

Monash Reporter

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University approves smoking policy

THE University Council has approved a partial ban on smoking at Monash, to take effect from 1 July.

The ban will result in a majority of areas within university buildings being designated non-smoking areas. Smoking will only be allowed in areas clearly marked with 'smoking permitted' signs.

Exceptions include the foyer areas surrounding the lifts on the 9th, 10th and 11th floors of the Menzies building, separate single-occupant offices, designated cafeteria areas in the Union Building, residential rooms in the Halls of Residence and in some staff tea or lunch rooms at certain times.

Smoking will not be permitted in inter-connecting offices unless all occupants of the rooms are smokers. People who occupy 'smoking permitted' offices cannot smoke when non-smokers are present. Heads of Budgetary Units may attempt to segregate smokers and non-smokers if requested by staff.

The new 'Policy with Respect to Smoking' was drafted by the Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee (OHSPC) following extensive consultation with staff and students.

compliance with the policy," she said.

"A staged approach has therefore been adopted; the policy which has been approved by Council lies somewhere between the two options and it will be reviewed after 12 months of operation."

Dr Tillman said the objective of the policy was to establish a healthy environment at Monash by reducing the exposure of all staff and students to passive smoke while they are on university occupied premises.

In addition, the policy will reduce the risk of fire, protect sensitive equipment and comply with the legislative requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985, Section 21, she said.

"The policy will not completely eliminate the involuntary exposure of non-smoking staff and students to tobacco smoke but it will eliminate direct exposure to side-stream smoke except for, at the most, very short periods each day," she said.

"Implementation of the policy will therefore lead to a significant reduction in health risks for non-smokers and at the same time it will impose less stress on smokers than would a total ban."

The policy applies to all buildings occupied by the university and to university vehicles. Departments which occupy, in part, buildings which are owned or operated by another organisation should comply with the smoking policy of that organisation. In the absence of such a policy, or if it is less stringent than the Monash University policy, then the latter shall apply.

The policy sets out the minimum standard for restriction of smoking within the university. If an OHS Zone or a single department or faculty decides by consensus that it wishes to introduce a total ban then it may do so, if this can be done without imposing an unacceptable level of stress upon its smokers.

Dr Tillman said smokers who wished to quit would be given support to attend an approved course and in seeking advice on other courses or cessation options.

"It is also recognised that smokers who work in non-smoking areas, but do not wish to stop smoking, require a period of time to adjust to a new smoking pattern so



It was no contest: a bin holds more than a pelican, at least when it comes to cans and bottles. One of the university's Envirobins, a unique machine that automatically sorts glass from aluminium, was the focus of the recent launch of the Monash Union Recycling Scheme, presided over by PeliCan, the Warden of the Union, Graeme Sweeney, and recycling co-ordinator, Katrina Roberg. Picture: TONY MILLER.



A draft policy containing two options was circulated widely for public comment within the university. The first option provided for a total smoking ban while option two provided for smoking prohibition in certain areas of the university.

According to Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Branch manager, Dr Cheryl Tillman, the majority of responses favored a total ban but there was a significant proportion of responses which favored option two.

"The working party and the OHSPC felt it would be unwise to proceed with a total ban at this stage as it could lead to widespread non-

that they can reduce or eliminate smoking during working hours," she said.

"In order to allow for this, provision will be made for smoking adjustment breaks over an adjustment period where smokers will be permitted to go outside buildings to smoke.

"The frequency of those breaks will have to be arrived at by consultation between the supervisor and the smoker. Any disputes will be dealt with according to the 'Procedures for dealing with OHS issues' given in the Occupational Health and Safety Policy Statement."

The 'Policy with Respect to

Smoking' has been distributed to Heads of Budgetary Units, Zone OHS Committee chairpersons, Health and Safety representatives and Safety Officers. Additional copies have also been sent to all Safety Officers to enable them to distribute copies to smokers, as they will be most affected by the policy.

For further information about the quit programs contact the Occupational Health nurses on ext 4048 or ext 5005 or the University Health Service on ext 3175.

Staff wanting more details about the policy should consult their Safety Officer or their Health and Safety representative.

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Greater Monash offers students more diversity

MONASH University, the Chisholm Institute of Technology and the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education have come together to form one of Australia's most exciting and diverse tertiary institutions.

The greater Monash University comprises campuses at Caulfield, Clayton and Frankston, as well as Monash University College Gippsland at Churchill near Morwell in the Latrobe Valley.

Students can enrol at any campus in a wide variety of courses from the level of a diploma to a PhD. And the Monash-Gippsland Distance Education Centre provides off-campus courses in a range of disciplines to the whole of Australia. All graduates receive internationally recognised Monash awards.

With a budget of about \$200 million a year and an enrolment of about 28,000 students, Monash is now one of Australia's largest uni-

versities.

Its 10 faculties spread across the three metropolitan campuses include new university faculties of Business, Computing & Information Technology, and Professional Studies to supplement Arts; Economics, Commerce and Management; Education; Engineering; Law; Medicine; and Science.

Monash University College Gippsland retains enough independence to pursue its role in education at the local level, but it

has been strengthened by becoming part of a highly regarded university.

At the university college, students can study Applied Science, Business, Computing, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Social Science and Visual Arts.

In addition, the Gippsland campus is home to the new Monash-Gippsland Distance Education Centre, a blend of Gippsland's experience as an important supplier of off-campus courses

with Monash's expertise in tertiary education, particularly in professional studies.

Monash University's Registrar, Mr Tony Pritchard, said: "One of the aims of the greater Monash is to increase opportunities, choices and flexibility for students so that they can tailor their studies to meet their individual needs.

"In keeping with this, we are working towards a simple and efficient system of credit transfer between programs and campuses."

Chisholm lines up in solar car race

THE world's first model solar car race was held last month as a prelude to the real test in November, when 30 vehicles will race from Darwin to Adelaide powered by nothing but the sun.

Sponsored by Energy Victoria and organised by the Chisholm Institute of Technology, the competition was designed to let students experience the thrill of designing and building a solar-powered car without incurring the expense of a full-size vehicle.

As part of the competition they had to conduct their own research into solar cells, friction, aerodynamic drag, and strength of materials. More than 35 schools took part in the event, held at the Exhibition Buildings.

In 1987, Chisholm's entrant (named 'Desert Cat' for its distinctive catamaran design) came sixth in the Darwin-Adelaide race.

Preparation for this year's Pentax World Solar Car Challenge has been elaborate. This time a consortium, called Parhelion ('points of the sun'), has been set up to boost the range of expertise necessary to win the highly competitive event. Its



PARHELION

members are Chisholm, Monash (Materials Engineering Department), Moorabbin TAFE (Machining Department) and Dandenong TAFE (Plastics Skills Centre).

Construction of the car, a catamaran capable of reaching a top speed of 109 km/hour, began in November last year. Parhelion Solar Vehicle Project Manager and lecturer in Chisholm's Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Mr Paul Wellington, estimates that the equivalent of \$2 million has been spent on the project.

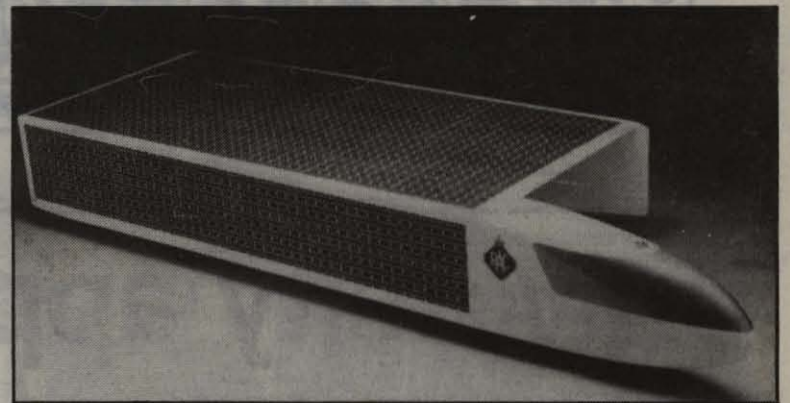
The car uses a revolutionary three-wheeled catamaran design, with the driver seated at the front of the right-hand hull, which contains the electric motor and steering wheel.

The second hull contains only one wheel. Solar cells are fitted to the panel connecting both hulls, and to the outside of the hulls. Use of the latest high-tech carbon and glass fibre panels has kept the weight of the car down to just 170 kilograms.

Mr Wellington said: "As very little is known about the aerodynamics and structural aspects of road catamarans, we are pioneering the design."

Extensive wind tunnel tests have resulted in a light, low drag, stable car, about the size of a Ford Falcon. High stability is essential, as the race is held along highways used regularly by huge road trains.

The only frame in the car, made of aluminium, transfers the body and driver loads to the front wheel. The rest of the structural loads are carried by carbon fibre and fibre-glass honeycombed panels.



Chisholm's high-tech contender, Parhelion ('points of the sun') is a visual phenomenon in which the sun appears to be surrounded by points of light.

"We estimate that once all the donated material, student time and services are taken into account, the total cost of the vehicle is well over \$2 million," Mr Wellington said.

"This is still significantly less than the 1987 race winner, General Motors 'Sunraycer', which was rumored to have cost between \$5 million and \$20 million."

Students from a wide range of disciplines have helped with the project. Mechanical and electrical

engineering students have been involved with design and construction, graphic art students have prepared promotional material, and marketing students have raised corporate sponsorship.

Industrial design and applied psychology students have helped with the design of the cockpit layout and the selection of students who are able to withstand driving non-stop for three or four hours each day in 40 degree heat. The race is likely to take six days to complete.

Like daughter, like father

IT'S not that unusual for a father to attend his daughter's graduation ceremony but at an Arts graduation ceremony last month one family found the roles reversed.

Mr Fred Taylor, 68 years old, received his Arts degree on 30 May at a graduation ceremony in Robert Blackwood Hall. His daughter, Mrs Adair Bunnett, who graduated from Monash with a BA in 1968, was on hand to witness the event.

Mrs Bunnett said her father chose to follow a similar path to the one she pursued at Monash 22 years ago.

"I've been amazed at the impact

of Monash on his attitudes and have been made more forcefully aware of the importance of Monash to my own values," she said.

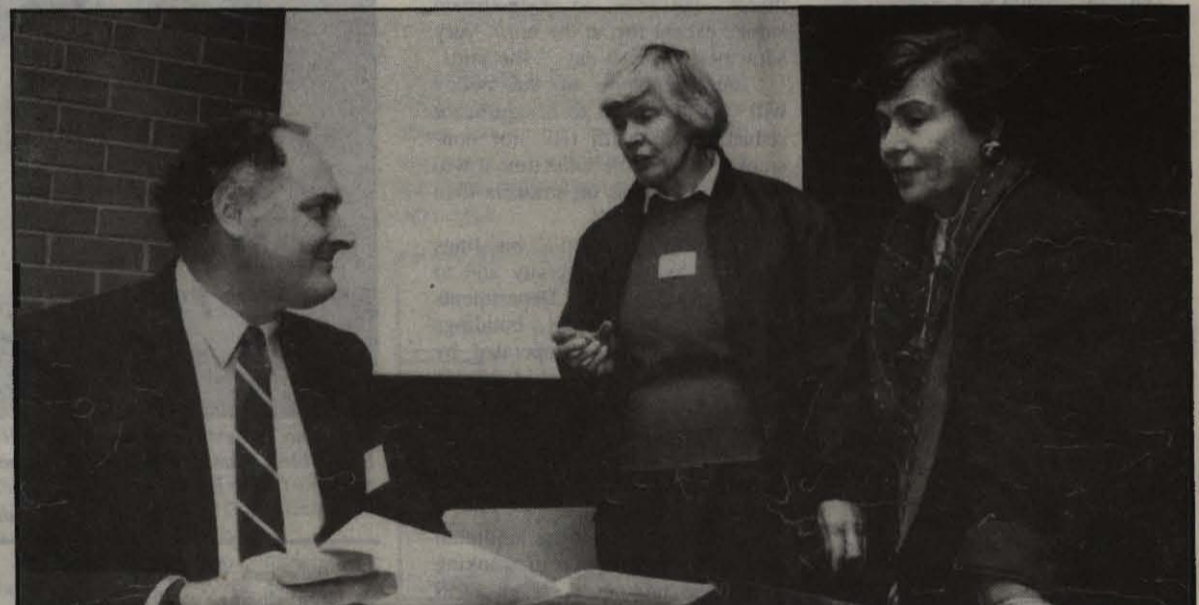
"In the last few years I recognised how strongly the teachings and ideas of the Arts Faculty influenced my thinking and way of life, and I can see it in him too. I never thought I would hear my Dad talking about feminist/Marxist thinking."

Mrs Bunnett attended Monash during the radical student movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, and described her time at university as challenging and exciting.



Adair Bunnett (left) stands proudly beside her father, Fred Taylor, after the graduation ceremony.

Monash holds information day for secondary schools



Professor Warren Ewens discusses maths prerequisites with careers counsellor from Yarravale Anglican School, Jill Mitchell (rear) and careers counsellor and advisor from Melbourne Girls Grammar, Joyce Taylor.

THE new enlarged Monash University was the focus of two information days for secondary school principals and teachers held late last month.

The seminars, organised by the Careers and Appointments Service, represented the first major public event involving schools where the structure of the new university was outlined.

Nearly 400 principals and teachers representing about 300 schools throughout Victoria attended the seminars held at Deakin Hall.

In his opening address, the deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, described the merger of Monash with Chisholm and Gippsland institutes as the most exciting moment in the history of education since the establishment of Monash 28 years ago.

Other speakers included the Chisholm Institute of Technology director, Dr Geoffrey Vaughan and the director of Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, Dr Tom Kennedy.

The speakers gave their perspective of the reasons for the amalgamation and future directions in terms of course developments and integration of activities between campuses.

A paper was also presented by Professor Warren Ewens, chairman of the Mathematics Department, on mathematics prerequisites and the new VCE. The paper was an unofficial document, designed to promote discussion concerning proposed mathematics prerequisites under the VCE.

