabeth Anderson — Harpsichord Recital. "Paris from 1700 to the Revolution". Presenting a program of works by Rameau, Couperin, Dunphy and featuring 'Variations on the Marseillaise' by Balbastre.
ADMISSION FREE.

Danger in ignoring reality, says dean

The David Derham School of Law at Monash is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

In its comparatively short life, the school, named for its first dean, the late Professor Sir David Derham, has achieved an international reputation for quality of teaching and research.

One of its former deans, Professor Louis Waller, has made a distinguished contribution to the national debate on bioethics and reproductive technology.

Another, Professor Bob Baxt, is on leave from the faculty as chairman of the Trade Practices Commission.

The current dean, Professor Bob Williams (a Monash Law School graduate), is actively seeking to promote greater understanding within the legal profession of the work of the university, and to enlist the support of the profession in future undertakings.

What follows is the first part of his article, Monash Law School: Towards the 1990s. The second part will appear in the next issue of *Monash Reporter*

Over the past two years universities and law schools have gone through a variety of traumatic experiences.

The CTEC Committee engaged in an inquiry into law schools of the most searching kind.

The Dawkins Green Paper proposed a radical restructuring of tertiary education.

The binary system of tertiary education was abolished, and a variety of unpalatable measures were advocated including amalgamation with colleges, a single federal award for college and university staff, reduced OSP for university staff, increased assessment of staff and a high degree of accountability.

Then, the VPSEC report was published, presenting a blueprint for possible amalgamations.

Finally, the release of the Dawkins

White Paper, seven months after the Green Paper, made it clear that while the Government was prepared to modify its language, and on occasion to drop specific proposals, the central thrust of the Green Paper represented settled policy and was not negotiable.

All this has occurred against a background over the past five years or so of ever decreasing funding, reduction in opportunities for research, contraction of career opportunities and prospects and a significant decline in real salaries.

In the face of all this, one not uncommon reaction has been to argue as follows: "The best thing to do is hold tight, and hopefully much of this will go away. Universities have been attacked in the past and have survived without too much damage. We will come through this present round."

Such a view was always misconceived, and must now be regarded as involving a positively dangerous failure to face reality.

Little of what has begun to occur in the past two years will go away; the nature of the environment in which universities find themselves has changed dramatically, and we will fail to understand the nature of this change and adapt to it at our very great peril.

Broadly, I think tertiary education in Australia has, over the period of my involvement as a student and academic, gone through two distinct periods and has now entered into a third.

The first period was the tremendous expansion which followed the Murray Report and lasted through the sixties. This expansion began under the Menzies Government and continued under subsequent coalition governments.

It ushered in an era of rapid growth and expansion of traditional universities, and was characterised by the ready availability of money and improved career and other opportunities.

The second period began with the election of the Whitlam Government in 1972. This also was a period of expansion, but a period in which the character of universities and other tertiary institutions changed significantly.

What may be called the Whitlam era of tertiary education continued in its essential characteristics well into the 1980s despite the significant, but by no means crucial, reductions in funding that occurred beginning in the early 80s.

We are now, I believe, in the early stages of a third modern era for Australian universities which is likely to be as lengthy, as distinctive and as significant as the previous two.

This era is, however, one of contraction and austerity. It is also, although less obviously, one of opportunity.

The commencement of this era may conveniently be dated as December, 1987, the date of the release of the Dawkins Green Paper.

NEGATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW ERA

It is, I think, possible to isolate at least six clear and undesirable characteristics of the new era. They are as follows:

● Tight Finances

Universities and colleges are now to engage in open competition with no *a priori* assumption that universities are expected and entitled to engage in major research.

In 1988 the Government announced that henceforth one per cent of university budgets would be withheld in the first instance, and each university would compete against other universities and the colleges to win back this one per cent.

Decisions regarding the one per cent are made on the basis of educational profiles which are prepared and sent to Canberra each year. A figure of one per cent may not sound like a great deal, but this is a practice which is to take place annually and the figure of one per cent is compounded. Further, the one per cent per annum relates only to teaching; losses in relation to research monies must be added to it.