In the second session, the Deans

of the 10 faculties that will comprise the enlarged university provided information on new courses and changes in selection procedures currently under consideration in some areas. Teachers were also given the opportunity to discuss any problems or concerns with the academic heads and other staff.

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Monash and Phnom Penh sign accord

A MEMORANDUM of Understanding between Monash University and the University of Phnom Penh (UPP) in Cambodia was signed at an historic meeting late last month.

The agreement was jointly signed on May 25 at the Monash city offices by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan and Mr Ek Sam Ol, the Vice-Minister of Education and Rector of Phnom Penh University.

Under the agreement, both universities will carry out a range of collaborative activities including training programs, research and the exchange of scholars and scientific materials.

Monash is one of several universities that will sign agreements with the Cambodian delegation during its three months visit to Australia. The delegation is being sponsored by Quaker Service Australia, which has been assisting with English language teaching in Cambodia and is presently running courses at the UPP for teacher trainers and interpreters.

Led by Mr Ek Sam Ol, the delegation consisted of Mr Im Sethy, the *chef du cabinet* of the Ministry of Education, Mr Pit Chamnan, vice-director of the UPP and Mr Keou Soeun, director of the Department of Rehabilitation in the Ministry of Social Action.

They were met by Professor Logan and other Monash academics including Dr David Chandler, director of the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, and Dr Guy Powles, a senior lecturer in law.

The agreement comes at a time when the Vietnamese-backed Hun Sen Government is still involved in negotiations which will decide Cambodia's future. Many Western countries, including Australia, have not afforded diplomatic recognition to the Hun Sen Government. However, the Foreign Affairs Minister, Senator Gareth Evans, has been at the forefront of attempts to devise a peace plan for the country.

At the meeting in Melbourne, Mr Ek Sam Ol, speaking through an interpreter, outlined the enormous challenges facing Cambodia in terms of re-building the country and

its educational institutions.

He said the UPP, once a flourishing university, was virtually destroyed during the four-year rule of the Khmer Rouge. The university was closed in 1975 and most of its professors were killed or forced into the countryside to work as peasants in Pol Pot's revolutionary agriculture scheme.

The UPP, now the only university in Cambodia, has 2000 students and 12 faculties but the lack of qualified staff is still a major problem. Only three academics at the university hold a PhD.

"We hope Monash will be able to co-operate with us in re-building our university little by little as time goes on," Mr Ek Sam Ol said.

"It will take five or six years to get the buildings back into shape but what we really lack is teaching equipment, books, documents and people to train us to teach students."

Professor Logan said: "Monash has a strong interest in Southeast Asia and we would be very pleased to collaborate with the UPP in research, training and teaching. There is a willingness to help but we have to do it in a constructive and positive way."

Dr Chandler, a Cambodian specialist, will visit the UPP in September where he will consult with the delegation further about their needs.

"Eventually we may be able to send graduates and staff on short secondments to help with teaching and curriculum development," he said.

"They could then bring their people here on short training courses for teaching methods particularly in the humanities and social sciences area."

Monash University has placed strong emphasis on the development of Asian studies and the agreement further enhances its position as one of Australia's leading teaching institutions in this area.



Present at the signing of the agreement were (front, left to right), Mr Ek Sam Ol, Professor Mal Logan, Dr David Chandler and (rear, left to right) Mr Im Sethy, Mr Keou Soeun, Associate Professor Leo West and Mr Pit Chamnan.

The young achievers

STUDENTS starting university younger than 17 years old do not appear to suffer any adverse academic or social difficulties, according to a Monash survey.

Ms Lesley Greagg, a research assistant with the Higher Education Advisory Research Unit (HEARU), recently completed a study on the costs and benefits of early entrance to tertiary study.

Although there have been studies on the effects of school entrance age for primary and secondary students, this is the first study of its kind conducted in Australia on tertiary students.

Ms Greagg interviewed 56 of the 65 students who were under 17 years old when they entered Monash between 1986 and 1989. The average age for a first-year student in Victoria is 18 and a half.

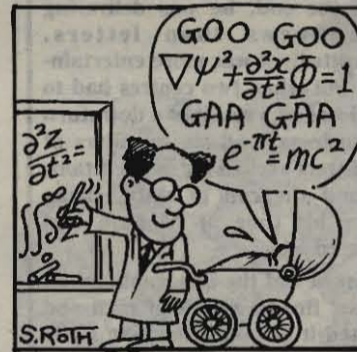
The early entrants also completed the questionnaire from the Monash 1988 intake survey and the results from each group compared, as well as a coping resources test which was then given to 100 first-year biology students. In addition they provided a quality of life inventory and a self assessment of their own ability.

According to Ms Greagg, the early entrants appeared to cope as well as other students with university study and academically performed slightly better.

"The young starters tended to be brighter than the average student and enjoyed study and being at university. Quite a lot of students said they would have been bored if they had to spend another year at school," she said.

"Most were doing double degrees

to give them a more flexible career choice and were not concerned about having to spend longer at university to complete them. They felt their early entry gave them an advantage.



"The students also had a wide variety of interests, not just study. They were all lively, enthusiastic and physically fit, and eager to get on and get ahead."

The students said the main disadvantages of starting university early stemmed from not being legally old enough to drink in a pub or obtain a driving licence, Ms Greagg said.

"Most also felt they were short on life experiences and therefore chose mathematically orientated subjects where that is not quite so important," she said.

The survey found that the students had entered university through one or a combination of four paths:

- An acceleration program for

gifted children at University High School enabled 18 students to enter Monash early.

- The middle school option operating at some secondary schools allows students to progress quicker with their English and mathematics subjects. Four students, including two TOP students, entered Monash this way.
- Skipping a grade in primary or secondary school, mostly because of family moves, resulted in another 27 early starters.
- Interstate, overseas or private school students who simply started school earlier accounted for 19 early entrants.

According to the survey a higher proportion of young starters have fathers in "upper professional" positions (52 per cent to 31.5 per cent). The number of students with mothers in "upper professional" positions was about the same for both groups.

The young starters group had fewer Australian-born students and were less likely to have English as a first language. There tended to be slightly more females among the early entrants and more students in this group had interstate school experience.

Ms Greagg said the results of the study were extremely pleasing and showed students entering university early did so without suffering any psychological or social problems.

"In fact they tend to be no different from other students," she said.

Civil engineers walk the plank

EACH year as part of the Civil Engineering course, first-year students are asked to enter a competition which is designed to test their skills in designing an efficient structure.

Many people would be familiar with the Great Spaghetti Bridge competition but the Ghastly Genucilate Gangplank out of Gehenna has proved itself a popular replacement.

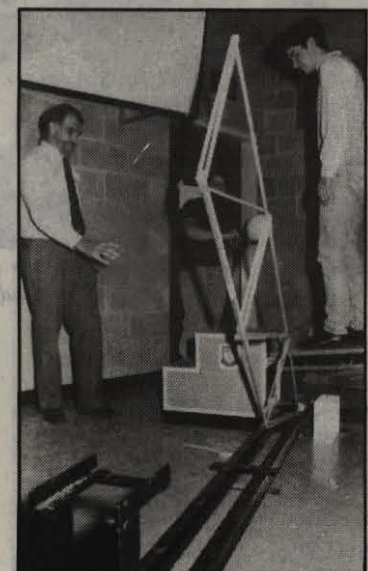
The competition, devised by Professor Noel Murray, required students to design a wooden truss that would support one end of a plank. If the truss fails or bends downwards too much under the weight of one of its builders, then a pin bursts a strategically placed balloon.

To make the truss, students were allowed to use timber or a timber product such as plywood, chipboard and wood glue or nails to hold it together. The winning team was the one with the highest weight-of-person to weight-of-truss ratio.

First place-getters were David Edmonds, Andrew Bettiol, Mark Stanley and Robert Lang. Second prize went to Michael Kearney, Luke Farrar, Kevin Nitschke and Adam Brumley. Third prize was

won by Gavin Hay, Andrew Buntin, Derrin Hadfield and Kate Broadbent.

The prize for the most ingenious design, a truss which strongly resembled an Irish harp, went to Simon Denham, Steven Martin, Ben Cutler, Michael Mahubani and Marcus Ogden.



One small step for a student . . . one giant leap towards a university degree.

Schools campaign launched

THERE will be no campus-wide Open Days or Courses and Careers Days at Monash University, Clayton or the Chisholm Institute of Technology (Monash University, Caulfield and Monash University, Frankston) in 1990.

We will be busy joining together with the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education (Monash University College Gippsland) into a

greater Monash University.

During the year of the merger, the university has decided to devote time and resources to developing more effective means of communicating with secondary schools and their students and teachers. Next year, however, it will be business as usual.

The Monash University Careers and Appointments Service is promoting further its active campaign to provide information to schools.

If you would like written material on available courses and programs, a tour of any campus, or a visit from Monash staff, contact the Careers and Appointments Office on 565 3150.

Please note: Monash University College Gippsland, Switchback Road, Churchill, will stage an Open Day on Sunday 5 August from 11am to 4pm. In addition, there may be faculty-based information days on other campuses.

Isaac Brown travels north to head new Koorie centre

THE next time Isaac Brown goes fishing it will be in the warm estuaries of Darwin rather than the muddy waters of the Yarra, where usually all that bites is the cold.

The founding director of the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines (MOSA) packed all his belongings (including the fishing rod presented to him by MOSA staff and students) into his car recently and headed north.

Isaac left Monash earlier this month to take up the position of director of the Centre for Aboriginal and Islander Studies at the Northern Territory University.

He will head a large centre which includes about 90 staff and 300 Koorie students. The centre has an

orientation scheme similar to MOSA, and a large undergraduate Koorie program which has several associated diploma and certificate courses run solely for Aborigines. It also has a research component that deals with Koorie affairs and issues.

For Isaac, it is not a case of wanting to leave MOSA, which he developed from the ground up in 1984, but that his talents are needed elsewhere.

"I feel that MOSA has reached a very effective stage. We have demonstrated the real possibility of

the program and have had tremendous support from the university, particularly from Professor Merle Ricklefs. The MOSA committee and teachers are exceptionally dedicated as is our administrative staff," he said.

"But I really felt that the centre in 'my own country' needed support. The *esprit de corps* the students have about MOSA should ensure its continuance and its viability. I feel somewhat reluctant about leaving but I also believe programs like MOSA, because it is really not one person that makes it, will continue to grow."

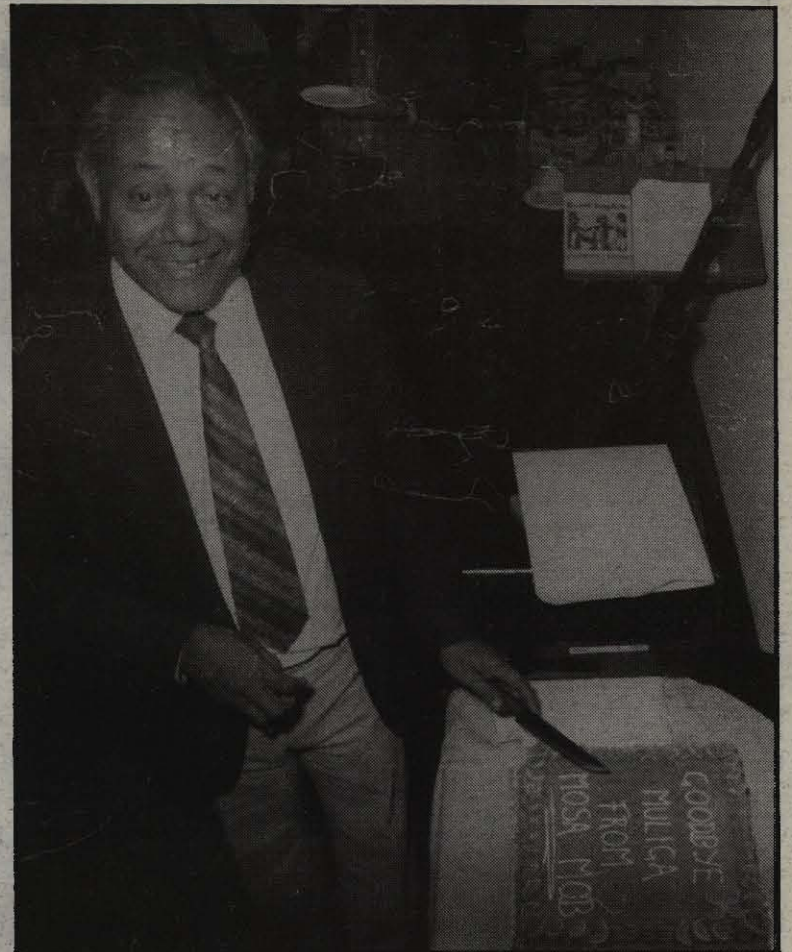
Born of Aboriginal parentage, Isaac's real name is Irruluma Guruluwini Enemburu. After matriculating in science, he became the first Aborigine to attend Adelaide Teachers College and only the second to go on to tertiary education.

One of the first schools he taught at after completing his training was a large higher primary in Menindee. "It proved to be a real trial ground because I had large 18 to 19 year-old Aboriginal boys in the same class as 11 and 12 year-old white kids. In those days you also had large classes and it created a lot of problems," he said.

Isaac quickly became disillusioned with the whole education system as it operated then and decided to become a speech therapist. He completed the course at the Victorian School of Speech Therapy in 1965 and went back to Adelaide to work in the psychology branch of the Education Department.

It was during this time that he became interested in cross-cultural language systems, in particular the nature of Aboriginal English and its relation to Aboriginal languages.

After a short stint with the Victorian Education Department, he left to take up a position at Lincoln Institute where he spent the next 12 years, eventually ending up as director of Clinical Education in the School of Human Communication



Former director of MOSA, Isaac Brown, cuts ties with Monash at his farewell party last month. Picture: SCOTT FITZPATRICK.

Disorders. Shortly after he came out to Monash to set up the MOSA program.

"We started with a lot of hope and promise because it was such an innovative program and there was not a real model for us to follow. We ran up against so many different problems, but I think because we stuck at it and the students were willing to accept our advice, we have proved to be very successful," Isaac said.

"What we have tried to do with MOSA is retain the Koorie features of sharing and kinship bonding. This has really helped our candidates develop a feeling of belonging and working towards the same objectives. I think this has been lacking in the education process before."

Isaac said the program never tried to just push the notion of Koorie ownership or sovereignty.

"It has really provided for most of the candidates an understanding that it is possible to have access to the tertiary education system, and at the same time develop and improve all things that come from a Koorie past," he said.

"We have tried to show to all our candidates that, whereas we can identify and acknowledge our victimised status, there is no need for us to remain in that situation."

"It is possible for the victim to really understand the systems he has felt have put him down for 200 years, and use the positive features to bring himself out of his victimised state."

"This is what MOSA has really demonstrated for the Koorie community at large. The positive features of tertiary education will stop us from feeling as if we were always the victim."

The last goodbye

IT was 244791's last day at Monash. From his desk, a superannuated carpenter's bench, he surveyed his office beside the university's soccer ground.

A nail on a nearby tree held his overcoat (necessary when the wind blew in from the south). And a phone line looped its way into the distance, to his old room in Administration which was now occupied by 22 staff members from other campuses.

But the telephone didn't ring very often. And his only other contact with the university, the daily drop of mail, had ceased months before.

He had been forgotten. Everyone had merged without him.

For weeks 244791 had been marking time in the alpine air. But the waiting was about to end. In a few hours he would slosh his way to Salaries and pick up his severance pay.

Enough time, he thought, to pen a farewell letter to those who might remember him. It didn't seem to matter that he had no idea where it should be addressed. He began:

"Dear colleagues,
As this will be the last time I have a chance to communicate with you all, may I take the opportunity to express my profound gratitude to each and everyone of you for your friendship and support over the past 25 years.

I know I shouldn't single out particular individuals for special mention, but forgive me . . . the gravity of the moment suggests that I turn the spotlight on those who have left their mark.

First, Gavin. Every Friday we met for lunch at the Club, where we tried to maintain our sobriety while we told each other lies. And I would watch you sweet-talk the waitress as though your life and libido depended on it.

There were times when you thought you had broken through. But delight inevitably turned to despair. And I looked into your face and saw the sadness of a million broken marriages.

In the end, our Friday meetings became less frequent. Last I heard you had taken up aerobics.

Brian, who delivered the mail each day with a truck-load of gossip. His visits were always heralded with 'Have you heard about whatshisname in Finance . . .'. Usually I had (the secretarial hotline here is second to none), but I always pretended otherwise and he would give me the grisly details.



In the end, he was delivering more news than letters. Admittedly it was more entertaining, but when two centres had to be closed as a result of a downturn in business, and six members of staff were sacked for indiscretions beyond the call of duty, Brian knew his time at Monash had come to a close.

But he did the honorable thing. He set fire to a sack of mail and floated it out onto the lake while reciting his own version of the Lord's Prayer, ending with 'For thin is the condom, the ice and the excuse . . . Amen'.

Lastly, Anna. Who kept what remains of this office functioning. Regrettably, without any work to do after I moved here, your job became untenable.

However, I think you would have liked certain aspects of this new position. Although it tends to get rather icy towards late afternoon, the view of the fog rising off the lake in the morning is unbearably beautiful.

How long have we known each other? Eleven years? A long time to work with someone. Which is why you would have been the first to ask me why I was leaving.

So I will tell you. Forget the new surroundings, I have always loved the open air. No, I am leaving because I just cannot get used to all these strangers on campus.

Once upon a time I used to know everyone's name. Now I'm lucky if I remember my own.

My grandfather, on meeting his first salesman, said to me: 'Be wary of these businessmen, of their practised geniality, their fluent smiles. If angered, they will usually raise their fists before their voices.'

Anna, I am leaving before I get clobbered."

Academics go back to school

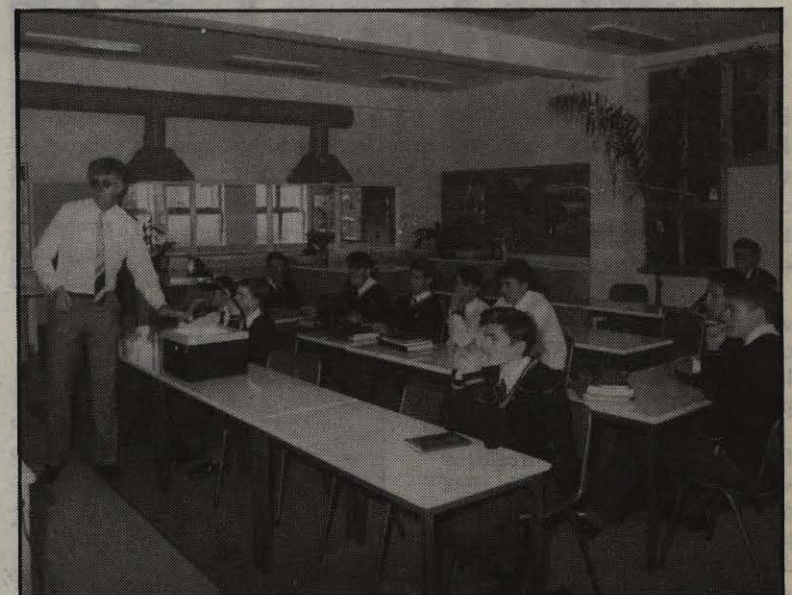
SENIOR students from Caulfield Grammar last month were able to hear Monash academics speak on their specialist areas of expertise without leaving their own school grounds.

The Careers and Appointments Service organised the second Monash Day for 1990 at the school's Caulfield campus in Glen Eira Road, St Kilda East.

Academics from the faculties of Arts, Science, Law and Medicine took VCE classes relating to their particular field of study. They included Associate Professor Grahame Taylor (Physiology), Dr Ernie Nunn (Chemistry), Dr Shirley Trembath (Music), Professor Fred Smith (Physics), Professor Philip Thomson (German) and Mrs Sue Campbell (Law).

The Dean of Science, Professor Ian Rae and the Dean of Engineering, Professor Peter Darvall, also addressed all Year 10, 11 and 12 students. In addition, faculty assistant registrars were available to answer questions about specific courses and degrees.

Co-ordinator for prospective students, Ms Julie Warnock, said the idea of the program was to inspire students to go into tertiary education as well as let them know what was available at Monash.



Associate Professor Grahame Taylor (Physiology) takes a class of Year 12 students at Caulfield Grammar.

"The students experience a university lecture and then we follow that up with an information session on course pre-requisites and how to get into Monash," she said.

Careers Adviser at Caulfield Grammar, Gerard Torpy, said the program motivated students to seek information about their future careers.

"In a way it humanises the whole education process and stops the

remoteness usually associated with tertiary study creeping in at an early stage," he said.

"The students have a chance to talk to professors about their area of interest and what is available for them in that particular field."

Mr Torpy said there was a great need for universities to communicate more to secondary students about what they have to offer.

Engineering attracts more women

A MONASH University program to make its engineering course more attractive and accessible has been matched by a significant rise in female students.

Since the beginning of 1988, the Faculty of Engineering has been making its entry requirements more flexible, and has been trying to reduce class time and make a conscious effort to involve industry in its program.

And the proportion of female engineering students has risen from 11 per cent in 1988, to 14 per cent in 1989, and to 17.6 per cent in 1990. There are now nearly 90 women in first-year engineering and close to 200 overall.

The Dean of Engineering, Professor Peter Darvall, said: "I think the single most effective step in increasing the accessibility of engineering has been relaxing the prerequisites to widen the pool of eligible students."

In fact, the faculty has dropped the demand that applicants should have completed successfully English, Maths A, Maths B, Physics and Chemistry. It will now take students with English and Maths A and any two of the others.

The lack of Physics, Chemistry or Maths B is made up within the first year by taking a special bridging course.

This one change in prerequisites raises the number of students qualified to apply for entry to engineering by two and a half times, but it widens the pool of eligible female students by more than four times.

"The opportunity is open to both sexes. It just happens that girls are more likely to do one maths and biology or a language at Year 12 than boys," Professor Darvall said.

A bridging course in maths has

been developed jointly with staff at the Chisholm Institute of Technology (to be part of Monash University from 1 July). The pilot program was financed by the Victorian Education Foundation.

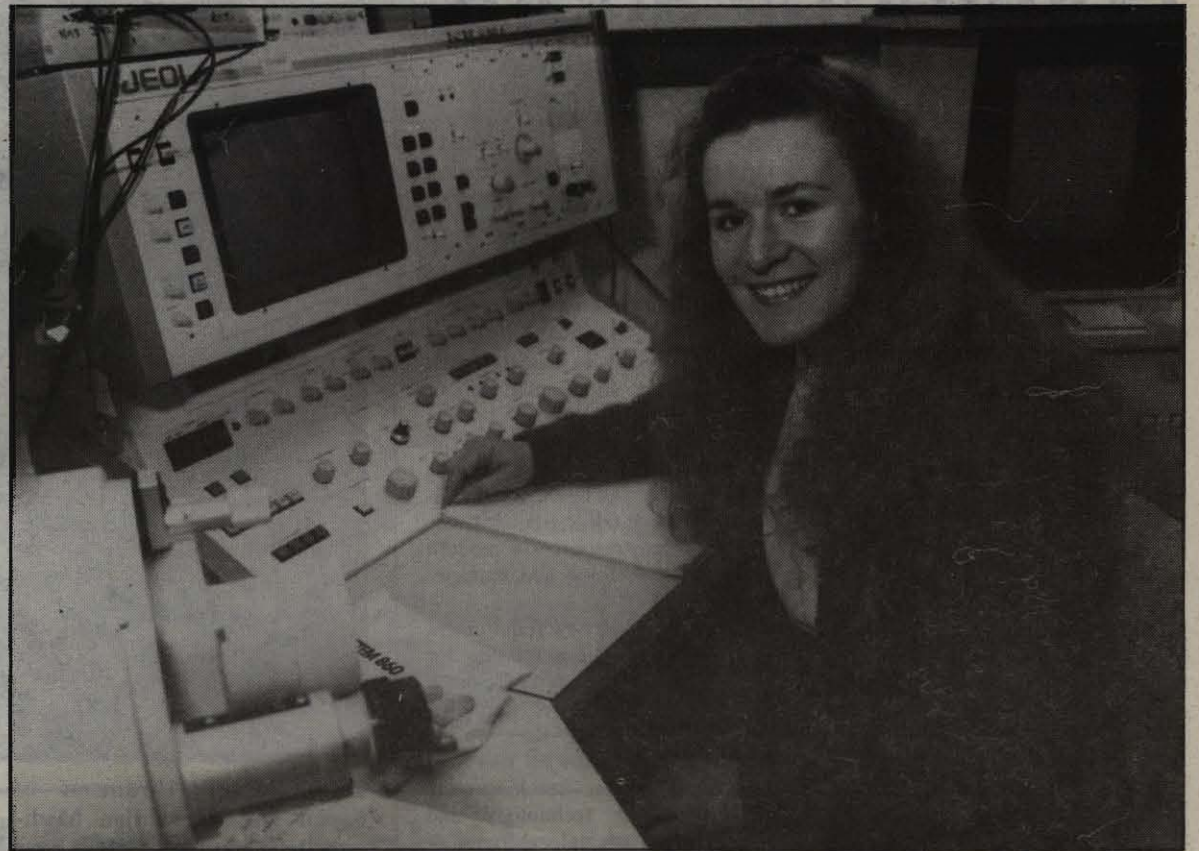
And the Monash Faculty of Education has provided tailor-made bridging courses in chemistry and physics employing teaching strategies developed from its own research into science education. Extensive use is made of computer-aided instruction.

Professor Darvall said: "The success rate of those doing bridging courses in first year has been the same as for the class as a whole. In my opinion it is better to take in highly talented, highly motivated students without full traditional qualifications, than bored students with all the prerequisites."

"We are also trying to make the course more satisfying and human, not so daunting and demoralising. Departments have set targets to cut down the number of contact hours. We need to get rid of the image that engineering is only suitable for relentless, humorless types and try to inject more glamor and more interest, without lowering standards."

In addition, the faculty is endeavoring to make the engineering degree more relevant to industry. This year, for instance, an industry-sponsored co-operative education scheme was introduced.

Eight students starting engineering won scholarships worth \$9000 a year over five years and another 34 were granted a year's scholarship of \$3000. With these scholarships



Ms Erin Davie: "When I say I'm studying materials engineering, people think I'm someone who designs pretty pictures for fabrics." Picture: JULIE FRASER

comes the opportunity to work within the sponsoring organisations while studying for the degree.

"We were pleased to find that engineering professionals are now actively looking for graduate female engineers. And the co-operative education program actually helps connect industry with high quality graduates," Professor Darvall said.

As for the women students themselves, a group of nine second-year

materials engineering students all had studied maths and science in Year 12 to keep their options open, and had come on to engineering from there.

Most admitted that being a woman in engineering was good for motivation. "I don't want to be looked on as the dumb blonde engineer. On the other hand, if we do too well, people think we are too big for our bras," said Ms Tanya Redfern.

Nowadays, they said, women engineers tended to meet prejudice only outside the university. "In fact in engineering, it's worse for some of the guys who have trouble coping with girls," said Erin Davie.

"Outside the university, though, when I say I'm studying materials engineering, people often think I'm someone who designs pretty pictures for fabrics, or that I'm some sort of glorified dressmaker."

Centre raises language issues

THERE are few societies in the world where the study of language and society is more urgent than in Australia, the Governor of Victoria, Dr Davis McCaughey told a recent gathering at Monash.

Dr McCaughey was speaking at the launch of the university's Language and Society Centre, one of five foundation centres which make up the new National Languages Institute of Australia.

He said: "It is not good enough to say to recently-arrived immigrants that their particular language is only of passing interest to us already here."

"It is not good enough to treat people as if their language was only a strange aberration of their being."

"Deprive a person of their language and you diminish their soul. Insult a man's speech and you injure his person."