Universities are presently funded on the basis that academic staff spend around 30 per cent of their time engaged in research. The destruction of the binary system means that this 30 per cent allowance for research is no longer guaranteed. Thus, a worst case scenario could see significant numbers of "teaching only" departments, with budgets cut by 30 per cent and teaching commitments increased accordingly.

When academic and general staff were awarded the long overdue 4 per cent salary productivity increase last year, it was estimated that this increase would cost the university around \$3.4 million in 1989.

The government was prepared only to fund somewhat less than half this amount, leaving the university to meet the shortfall.

These costs, of course, combine and are reflected in the budgets of individual faculties. For 1989 the Law Faculty at Monash, in common with all other faculties, has had its budget cut in real terms by 2.5 per cent. This follows on from a similar cut which was experienced in 1988.

● Increased Government Interference

The Dawkins papers marked the beginning of a period of increasing, and quite unapologetic, government interference in the running of universities.

The White Paper established a new National Unified Tertiary System involving a compact between universities and the Government.

Universities were to make decisions on aims, directions and strategies. They then enter into agreements with the Federal Government on the basis of those intended plans, which they are required to detail in the most precise of terms.

Funding decisions are then made on the basis of the Government's degree of approval or otherwise of those plans.

Monash University, along with the other three Victorian universities, has now entered into this compact. The true choice involved, of course, was non-existent.

While some universities, such as the University of Melbourne and Sydney University, initially canvassed the possibility of staying out of the National Unified System it was clear that no institution could decline to join and remain financially viable.

● Increased Accountability

Both institutions and individual members of staff are in the process of becoming more accountable. Funding of institutions is now based in part on successful completion rates of students. Staff profiles are to be required, and individual performance indicators are being developed.

Monash has agreed to become a trial institution for the development of Staff Performance Indicators in 1989. Accountability is, of course, not itself a bad thing.

The experience of the past 18 months, however, gives little reason to be confident as to the fairness and accuracy of the measures of accountability which are likely to find favour with the Federal Government.

● Increasingly Centralised Control over Research

The abolition of the ARGC and its replacement with the ARC ushered in an era of increased Federal control over the areas of research for which universities are funded. One per cent of existing university funding was transferred to the ARC to be allocated to research projects on the basis of Government determined priorities. Of even more concern, however, is the process by which the Federal Government is coming to determine basic research funding for universities by having regard to whether institutions are conforming with Government guidelines as to research priorities.

● Continued page 6

Silver Jubilee program

Since it began in 1964 with a handful of staff and 150 students, the Monash Law School has grown to an enrolment this year of 1600 — including a first-year intake of 350.

The school opened in cramped premises shared with the Faculty of Engineering, and moved into the newly-constructed David Derham building in 1968. The law library, contained within the building, now houses more than 100,000 volumes.

The school will begin its Silver Jubilee celebrations this year with a Gala Dinner on Tuesday 30 May at the Hyatt on Collins.

The event is expected to attract hundreds of former students as well as former and present faculty members. It will be hosted by Monash graduate, and speechmaker, Mr Campbell McComas, with the Victorian Premier, Mr Cain, proposing the Toast of the Law School.

On Friday 28 July, the university's first Vice-Chancellor, Sir Louis Matheson, will deliver the Silver Jubilee Oration at the Alexander Theatre.

Former Prime Minister, Mr Gough Whitlam, will give this year's Fullagar Lecture on Wednesday 16 August, also at the Alexander Theatre.

There will be a Special Anniversary Issue of the Monash University Law Review, and subscription inquiries should be directed to 565 3374.

For further information about the Silver Jubilee, please contact Ms Helen Milovanovic (Administrative/Alumni Officer, Faculty of Law) on 565 3373.



Free concert

Judith Durham will perform at Robert Blackwood Hall next month, with a free lunchtime concert on Tuesday May 23 and an evening concert on Wednesday May 24.

She will be accompanied by her husband Ron Edgeworth, a talented composer and pianist.

It is expected that in the lunchtime show Judith and Ron will concentrate particularly on their compositions reflecting environment and peace issues, while the evening performance will include selections from their full repertoire.