The Language and Society Centre, based in the department of Linguistics, will conduct and disseminate the results of research into language policy in Australia, particularly in the areas of bilingualism and language maintenance and shift, and intercultural communication. The centre's director is Professor Michael Clyne, and Dr Anne Pauwels is its associate director.

Professor Clyne said: "As its name suggests, the centre is concerned with the interface of language learning in Australia, and will be committed to studying language problems and to raising language awareness in a multicultural society."

He said there was an increasing need for all members of the Australian community to understand how people of different cultural backgrounds communicate.

Professor Clyne said the centre hopes eventually to help members of

different ethnic communities deal with their own language issues and problems.

For example, of great concern is the problem of an ethnic community being able to determine how well it is handling the preservation of its language. "We can help them collect data in order that they can monitor the situation themselves," he said.

Dr Pauwels said: "The centre also will identify the optimum methods for bringing up children bilingually and maintaining both languages beyond the second generation."



Dr Davis McCaughey

(On 4 August, the centre will hold a workshop for parents and children on raising children bilingually.)

There are some particularly crucial issues affecting languages in Australia at the moment, Professor Clyne said.

"In all, 17 languages are taught in Victorian primary schools, with a large variation in methodology, number of contact hours, entry and so on."

"As a result, the state has become a wonderful laboratory, even on an international basis, for the study of sociolinguistic issues in secondary language acquisition."

Each year, the centre will concentrate on a different aspect of language policy — this year it's interpreting and translating. In 1991, it will be the media's turn, and in 1992 the subject will be libraries.

The centre is one of five foundation research centres which make up the new National Languages Institute of Australia, recently established to conduct the innovative research and teaching necessary to meet the goals of Australia's National Languages Policy.

At present it consists of the Monash centre, a Language Testing Unit (University of Melbourne), a Testing and Curriculum Centre (Griffith University), a Language Acquisition Research Centre (University of Sydney and University of Western Sydney), and a Language and Technology Centre/Clearinghouse Unit (University of Queensland).

The director of the institute, based at the Monash City Offices, is Mr Joe lo Bianco, formerly the Federal Government's chief adviser on languages.



Back to the 18th century

THE Eighth David Nichol Smith Seminar in Eighteenth-Century Studies will be held for the first time at Monash University from 25 to 29 June.

The seminar is held once every three or four years and is the premier conference in eighteenth-century studies. It is being organised by the Australasian and Pacific Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

President of the society, Professor Clive Probyn, who is also chairman of the English Department, said the seminar would include 27 speakers from the United States, England, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia. The speakers will address topics such as law, painting, literary theory, women's studies, music and politics.

The seminar is not open to the public but people are invited to attend the keynote lecture by Professor Louis Cullen from Trinity College in Dublin. His lecture, titled "Burke, Ireland and Revolution", will be held in the Rotunda, Lecture Theatre 6 on 25 June at 7.30pm.

A special exhibition of Australian portraiture has been organised for the conference in the Monash University Gallery as well as conducted tours of the eighteenth-century holdings in the National Gallery of Victoria. There will also be an exhibition of material on Jonathan Swift in the Main Library.

For further information about the seminar contact Professor Clive Probyn, Department of English, on ext 2130.

Learning about communications

By TONY NEWSTEAD

LAST year saw the important first steps in restructuring Australia's telecommunications, with liberalisation in the supply and maintenance of customer premises, equipment and wiring.

The results of Austel's review of cellular mobile services and private networks will soon be announced and are expected to validate further moves in the direction of deregulation. The DOTAC policy review, announced by the Minister in January, will explore the case for structural changes in the ownership arrangements and relationships of the existing reserved services, carriers, Telecom, Aussat and OTC.

These moves bring no surprises and represent a predictable course along a pathway now well-beaten over the past five years by most of the advanced telecommunications countries. They are designed to encourage greater efficiency, innovation, diversity, and customer responsiveness on the part of the service providers in bringing the fruits of technology to the marketplace.

The motivation goes far beyond just promotion of the telecommunications industry, although it is itself a large and high-growth sector. More importantly, it stems from the realisation that telecommunications, along with computing, lies at the core of an information structure that today supports all sectors of our economy.

More than 40 per cent of Australia's workforce are in the 'information sector' and between them they account for some 56 per cent of our GDP. It is the fastest growing sector of the economy and one whose increased efficiency is critical to Australia's economic future. The restructuring of telecommunications takes on a very different significance from that perspective.

What does the average manager know about the underlying information and communications technology (ICT) skills? Probably a passing knowledge of computers at the level of word processing or spreadsheet analysis. Specialists still have to design and modify the systems to meet changing needs.

In telecommunications the level of understanding is at least an order of magnitude worse.

The relatively few organisations that have realised the efficiencies telecommunications can bring, invariably progressed through three stages of development.

The first stage is the realisation that the company's communications bill is assuming alarming proportions. Here the emphasis centres on cost reduction, through resource sharing with some rationalisation of planning and operation facilities and usually the development of some type of private network to handle in-house voice and data traffic more efficiently.

The second stage is motivated by a drive for improved productivity, with telecommunications utilised in many ways such as on-line management control and electronic document interchange. The rewards at this stage are less easily identified and quantified but collectively amount to many times that achieved in the cost reduction stage.

Stage three is when the full potential of telecommunications is geared into corporate strategy and begins to change not just how the organisation does its business but even the nature of the business. This stage utilises

telecommunications to create new business opportunities.

A knowledge of telecommunications should, like knowing computer basics — or how to read financial accounts — be an essential part of every manager's knowledge kit. He doesn't have to be an expert, any more than every manager has to be an accountant, but he must comprehend the role of telecommunications as a corporate resource in modern business organisation and management.

The need for the new requirement of telecommunications training for managers has already percolated through the high level academic institutions around the world. France Telecom runs no less than three universities, teaching and researching the technology and management of telecommunications. In the UK, the University of Sussex was an early leader, as was UCLA in Southern California.

Australia too is starting to take a more active role in ICT management to support the industry restructuring initiatives at both the Federal and State Government level, which give high promise to the information industry sector. For example, the University of NSW runs several ICT courses, while the University of Wollongong now has a Centre for Information Technology Research (CITR).

During the past year several initiatives have been taken in Melbourne which could establish that city as a future world leader in ICT research and teaching.

The Victorian Government has established CIRCIT (the Centre for International Research in Communications and Information Technology) with Melbourne and Monash Universities as co-founders.

Telecom has endowed the first Chair of Communications Engineering at Monash University, and Monash has also established MONICT, its centre for ICT Management within its Graduate School of Management.

Of these, Monash is the only institution committed to the teaching of telecommunications management. It now offers a number of ICT-related elective subjects in its MBA degree.

In addition, Monash has an annual program of short courses designed to meet the needs of generalist managers in all industries, with others catering for the more specialised management needs of those within the communications industry.

The short courses being held in July include: "Meeting the Telecommunications Needs of Australia's Remote Areas" (8 to 10 July: H. Ergas and O. Hughes); and "Telecommunications Law, Economics & Public Policy" (29 to 31 July: Jim Holmes).

For further information about the short course program or the MBA units, contact the Monash Information & Communication Technology Centre on 565 5412.

This is an edited version of an article written by Tony Newstead, Senior Research Fellow at the MONICT Centre for Australian Communications magazine.

Researchers survey the market



DR Michael Abramson of Social and Preventive Medicine (left) completes a free lung function assessment for a visitor to the Prahran market.

The lung function tests were used to induce market customers to fill in a questionnaire on asthma

which the department hopes to use in a study on the levels of asthma in the community.

Later this year a research group led by Dr Abramson plans to send the questionnaire to 3000 adults. The results will be used to check whether the occurrence of asthma is increasing in Victoria.

But first a draft of the questionnaire had to be tested to see whether people could understand it and fill it out without aid.

Research assistant, Ms Jozica Kutin, said determining for the purposes of the questionnaire what defined clinically significant asthma was not a simple problem.

Campus reflects changing scene

THE Occasional Address at the Arts Graduation Ceremony held on 30 May was given by noted playwright, David Williamson. The following is an edited version of his speech.

I was a child of the sixties and actually graduated from this University in 1964 when it was still known as 'The Farm', when the trees hadn't grown, when mud was everywhere but the spirit was high. There were only about 400 of us in that first year, I think, and by the time I graduated there were more than a 1000.

I was the first and only mechanical engineering graduate on this campus that year. There were two of us in third year, the other guy failed. I went on, and I think the only reason I finally got a degree, was because it was too embarrassing not to turn up to lectures. My absence was noted — so I got there.

But I could never be described as a highly motivated engineering student from the word go. I happen to have a mathematical aptitude, and in the '50s boys who had that sort of aptitude went into one of the branches of the sciences, and mechanical engineering had the least chemistry of all, so I ended up doing that.

The '60s was an exciting time to graduate. Young students were mounting challenges to authority all over the place and particularly on this campus. They were challenging the traditional thinking of the time, they were challenging the pursuit of material wealth as the ultimate aim of life, and they were questioning and challenging authority to the point where sometimes the administration block was continually occupied by protesting students.

It was thought in the '60s that



David Williamson (centre) after receiving his Doctor of Letters with the University's Chancellor Sir George Lush and Vice-Chancellor Professor Mal Logan.

without an ethic of fierce competitiveness that people could begin to relate to each other with warmth and gentleness, militarism was abhorred, the Vietnam War was opposed and the inequalities of wealth between the Third World and the industrial nations strongly criticised.

There was a feeling in the air that human enlightenment spearheaded by expanding liberal humanist education would triumph over the inequalities and injustice of the world.

The tone of the '70s and '80s became grimmer as a reaction against the welfare state and the politics of compassion began to set in. Political leaders in the developed countries became increasingly concerned with the gross national product, with rates of economic growth, market forces and competitive edges.

Education was seen less and less as an end in itself and more as a means of edging a nation's growth rate up a couple of points. Education was required increasingly to be harnessed to the needs of the economy.

To a prejudiced graduate of the '60s, these did not seem to be interesting times for graduates to be growing up and learning in. We

were all very morally superior, we children of the '60s, because we felt we had a vision, a better vision of a better world that somehow hadn't happened.

The '90s, however, look different to me. I think it is going to be a very interesting decade, to say the least. On the other hand, it is shaping up as a decade of great hope. Totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe and elsewhere in the world are crumbling and more and more countries seem to be embracing the central tenet of democracy, which is that the people of a country should be able to change its government by free and fair elections.

On the other hand, they will be times of great danger I think. The findings of the most exhaustive and accurate scientific study yet done on the greenhouse effect were handed down last week and their conclusion was that the greenhouse heating effect was not a hypothetical speculation anymore. It was real and it is happening.

So they are dangerous times, but possibly exciting times, as the disparate nations of the world finally realise, or have to realise, that we do have a common purpose, and that common purpose is to save this planet.

Research pays off for exporters

AN export-action learning program at Monash University has helped more than 80 Australian companies target markets and launch products successfully overseas.

The Export Development Program (EDP) was established four years ago to enable potential exporters to approach off-shore markets with more confidence.

EDP project director, Mr Nigel Hamley said: "The course is designed for first-time exporters as well as those with more experience."

The program is run by the Monash Centre for International Business whose prime objective is to change the attitudes and skills of Australian organisations to enable them to compete internationally. The centre is part of the Graduate School of Management.

The EDP concentrates on the Asian-Pacific region and in particular Japan and the United States. Some courses, however, have resulted in people exporting products to Islamic countries, the Soviet Union, Germany, Korea, China, Italy and many other parts of the world.

The three-phase program includes training and preparation in Melbourne, overseas research, and business planning. Uncertainty over recurrent funding means the programs vary from year to year but this year Mr Hamley has been running two courses.

The Department of Primary Industries and Energy sponsors an export development program designed for food processors, timber products and processors, horticulturalists and allied industries.

The other program, tailored for companies exporting new agricultural products to Japan and Asia, is backed by the Australian Special Rural Research Council and is held every two years.

A heavily subsidised fee of \$3500 for exporters of agricultural products and \$5500 for food processors and manufacturers — both involving market research in the US or Japan — is estimated to be 30 per cent of real value.

Zealand and small sales of \$2000 a month to London and Europe, and the successful launch of muesli bars into the west coast of Canada.

Other products exported as a result of the course include truck bodies, CAD photo plotters, office partitioning, high quality furniture, tallow, car seat belts, robotic equipment, veterinary products, crushed garlic, picture frames, opals, pet food, venison and goat meat and mohair knitwear.

Mr Hamley said the key to export success was preparation and thorough research of the market, something Australian companies are only now starting to realise.

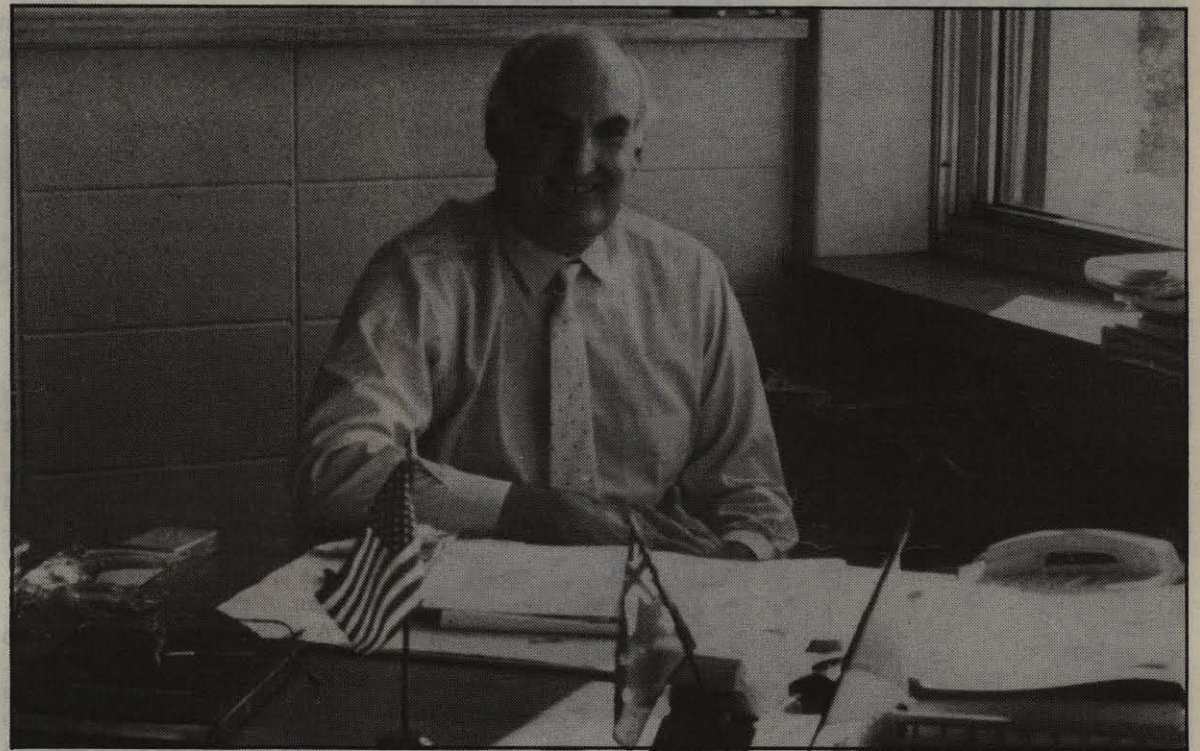
"There is a tremendous need for Australia to export more value-added products than it does and a great need for training and education in international business," he said.

"All the evidence suggests that Australia has a low knowledge and ability in marketing particularly overseas which is affecting its chances of export success. People see export as too hard, unknown. What this course does is take the mystique out of it.

"While overseas the course participants talk to a whole range of potential distributors, market research agencies, Australian government officials and banks, so by the time they return they have a good idea of the needs of the market. They may also have potential distributors they can liaise with when they are prepared to export.

"Once they come back to Australia, companies may modify their product in some way, for example food products may be modified to suit the Japanese tastes. Then they can go back to the market overseas really prepared and with the right product to sell, in the correct packaging, at the right price and with the right level of promotional support."

While the course has generated



Mr Nigel Hamley: "Around \$100 million have been generated in the EDP's four-year history."

McNeill Scholarship funds MS research

A postgraduate student in Biochemistry beginning a study which could lead to better treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS) has been awarded the first Sir James McNeill Scholarship.

Given satisfactory progress Ms Evelyn Brandt, who is looking at the relationship between multiple sclerosis and the natural anti-viral agents called interferons, will receive a salary of \$18,500 a year and up to \$3500 a year in expenses for the next four years.

The scholarship scheme was established in memory of Sir James McNeill, a former chairman of BHP and longtime member of the Monash University Council and chairman of its Finance Committee. It is managed by trustees of the Sir James McNeill Foundation in association with Perpetual Trustees Australia Limited.

The deed states that the money can be used to support postgraduate scholars in the fields of medicine, science, engineering and music. Another of the scholarships will be awarded this year to begin in 1991, and thereafter scholarships will be offered when sufficient funds become available.

The awarding of the first of the scholarships recently was marked by a function attended by Sir James' widow and son, Lady Audrey McNeill and Dr David McNeill. Appropriately it was held in the Sir James McNeill Room in the University Offices.

Ms Brandt is in the first year of her PhD after completing a BSc (Hons) degree with first class honors last year.

At part of the selection procedure she was required to write a short essay on the application of her project to medical research and society. "Skin, breast and bowel cancer are all amenable to interferon therapy. And the interferons are useful because they have few side effects," she said.

Multiple sclerosis is a degenerative condition induced by a virus which causes the breakdown of the fatty sheath surrounding nerves, leading to loss of nervous control. Ms Brandt's research will attempt to uncover which of the interferons the body produces in the presence of multiple sclerosis.

Ms Brandt will use genetic engineering techniques to fashion probes capable of detecting and discriminating particular interferons. These will then be used to determine the types and levels of interferons in multiple sclerosis sufferers and people who do not have the disease.

If time permits, Ms Brandt will also look at interferon levels in those with Hepatitis B.

Evelyn Brandt works in the interferon laboratory of the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine. Her supervisors are Dr Brian Cheetham and the director of the centre, Professor Anthony Linnane.



YOUR last issue reported a speech by the Vice-Chancellor in which he quoted approvingly from an editorial in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*.

His purpose was to commend the changes which have been forced upon Australian universities by the Federal Government. He spoke of "a change in culture" which is proceeding.

It may be that all that remains for us is to deal as best we can with what has been contrived, though many of us are willing to dispute at great length and in depth the assertions, assumptions and arguments of both the Vice-Chancellor and the editor of the *THES*.

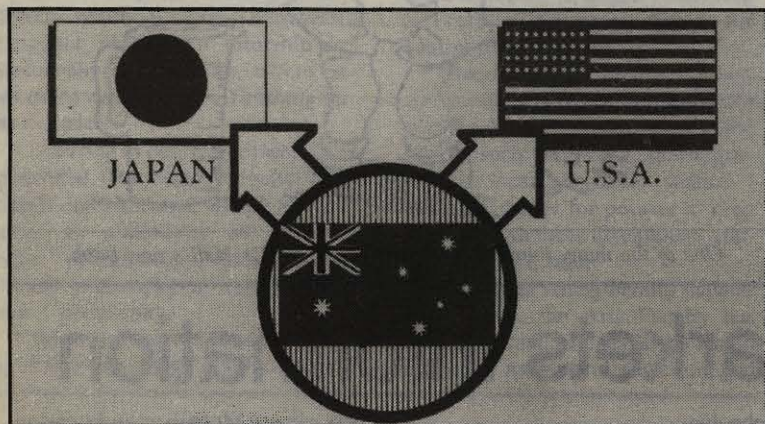
Meanwhile, the same journal, a couple of weeks later (4/5/90) had an editorial on another aspect of the same subject, and one which eminently applies to Monash. I very much wish that Professor Logan would endorse it, and I hope that you will publish the following extract:

"... there is a risk that higher education, by adopting the form of an upwardly thrusting corporation, may accidentally take on its substance. Its leaders may take their power-dressing too seriously. They may seek to impose a corporate style and objectives, determined by themselves and policed by their line managers. Features that do not fit into the new corporate landscape, like academic democracy and intellectual serendipity, may be abandoned.

"The effect, of course, could be to undermine higher education's effectiveness in the knowledge business. Its nature, because of the personal character of teaching and research, is to be loosely arranged, individualistic, semi-private, perhaps even anarchic.

"Even in this post-industrial age the university still resembles a craftsmen's guild, an artisan's atelier, of exceptional sophistication and staggering expense of course, far more than a factory. This does not mean it should not be toughly managed, but managed according to its own rhythms, not alien ones... Higher education should stick to its own 'character' not try to steal an inferior one."

Bruce Knox
History Department



Mr Hamley says that around \$100 million in new exports has been generated in the EDP's four-year history, and more than 90 per cent of those completing the course have developed export markets or improved established markets as a result of the directional guidance participating companies have received.

The success stories are many and varied. In 1989, a course member secured a \$9 million contract for the supply of dried wild flowers to Japan. Similarly, Claudia Chan Shaw, of Vivian Chan Shaw fashion house, has been successful in winning export markets in the US for her mother's elegant and high-fashioned knitwear.

Among other reported cases of export success are \$1 million worth of Ugg Boots to California, \$300,000 worth of computer software to the UK, the sale of stylish workclothes for waiters and chefs worth \$15,000 a month to New

Zealand and small sales of \$2000 a month to London and Europe, and the successful launch of muesli bars into the west coast of Canada.

substantial export business for Australia, Mr Hamley believes we have a long way to go before there is an export culture emanating from this part of the world.

"We are only skimming the surface with this program, the Japanese spend much more time training their exporters and international businessmen than we do," he said.

"The MBA in international business, which has just been started in the Graduate School of Management, will go a long way to training and educating our business executives of the future in international marketing and business requirements. Meanwhile, the Export Development Program has provided a fast track to exporting and international business which the country badly needs at this time of economic hardship."

For more information about future courses, contact the Centre for International Business at Monash University on 565 5406.



Lady Audrey McNeill (right) with the first recipient of the Sir James McNeill Scholarship, Ms Evelyn Brandt.

Danger of old tongue becoming old hat



The book was launched at Monash by the Cultural Counsellor of the French Embassy in Australia, Mr Georges Zask (left) and the Chief Executive of the Victorian Education Ministry, Ms Ann Morrow.

ALTHOUGH the most widely taught language in the country, French is in danger of becoming drowned out by "more relevant" languages, according to the authors of a new study into the state of French in Australia.

Some people have even suggested that the language is "old hat" and should no longer be taught in our schools and universities.

While it may appear that on the surface all is well (with 200,000 students and 7000 teachers, French represents almost a third of all languages taught here), the authors believe the language needs more funding and its image updating.

"There is a strong emphasis on economic languages without realising that French too is a language with strong economic dimensions," say the authors of *French in Australia*, Joe lo Bianco, director of the Languages Institute of Australia, and Alain Monteil, attache for French language and studies at the French Embassy.

"If French is weakened on the mistaken assumption that it has no role in Australian education, it will result in all language teaching becoming that much more fragile."

But rather than plead a special case, the authors describe the new and continuing roles of French in Australian education by referring to its relevance in public and in intellectual, cultural and commercial endeavors.

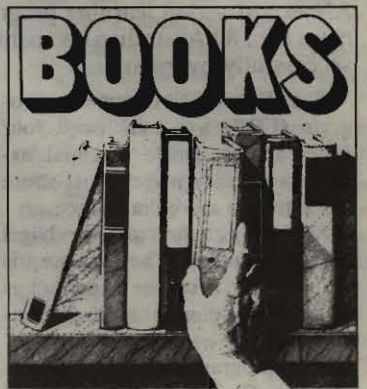
They suggest many reasons why French should continue to be important in the Australian education



system: it is often used in science, literature, treaties and agreements; is linguistically close to English and therefore easy to learn; can give Australians a better understanding of English; is the official language of most international organisations, and will be the institutional language of the world's largest market after 1992, Europe; and that its cultural prestige motivates students.

The authors write: "Since French has been the language most commonly associated with high school foreign language teaching, it has a large legacy in Australia."

"Much of this is positive; some is



not. Dim but powerful memories cloud the judgement of many policy-makers and commentators about French. It is not unusual to hear and read comments like the following (even, as in this case, in arguments strongly supporting French):

'Like too many Australians of my vintage, I learnt French at high school, five tortuous years. Like most of my peers, fortunate enough to later travel to France, I could neither understand nor be understood. As a consequence, I have eaten grilled pituitary glands when I thought I had ordered steak.' (A. Horin, *Sydney Morning Herald*)

A free copy of *French in Australia* can be obtained by sending an A4 size stamped (\$1.30), self-addressed envelope to the French Language Studies Section, French Embassy, 6 Perth Avenue, Yarralumla, ACT, 2600.

A wee book on bedwetting

IF a native of Scotland were to describe a new publication by Monash graduate Dr Janet Hall as 'a wee book', they would be right on two counts.

First, *How You Can Be Boss of the Bladder* is a diminutive volume, and second, it is devoted entirely to toilet training in children. Subtitled 'Bedwetting Breakthrough' and 'Be a Smartypants', it tells children, adults and professionals all about successful management and preven-

tion of wetting.

And on the way the book debunks a few myths, such as the popular "liquids before bedtime for a bedwetting child should be reduced". In fact, says Dr Hall, increased liquid intake is to be encouraged. At first, wetting may be more likely but as the bladder stretches, the increased capacity will lead eventually to less frequent wetting.

Dr Hall said: "Children need to understand that their brain can control their bladder and must be

encouraged to realise that wetting is simply a behavioral problem.

"Many medical professionals typically tell parents to 'just wait, the child will grow out of it'.

"This causes considerable distress, anguish and decided lowering of the child's self-esteem and increases the parents' frustration."

Bedwetting affects one Australian child in 10 up until the age of 10, writes Dr Hall, a clinical psychologist who for several years has been treating bedwetting children with a 90 per cent success rate.

Copies of *How You Can Be Boss of the Bladder* can be obtained from The Competent Care Consultancy, PO Box 999, Eltham 3095. Telephone 437 1502.



One of the many humorous illustrations from Dr Hall's new book.

HOW YOU CAN BE BOSS OF THE BLADDER



BE A SMARTY PANTS

By Dr. Janet Hall

Library markets information

MONASH University is opening up its library resources and making available the expertise of its library staff to outside organisations on a fully commercial basis.

Through the Monash Information Service, to be launched on 5 July, companies and individuals will be able to tap into one of Victoria's largest stores of information on a fee-for-service basis.

The information service employs full-time staff involved in information broking — responding to requests for information on demand.

It is backed by the Monash University, Clayton campus library, which holds well in excess of one million volumes and is especially strong in the areas of science, technology, management and statistics.

The library has on-line access to a comprehensive array of publicly available databases both in Australia and overseas. Information service staff can use these facilities to research any area of business and

technology.

Monash University now also includes libraries, databases and trained staff at its Caulfield, Frankston and Gippsland campuses. And it has strong links with other libraries, not only in Australia, but also overseas, particularly in South-east Asia.

The information service can provide market research; information on products, industries and companies; publicly available documents; an alerting service for new developments in products, industries and technology; technical and patent information; and even translation of documents not written in English.

The information service manager, Mr Leigh Oldmeadow, emphasises the professional nature of the venture: "I come from a background of working in private enterprise, so I understand the needs of companies. And my experience in business included training library staff in the use of computers."

For \$400 a year, corporate mem-

bers can use Monash as an extension or instead of their own library. They can dial directly into the computerised catalogue, use all databases on CD-ROM, and have staff search out information for them at the special consultancy rate of \$80 an hour. In addition, corporate members get external borrowing rights to the library, and a 10 per cent discount on all document delivery.

Individuals can borrow books and use the CD-ROM databases for \$120 a year. Casual users have access to the CD-ROM databases only via the library staff charging the full consultancy rate of \$90 an hour.

Individuals and organisations who use the service regularly can pay for bulk consultancy time in advance at a discount rate: \$450 for six hours and \$700 for 10 hours. They also get 10 per cent off document delivery.