Tickets for the evening show will be available from the RBH booking office (544 5448) or by phoning 560 0210 (after 4pm).

Essay writing

The third series of studying and essay writing courses for Arts students will begin on 1 May.

Each course consists of two one-hour classes each week over four weeks.

Class times are Mondays and Wednesdays, noon or 3.15pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.15pm.

Interested students should inquire at the Language and Learning Unit, Room 125, Menzies Building (ext 2263).

What a dummy!

The dreaded question, "Who'll be the dummy?" is never asked at the first aid courses being conducted on campus by the St John Ambulance Service.

Practising cardiopulmonary resuscitation on one of the service's mannequins under the watchful eye of instructor Harry Larchin are Louise Tyson, a research assistant in Physiology, and John van der Hilst, laboratory manager in Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering.

More than 70 academic and general staff have so far completed the courses organised by the Occupational Health and Safety Branch.

Those interested in learning emergency life saving procedures can enrol for a one-day course to be held on 7 June, or an intensive four-day course beginning on 28 June (held over consecutive Wednesdays).

Further information can be obtained from Sister Maureen Peterson, Occupational Health and Safety Branch, ext 5005.



Rowers forge strong links with Cambridge

The Monash University Rowing Club's recent visit to Cambridge had enormous benefits for the university, says team member Andrew Cohen. While in England, the team came eighth in the Tideway Head of the River, an international race which attracted around 500 entries.

The Monash rowing team has just spent four weeks in England at the invitation of Cambridge University. The two crews had met and competed against each other at The World Boat Race at EXPO in September 1988.

Although Cambridge defeated Monash and subsequently won the event, they were impressed enough with the boys from Melbourne to ask them to become the first ever "outside" crew to help Cambridge win "The Boat Race".

After an excellent domestic season, winning 11 out of 12 races (including Head of the Yarra, Head of the Maribyrnong and the Australia Henley Lord

Mayor's Cup and Grand Challenge Cup) the crew departed for England.

Training commenced immediately and comprised two sessions a day. It was an excellent grounding, training with such an experienced and powerful crew (comprising internationals and Olympians).

The long distance (four-and-a-quarter miles) requires a different method of training compared to what the Aussies are used to, and the boys found it tough (added to the freezing conditions).

On 18 March the crew entered The Tideway Head of the River, the longest race in Europe, which attracted close to

500 entries.

A place in the top 10-15 was the target and the crew outdid expectations by coming eighth overall, winners of the Session 1 division and the top international crew (from a field of 43 overseas entrants).

Although this was an excellent result, the following Saturday took a lot of the joy away when Oxford defeated Cambridge in a close-fought tussle.

The Cambridge crew were favorites and the press and bookmakers had looked at the Light Blues very favorably. The defeat was a big shock as the main aim of the Monash visit was to help Cambridge win.

The trip was still a resounding success, with priceless benefits to all team members. Staying in colleges on campus

at Cambridge and rowing on the Ouse and Thames are memories that will never fade.

Overall the university has gained enormously and hopefully the strong link between the two light blue universities will remain in place for years to come.

However, most of all, the boys themselves gained by experiencing a journey to a place many had only dreamed of visiting.

The crew is indebted to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan, for his most generous financial support.

Friends, family and the general public were also very generous, and the sponsor, Merrill Lynch Australia, deserves special thanks for its last-minute injection of funds which allowed the trip to go ahead.

Andrew Cohen



• The university's Careers and Appointments Service was among 65 major employer organisations which provided students with advice and information at the recent Careers Show. The slogan of this year's show, held last month at the World Trade Centre, was "Interview them before they interview you". Monash staff also conducted seminars on a variety of issues related to career guidance including sources of career information and the evaluation of job offers.



• Monash staff members won both compact disc players offered as prizes in the "Welcome Back to Reality" raffle run by the Tertiary Credit Union and drawn this month. Pictured above are, from left, Ms Tracey Norman (TCU liaison officer), prize winner Mrs June Haffenden (Monash Association of Students), Mrs Sandra Clark (TCU branch manager at Monash) and prizewinner Dr Ismail Kola (Centre for Early Human Development).