For further information on the Monash Information Service, contact the manager, Mr Leigh Oldmeadow, on 565 2690.

Monash arts presents a united front: Dean

AN arts degree should be seen as a step in a person's education rather than an end in itself, according to the new Dean of Arts at Monash University, Professor Robert Pargetter.

Professor Pargetter said he would prefer to see students spending the first three years of university obtaining a broad education in the arts or science or both, before moving into specialised areas.

"I would like to see us move towards the United States model, where students come out of school with diverse skills and the first three years of university are spent getting a broad education," he said.

"Students would then have the option of moving two ways. They are very suited to enter the work force because they have been trained to become thinking, flexible people who can respond to material put in front of them.

"An arts or science degree would also provide a strong background for a student wanting to move into more specialised courses such as medicine, law, business or other professions."

Although Council has only recently approved Professor Pargetter's appointment, the job is not new to him. He was appointed as a caretaker Dean of Arts last August following the sudden resignation of Acting Professor Jim Whitelaw due to ill health.

At the time it was felt that the appointment of a short-term dean, rather than an acting dean, was necessary in view of the merger with Chisholm Institute of Technology and the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education.

Professor Pargetter is a distinguished philosopher who came to Monash from La Trobe University at the start of 1989. He became involved in philosophy while completing his science degree at Melbourne University and later went on to study the history of philosophy of science.

After three years teaching in the secondary school system, Professor Pargetter obtained a tutorship in philosophy at La Trobe, where he spent the next 20 years, finishing up as a reader.

Preferring to describe himself as a generalist, Professor Pargetter has taught and published widely in such areas as philosophy of science, logic, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, philosophy of religion and social philosophy.

Professor Pargetter heads a faculty which has about 5000 students,

200 academic staff and 100 general staff. On 1 July, when the greater Monash comes into being, he will become responsible for an even larger and more diverse body.

As Professor Pargetter points out, however, the diverse range of disciplines in the Arts Faculty does not necessarily make life more difficult.

"There is an awful lot of common ground between diverse aspects of the faculty," he said.

"When we started talking about looking at theoretical assumptions in all disciplines, there was universal agreement that this was something vital to consider. Intellectually and academically, I think the Arts Faculty is far more unified than any other part of the university."

The old adage — a chain is only as strong as its weakest link — appears to have influenced Professor Pargetter's thinking. Much of what he has in mind for the faculty involves strengthening both departments and interdisciplinary ties.

"Quite clearly, given the intellectual issues facing Australia in general and the arts in particular, many fruitful programs will be interdisciplinary in nature," he said.

"We have a system of centres which develop interdisciplinary programs but to continue to do so we need strong departments. The two go together but you have to get the priority right.

"The departments will make choices and develop areas which fit in with these centres. You cannot have the centres dominating the departments, but the departments will quite often respond to the centres."

After the merger, the Arts Faculty will gain the Politics Department from Economics, adding still another link to the chain. According to Professor Pargetter, Arts is the natural place for politics.

"There is close interdisciplinary co-operation between politics and a number of other departments in the faculty such as history, philosophy and European and Asian studies. I think it is better for politics to keep in touch with these disciplinary connections," he said.

Apart from strengthening its base components, the Arts Faculty has clearly defined priority areas which influence its general direction and

growth. For instance, Monash has been at the forefront in areas such as Australian, Asian and European studies, and Professor Pargetter sees value in extending these through the centres and departments.

At another level, Professor Pargetter also supports links with other faculties and universities, regarding it as beneficial to both staff and students.

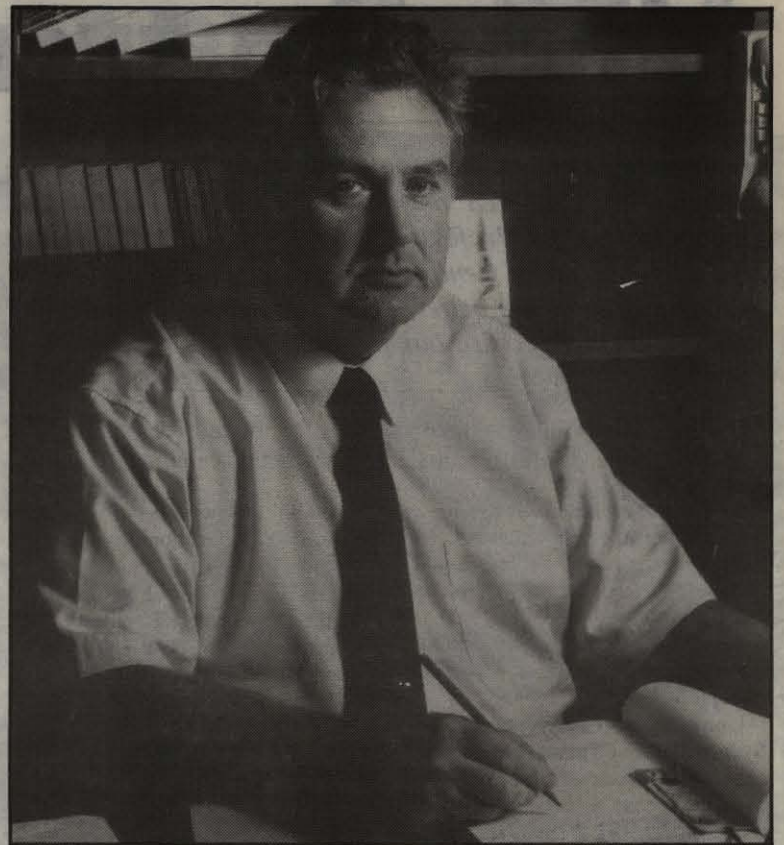
"Within universities we have always tended to be fairly isolated but now there is a general move to open up inter-faculty teachings. This means we can allow arts students to do sequences in other faculties and we are generous with credit arrangements," he said.

"Inter-university agreements can also be very fruitful. Staff and student exchanges allow their programs to have an overseas element which is extremely rewarding for teaching and research."

Despite the dramatic changes that have occurred in the higher education system over the last few years, Professor Pargetter believes the arts will not suffer in the more competitive environment.

"Arts degrees fit in extremely well with the tougher times providing people are not looking at specific training," he said.

"The aim of the Arts Faculty is not necessarily to provide historians and philosophers, but to equip



The new Dean of Arts, Professor Robert Pargetter.

students with a specific type of training that the study of arts will develop.

"It doesn't mean they will be limited in their work to directly employ the subject matter of their studies but rather the mental training and research skills they have picked up along the way. They can think clearly, analyse problems, make judgements and evaluate reasons, adjust to change and show flexibility of mind, creativity and communicate their views and ideas well to other people."

Professor Pargetter said the Arts Faculty at Monash was clearly the best in Victoria, if not Australia, and if anything should receive more support from the university and other bodies.

"There are economic battles to be won but I believe we offer a lot to the university and the community. The Arts Faculty here is particularly good and is probably one of the best assets of the university. It is inconceivable to me that the university would do anything to harm it," he said.

MOSA students graduate

THE success of the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines (MOSA) was highlighted with the graduation of two Aboriginal students last month.

Gary Martin, who was in the scheme's first intake of students in 1984, received his Arts degree, while Richard Jameson, who joined the scheme a year later, graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work.

After completing the orientation year, Martin went straight on to do an Arts/Law course. In 1988 he took a year off to study law at the University of British Columbia in Canada. There he enrolled in sub-

jects like 'Native people and the law' and 'Aborigines and their rights as native people', as well as the more conventional administration and criminal law subjects.

"The University of British Columbia is the only law school that has subjects related specifically to Aborigines and their rights as native people," Martin said.

"We have no such equivalent here, in fact we have very little recognition of Aborigines' rights whereas in other countries it is entrenched into their constitutions."

Martin is a strong supporter of MOSA and wants to remain in-

involved with the scheme in some capacity or work in the field of Aboriginal Law.

Richard Jameson's plans are not dissimilar in terms of wanting to contribute something back to MOSA and the Koorie people. He was employed by MOSA this year as recruiting officer and will visit Aboriginal communities in northern and central Australia to promote the scheme.

"Most of the people who take part in the program generally have a commitment to go back to their communities to work there with the skills they have learnt," he said.

Lecture series

THE 1990 History and Philosophy of Science Lecture Series will be held at Mannix College starting on 31 July.

Three Monash academics are included in the program. Dr Andrew Prentice, from the Department of Applied Mathematics, will talk on 'Theory, prediction and publication: The case of the modern Laplacian theory', on July 31.

Professor Sangkot Marzuki, from the Department of Biochemistry, will speak on 'Eijkman in a tropical paradise: Pioneering work 100 years on in Jakarta on vitamins and tropical medicine' on 7 August.

The Dean of Science, Professor Ian Rae, will give the lecture on 14 August titled 'To Victoria and Mel, a chemical industry, born eighteen sixty-something, thanks to all concerned'.

Other guest lecturers include Ms

Miranda Hughes, from the School of Nursing at Deakin University. She will speak on 'Philosophical Travelers at the ends of the Earth: Baudin Peron and the Tasmanians, 1802', on 28 August.

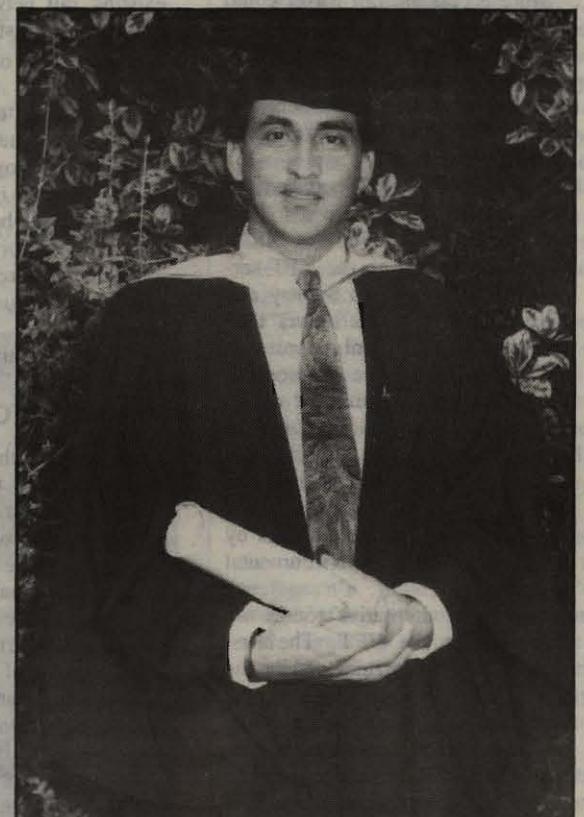
Dr Arthur Pryor, Associate Fellow at Macquarie University, will give a lecture on 'Science and Christian Belief' on 4 September.

The highlight of the series is a lecture titled 'Howard Florey — A great Australian Scientist' given by Emeritus Professor John Hurley from the Department of Pathology at Melbourne University. The lecture will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the discovery of penicillin.

All the lectures will be held in the Senior Common Room of Mannix College at 8.15pm. For further information about the lecture series phone the college on 544 8895 or 544 8896.



Gary Martin (right) is congratulated by his daughter and the former director of MOSA, Isaac Brown after the Arts graduation ceremony.



MOSA recruiting officer, Richard Jameson graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work.

VFT: On track or off the rails?

Questions raised about the viability of the Very Fast Train are only outnumbered by those surrounding the multi-function polis. But Professor Peter Spearritt and Deborah Zion of the National Centre for Research and Development in Australian Studies believe that with proper planning the VFT could revolutionise our public transport system.

THE Very Fast Train has the potential to be the most telling piece of privately financed infrastructure in Australia this century.

In a country where railways have the potential to be the quickest and most efficient way of taking people from one metropolis to another, the VFT combines the rationalist romance of high technology with an understandable nostalgia for train travel.

Unlike the hastily conceived Sydney Harbour Tunnel, which may benefit its financiers but will do nothing to ease Sydney's transport problems, the VFT could service a growing public need for travel between Australia's two largest capitals, with the federal capital in between. Yet it has received much less real debate than the multi-function polis, which is still little more than a consultant's concept.

Australia's two largest capitals, both with populations well over the three million mark, are large by any standards. It's difficult to see why their citizens shouldn't have access to a three-hour intercity trip, quick, safe, and perhaps reasonably priced. Our roads and freeways are far from safe, and our existing rail network is unbelievably antiquated. Our airline costs on this main route, which represents one third of all air travel in Australia, are exorbitant. It costs over \$1200 in fares for a family of four, including two children, to fly to Sydney and back for a weekend. Why shouldn't a family be able to go to Sydney or Melbourne for a weekend, for recreational, educational or cultural purposes?

The train is not an option, unless you want to spend most of the weekend travelling, especially now that the Greiner government has proposed to abandon the overnight sleeper service. At 13 hours each way, the daylight service is time-consuming and lacking in romance, unless food to rival British Rail's worst offerings is really to your fancy.

Iron horse

More accessible rail travel could alter the way Australians perceive space and distance. Business people and public servants aside, there is remarkably little movement of people between Melbourne and Sydney.

The idea of a VFT between the two capitals came from Dr Paul Wild, then head of the CSIRO, when he travelled on the XPT service from Canberra to Sydney and discovered that it was slower than the London to Bristol express in 1851. Much of the subsequent debate has been reminiscent of the introduction of the 'iron horse' in 19th century England. Just what sort of apocalypse the VFT is supposed to be heralding — or, worst still, causing — is not made very clear by some of the train's environmental critics.

Two main alternative routes are proposed for the VFT. The first uses the Hume corridor, while the second cuts through some of the Gippsland rainforest. The feasibility study has been financed by the same consortium which also propose to finance the construction of the line and the rolling stock. It includes BHP, TNT, Elders IXL, and the Japanese group Kumagai Gumi.

While the writers of *Need or Greed* (a publication by the VFT Awareness Groups Coalition) focus on the environmental ramifications of the proposed VFT route through Gippsland, they have little to say about the positive possibilities of utilising other routes, such as the Hume corridor.

Although they are critical of the private consortium that is pushing the proposal, they have not addressed many of the complex issues surrounding the proposed land acquisitions, nor do they have

Compulsory acquisition is not new in Gippsland. Some of the residents who feel threatened by the consortium's 'land grab' experienced compulsory sale during the building of Blue Rock Dam. In that case, the government bought land to build pipelines; although the farmers felt inadequately compensated, they nevertheless stated that 'pipeline can actually be grazed over, it can be built over . . . the land is not rendered useless for its initial purpose'. More importantly, the acquisition issue highlights financial problems inherent in setting up such a large and complicated structure. As the report from Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation points out: 'We suggest that the profits from land capture are needed for ultimate viability. [But] it seems inconsistent . . . that the VFT consortium should expect to realise land profit without providing the infrastructure'.

This statement raises numerous questions. Is profit from land capture an integral part of financing such a long-term project? What pro-

There is a strong possibility that the state governments and/or the federal government will have to bail out the consortium, either by not charging for VFT use of existing railway routes and stations, or by low interest loans, or both. The report from the Society for Social Responsibility in Engineering argues that if the money borrowed for the 25-year period has a nominal interest rate of five per cent, then the project is financially viable, but if the interest rate rises to 10 per cent, large losses will be incurred.

Fares are the most direct source of revenue for the VFT. The consortium argues that it will draw similar numbers of travellers from the roads and the sky. They also hope that people will travel more once the VFT is in operation. Estimates differ as to even approximate numbers. The Dames Moore and Touche Ross report suggests that the VFT will divert over a million passengers from air travel, and a similar number from the roads. But the price of a ticket (\$105 Sydney to Melbourne, at 1987 prices) will

speed rail than have governments here. In France, for example, all new proposals must be congruent with the government's masterplan for high-speed rail transport.

It would be a tragedy if the debate about the VFT became the haze of conspiracy theory and xenophobia that surrounds the multi-function polis. While there is no doubt that the two developments were originally linked, the VFT has moved into the realm of possibility, while the polis, like all New Jerusalems, is still ungrounded.

Conspiracy

On a more realistic level, the VFT has forced many people to articulate a vision of Australia's future. If Australia is to maintain its current level of immigration over the next 20 years, new urban centres will have to evolve. Some of these could well be based on towns served by the VFT route.

The VFT also raises important questions about our forests, our farmlands and our urban environment. For too long these have been considered in isolation. The environmental lobby does it for tactical reasons, and the ALP follows suit, chasing the preference vote. It is much easier to lobby for retaining wilderness areas than it is to tackle the problem of cities and coastal development. But most Australians live and will continue to live in the capitals and along the coast. Their environment needs protection too. Why should people who live near the Hume Highway have their standard of living reduced by the noise, the pollution and the destruction that accompanies cars and the over 1000 trucks that use the highway each day? The VFT proposal could alleviate and might revolutionise our metropolitan freight transport system as well as our passenger transport system.

We don't have nearly enough information about the land capture proposals and who will benefit. We don't know enough about the real costs to governments. Nor do we know enough about prospective variations from the proposed routes. A rail line following the Cann River Valley Highway, for instance, would cause much less environmental damage than the proposed route from Bombala to Orbost, because that highway is already a monument to forest destruction and monoculture plantings. The pros and cons of the Hume corridor also demand further debate. Much of this route is already so environmentally degraded that it is hard to imagine a 350-kilometre-an-hour train doing any more damage. And this route has the advantage of serving the growing population in the Albury Wodonga region, although it does not have the land capture prospects of the Gippsland route.

If the VFT proposal doesn't get a fair hearing, then we are merely perpetuating our antiquated transport system. Given the current decisions on government capital works, government spending on high-speed rail is unlikely, as is any substantial upgrading of the existing Melbourne to Sydney rail route, and it's not inconceivable that it may be closed to passengers altogether. In that case all but those who can afford to fly will be forced to drive or take the bus.

There seems no likely funding prospect for fast rail other than that offered by this or some other consortium. But that is no reason for governments to leave all the decisions to the private sector.

This is an edited version of an article that appeared in the May issue of Australian Society.



(The Victorian Railways present — Spirit of Progress, Queen City Printers, Melbourne, 1937.)

realistic suggestions about how our existing rail network might be re-financed and restructured.

To take some of the heat out of the VFT debate, particularly the environmental concerns and the responses of the transport unions, the Victorian government created a review board in September last year, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan. Submissions were received from many groups, including engineers, farmers, trade unions, environmental groups and shire councils.

Environment

Most of the submissions are about what route the train should take, what the environmental impacts in each case will be, or whether it's worth having the train at all. Others are concerned that the proper role of government is being usurped by private capital. Farmers and residents raise the issue of land 'capture'. As one group unambiguously stated 'we strongly condemn and oppose any form of legislative backing for compulsory acquisition of property to allow a private individual or consortium to purchase land at rural values, and profit from resale for development at exorbitant prices'.

posals does the consortium have about land capture? As far as we can ascertain these are not well developed at present. The consortium says that it doesn't want to become a major landholder on the route, merely to benefit from the land value increases that will accrue. There are no precedents in Australia for giving the consortium what it wants: a legislated percentage of increased property values along the route. Will the rise in values (and the consortium's claim) only extend to a few kilometres around each stop or does it extend much further — to NSW's relatively undeveloped south coast, for example.

The route could see a dramatic rise in land values in Bowral and Goulburn if stations are planned there, and more particularly in Canberra. If monthly or yearly tickets are sold or if similar concessions were granted to frequent travellers, it would be possible to live in Canberra and commute to central Sydney. The two hours a day would be no worse than what many metropolitan commuters currently face. In the present housing market, \$180,000 in Canberra will buy a middle-class home that would cost \$500,000 or more in Sydney.

mean the VFT will have trouble luring holiday makers and their families out of their cars and onto the train, however quick and pleasant the trip. There is no doubt, however, that the VFT would capture much of the current business and public servant market currently serviced by the airlines. The fares are cheaper, delays should be shorter, and direct CBD to CBD delivery will be very attractive to senior public servants and private sector executives. Yet deregulation could change all that: efficient and cheap charter flights and a third runway at Mascot could see dramatic falls in airfares.

Deregulation

The kinds of social returns envisaged by both the government and the consortium are partly based on the experience of fast rail in other countries, particularly France and Japan, where fast trains reduce the pollution caused by cars and trucks, and the number of road accidents. These are pertinent concerns in Australia. In those countries, however, high population densities ensure a more secure market. Moreover, the Japanese and European governments have played a much more interventionist role in high-

Alumni & Friends

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

Monash graduate leads varied life

IT'S amazing what a Monash BEc can do for you, writes Neil Gilchrist (BEc 1968) who, in a recent letter to the Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs, reviewed his varied and interesting life, "for which Monash can take part of the credit or blame".

In the 22 years since graduation, his life has included:

- working as a cadet finance journalist on *The Australian*, and then as finance and shipping journalist for the *Hong Kong Standard*;
- living and working in Yugoslavia as the first Australian to undertake a traineeship, thanks to AIESEC and interest stimulated by Dr Ian Ward's Comparative Economic Systems Unit in final year;
- adventuring (and working!) in London and Norway, as well as Eastern Europe;
- enrolling for a postgraduate degree preparing a thesis on the topic Workers' Self Management in the Yugoslav Shipbuilding Industry at St Andrew's University in Scotland.

This period of mobility was replaced by one of relative stability, brought about through marriage and parenthood. Now settled in Leicester, UK, Neil initially worked in purchasing and production control in the manufacturing sector and then at Leicester Polytechnic.

For the past eight years he has been Industrial Promotion Officer with the Leicester Promotion Campaign. This involves attracting new industry to the city from other countries and from other parts of the UK, and assisting industry.

According to Neil this is a challenging and stimulating position which involves such things as assisting local employers and unions to lobby the Government on matters affecting the development of local industry and the city; providing support to the British Hovercraft expedition up the Yangtze River bringing a UNESCO child immunisation program to remote but river accessible parts of Southeast China and participating in Leicester Week in Berlin and a trade mission to East Berlin (at the time that Honecker fell from power).

Neil considers that his Monash



Mr Neil Gilchrist

degree has combined well with his varied life experience, enabling him to achieve a reasonably high level of satisfaction in his life and work. "A Monash BEc certainly gives you versatility," he writes.

He also remembers his University activities outside the degree course — bush walking, the Activities Committee, *Lot's Wife*, the Labour Club, the establishment of the Monash Fine Arts Group, and a two month stint as a volunteer in Papua New Guinea. No doubt all this added to the versatility too!

"In retrospect, I wish I had been a little more adventurous in my undergraduate studies, taking perhaps a language, European or Asian history or literature, instead of playing it safe and doing British History for about the fifth time in my scholastic career," he said.

"Especially as Monash was the first determinedly Australian university — from Snake Gully and the clay soil, Clifton Pugh's mural of *Brolgas in Flight* to the bush-coloured buildings. Monash, simply, as perhaps no other Australian university did at the time, reflected and acted upon the spirit of the times, and I was glad to have been around then."

As Monash approaches its 30th anniversary in 1991, we are compiling news and views of graduates. What did your Monash degree do for you and how has it influenced your life? We would welcome letters and copies of articles and speeches from graduates. Please address them to: Ms Jennifer Beck, Director, External Relations & Alumni Affairs, Monash University, Clayton Victoria 3168, Australia.

Friends donate clock

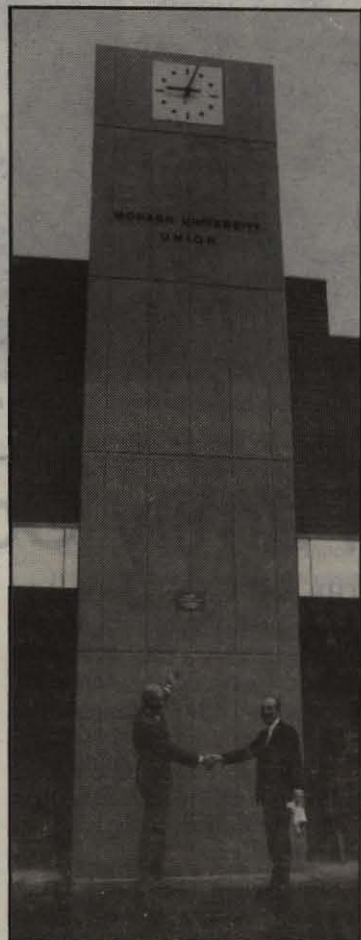
PLAQUES carrying the inscription, 'Donated by Friends of Monash' are becoming a familiar sight around the grounds and buildings of Monash University.

The most recent of these plaques appeared on the tower of the Union Building to mark the donation of \$3000 by the Friends of a new clock. It was unveiled at a special ceremony last month by the Friends of Monash president, Mr Bruce Adams and warden of the Union, Mr Graeme Sweeney.

Mr Adams said the group aimed to enhance the university environment by providing items not normally in the budget and that serviced the whole campus.

Friends of Monash is a voluntary organisation formed by parents and friends of Monash University. It aims to develop friendship between those interested in the welfare of Monash and provide support for the university.

Anyone interested in joining Friends of Monash should contact the secretary Mr Ray Price on 807 4760.



Warden of the Union, Mr Graeme Sweeney (right) thanks the president of Friends of Monash, Mr Bruce Adams, for the Union's new clock.

Coming events

Classics

The Classics Alumni Annual Dinner will be held on Thursday 2 August at 7.30pm in the Banquet Room, Union Building, preceded by drinks at 6.30pm. Cost \$25.00. Further details: Department of Classical Studies (03) 565 3264 or Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs (03) 565 2044.

Geography

The annual dinner will take place on the evening on Wednesday 1 August at the Victorian State Schools Nursery. Further details: Anne Scott, Department of Geography & Environmental Science (03) 565 2945 or Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs (03) 565 2044.

History

A get-together for pre-1980 History graduates will take place on Friday evening, 7 September at 5.30pm in the University's City Centre. Further details: Department of History (03) 565 2172 or Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs (03) 565 2044.

Librarianship

The mid-year seminar will be held on Wednesday 1 August at 6.00pm for 6.30pm in the University's City Centre. Andrew Pentecost will talk on automation and its effect on the use of cataloguing codes. Cheese, wine, gossip and a meal afterwards for those interested.

The Annual Research Seminar will take place on Saturday 17

November. More details later. Enquiries: Mary-Lou Maroney on (03) 565 2959.

Materials Engineering

The annual mid-year dinner takes place on 25 July. Further details: Dr Chris Berndt, Department of Materials Engineering 565 4919.

10-Year Reunion

A 10-Year Reunion for the faculties of Arts and Science will be held on Saturday 15 September in the Banquet Room, Union Building at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Further details: Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs (03) 565 2044.

Hong Kong

A get-together for graduates in Hong Kong will be held on Wednesday 3 October 1990. Details: Albert Leung in Hong Kong, 635 2111 or Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs (03) 565 2044.

Kuala Lumpur

The inaugural Annual Dinner will be held on the evening of Friday 5 October. Details: James Wong in Kuala Lumpur (3) 717 1822 or Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs (03) 565 2044.

Singapore

A lunch meeting for Monash graduates in Singapore will be held on Saturday 6 October. Details: Lee Siew Khuan in Singapore 330 2101 or Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs (03) 565 2044.

LLB talks at dinner

IT'S not only Australians who have difficulty in learning foreign languages. Italians do too, according to Frank Gucciardo, LLB 1981, who was speaking at the Festa della Repubblica Italiana dinner of the Societa Dante Alighieri.

He recalled his own arrival in Australia in 1970 when he spoke not a word of English. Now practising as a barrister after studying law at Monash, those days are long gone. His English bears no trace of Italian accent.

In his heart he retains a deep attachment to Italy and Italian culture and is saddened at the prospect of his children possibly not gaining a good grasp of the Italian language. He strongly believes that more should be done to make language learning part of a whole cultural experience. "Language remains in an effective vacuum for our young, who become bored and dissatisfied," he said.

The same happens in Italy, if it happens at all. On the whole, Italians have not been energetic in learning a second language. In the European Community, as a percentage of people who know a second language, Italy is next to last, with Portugal last.

With Europe 1992 just around the corner, Italians are suddenly realising that they need to put more effort into learning other languages. There are now over 1000 foreign language schools in Italy and 180,000 people travel each year on study holidays to the USA and UK. Here's a golden opportunity for Australia to get involved too, he suggested.

The European Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (ERASMUS) plans to involve at

least 10 per cent of the 6½ million university students in Europe. Yet of the 16,000 who participated in 1987-88, most came from France, Germany and the UK, not from Italy.

Malaysian alumni

AN interim steering committee has been established in Kuala Lumpur to get Monash Alumni Malaysia (Persatuan Alumni Monash University Malaysia) up and running.

It is hoped that sub-groups of the association will be formed in other parts of Malaysia once the main group is established.

Membership of the interim committee is: President: Mr James K.H. Wong, Vice President: Professor Lee Poh Aun, and members: Dr Sallehuddin Kassim, Dr Khoo Ping Een, Mr Stephen Koh, Dr Liew Sin Pee, Mr Ng Yee Siang, Ms Sue Tiah Oon Su, Mr Vincent C.S. Wong, Ms Wong Peg Yuen and Mr Yui Hock Hwee.

In addition to sorting out the formalities of the establishment of the group, a first major task for the interim committee is the organisation of the Inaugural Annual Dinner to take place on Friday 5 October in Kuala Lumpur. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, will be guest of honor at this function.

Full details about the dinner will be mailed later. For further information contact Mr James K.H. Wong at No 44A Jalan Datuk Sulaiman, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, 60000 Kuala Lumpur, on 717 1822 (office) or 776 9036 (home) or Fax 717 1822.

Education meeting

THE Education Alumni AGM took place in February with Gerry Tickell, recently appointed director of the Institute of Educational Administration, Geelong, as guest speaker talking on professional development and the classroom teacher.

Gerry described the teacher's work in the classroom as analogous with that of the creative artist of dance, literature or sculpture; creativity, flexibility and responsiveness are all part of the teacher's role.

"Without professional development integrated into the total education effort, there will be little improvement in outcomes," he said.

He went on to discuss the major

conclusions of his recently completed report on Professional Development for Teachers.

Dr Paul Gardner, convenor of the Education Alumni, highlighted developments in the Monash Faculty of Education, and he welcomed the closer links that this will promote.

The committee for 1991 was elected and consists of Linda Wilkins (Convenor), Joy Vogt (Deputy Convenor), Neil McIntosh (Treasurer) and Rick Belshaw, Paul Gardner, Lesley Gregg, Julie Johns, Bernie Rymer and Ann Vinycomb.

For further details on Monash Education Alumni contact Joan Szalman, Faculty of Education on 565 2787 or the Department of External Relations & Alumni Affairs on 565 2044.



Child Care at Monash



New co-ordinator aims to boost child care services

THE University and the Union have provided an additional \$56,000 in funding to help improve child care services at Monash. Part of this funding was for the upgrading of the Child Care Co-ordinator position from part-time to full-time.

Ms Bernadette Brown (formerly Muir) became Monash's first full-time Child Care Co-ordinator at the beginning of this year. Ms Brown, a Monash graduate (English and Sociology) recently completed the Post-Graduate Diploma in Community Education at Chisholm Institute. She previously held the part-time position of Child Care Co-ordinator while also working as a half-time Assistant in the Student Welfare Office. Her position now forms part of the Equal Opportunity Unit at Monash.

The upgrading of the co-ordinator's position is one of several recommendations made in the *Monash University Child Care Strategy 1989-91*.

The strategy was devised by Ms Brown and the members of the Child Care Sub-Committee of the Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee. The committee includes representatives from the Staff Association of Monash University (SAMU), the Victorian Colleges and Universities Staff Association (VCUSA), the Monash Post-graduates Association (MPA), the Mature and Part-time Students Association (MAPS), Monash Association of Students (MAS) and a representative from the Comptrollers Office.

It presents a series of short and long term solutions to the problems faced by Monash parents when attempting to access affordable and high quality child care.

The strategy recommended six proposals for the improvement of

child care facilities — so far four have received funding.

The university has picked up the cost of upgrading the co-ordinator's position, but the other proposals, including increased subsidiaries to low-income earners using the Monash Student Creche Co-operative, improving the School Holiday Programs, and the development of the SWiCh flat, have been funded by the Monash University Union.

Although Ms Brown believes the university has a greater role to play in providing adequate and quality child care facilities, she is pleased with the progress being made in this area.

"Child care is in a much stronger position than it was two years ago. It is now on the university agenda and we have a child care sub-committee that can present their members' needs and concerns to the administration," she said.

As Child Care Co-ordinator, Ms Brown has been responsible for the design and implementation of an information service on child care facilities. This service is continually monitored and updated. Ms Brown also provides a counselling and referral service for parents wishing to discuss any concerns or issues related to child or family welfare. Other responsibilities include managing the university School Holiday Programs and developing proposals and plans for ensuring the child care needs of staff and students are met.

The School Holiday Programs, which are now run four times a year

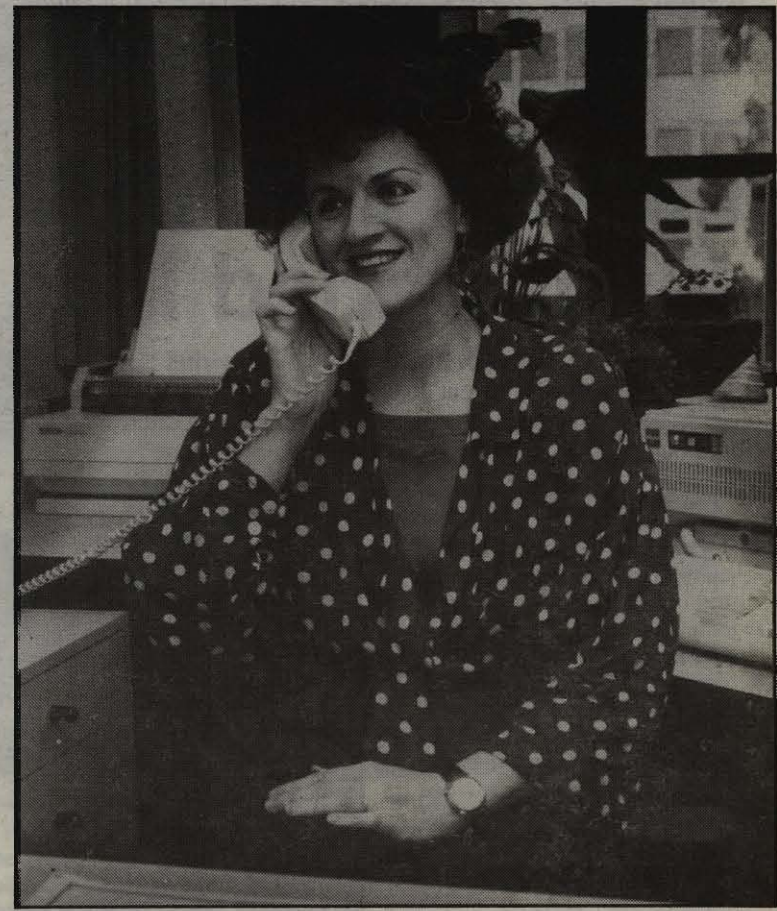
in January, Easter, July and September/October constitute an important part of the co-ordinator's position.

"The Programs have been very successful, they are extremely popular, with demand often exceeding the number of places available," she said.

"We aim to provide educational and entertaining activities for children aged from four to fourteen years. Daily sessions are structured to include a balanced combination of active and passive, creative and intellectual and individual and group activities.

"There are lots of things we can tap into on campus, such as guided tours of the University Gallery, the Music Department with its exhibition of Gamelan instruments, and tours of the Koorie garden and Fauna Park. All these resources combine to offer a very interesting and educational program."

Other child care facilities available to Monash students and staff are the Monash Student Creche Co-operative, the Monash Community Family Co-operative, the Elwyn Morey Centre Kindergarten, the Kanooka Grove Child Care Centre



Child care co-ordinator, Bernadette Brown

(at the rear of the Monash Medical Centre) and the SWiCh Occasional Care Centre.

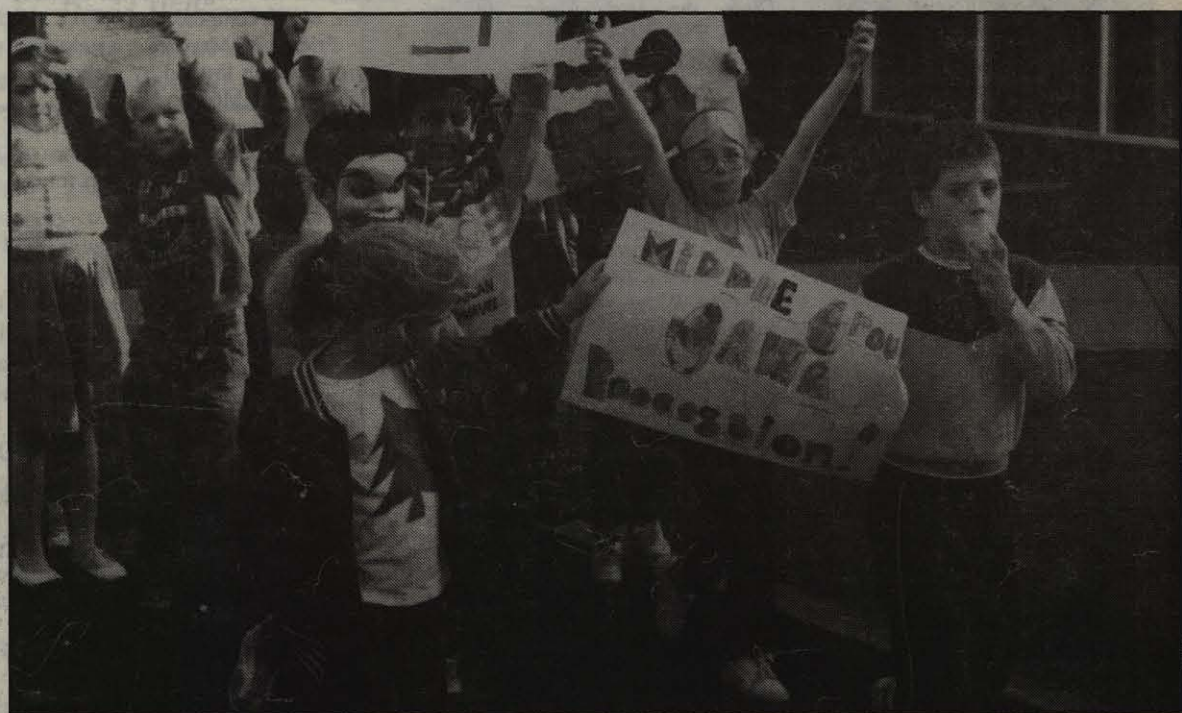
Unfortunately more than 120 people were put on waiting lists for child care at the Monash creches in 1989. These waiting lists increase almost annually.

Ms Brown said child care facilities needed to continue to expand in accordance with the growth experienced throughout the rest of the

university.

"Clearly, the child care needs of the university community cannot be met by existing facilities. We would like to see a purpose-built creche on campus to address the increasing child care needs of staff and students," she said.

For more information about child care services at Monash contact Ms Bernadette Brown on 565 3186/4165.



The circus comes to town: Children taking part in a recent School Holiday Program parade through campus. Picture: RICHARD CROMPTON

Family Co-op gets new creche

THE new creche, operated by the Monash Community Family Co-operative, was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan last month.

The house at 74 Beddoe Avenue has been completely renovated and extended for use as a day care and pre-school centre.

Plans to build a Science and Technology Park near Monash, forced the creche to relocate from its original premises at 1 Duerdin Street, Clayton.

Chairman of the co-op management committee, Mrs Joan Sloan

said the new creche was a vast improvement on its former premises.

"For both staff and children, it is lovely to have a place that has been designed as a child care centre," she said.

The new creche features three large playrooms, kitchen facilities, a laundry and office space for the staff. The landscaped grounds include a sandpit and other play equipment for the children.

At the opening ceremony, Professor Logan said Monash placed considerable value on the non-academic parts of the university.

"A university does have a responsibility to provide these sorts

of facilities, especially if it is located in a suburban environment," he said.

The Monash Family Co-Op also run a creche at 78 Beddoe Avenue and the two properties have been linked together at the rear.

The two creches cater for a maximum of 50 children and provide a kindergarten program on five mornings a week. Children are taken from babies to five years old and care includes daily hot lunches, fruit, milk and nappy wash.

The creches are open Monday to Friday from 8.15 am to 5.30 pm.

For further information or bookings phone 543 1372.



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan, receives a presentation from children of the creche. Picture: JULIE FRASER

Child Care at Monash

Tree planting to improve creche grounds

AN extensive tree planting project has enhanced the surrounds of three houses belonging to the Monash Student Creche Co-operative.

About 75 native trees were planted in the gardens of the creche houses at 2, 16 and 18 Beddoe Avenue during Arbor Week late last month.

The Buildings Branch donated \$1500 for the plants, tree guards, hoses and other gardening equipment. The landscaping plans were drawn up by horticulturist, Rob McClure and Janet Lanyon, both of the Department of Botany and Zoology.

Ms Lanyon said care had been taken to select plants which were

suitable to the creche environment.

"All the plants are flowering Australian natives and the majority are bird-attracting," she said.

"Large shade trees, including *Angophora* and *Eucalyptus* species, have been selected to provide continuity of the campus vegetation through the creche grounds. Other trees and shrubs have been chosen to provide shade, screen fences and create interesting play areas for the children."

Ms Lanyon said she hoped some of the older children would learn to appreciate and recognise the Australian native plants while they attended creche.

"Some plants have been chosen for unique features such as in-

teresting seed pods or cones (Banksia species), unusual flowers and growth form. Others have been chosen simply on aesthetic grounds. Consideration has been given to the needs of the individual houses and the age groups of the children at each," she said.

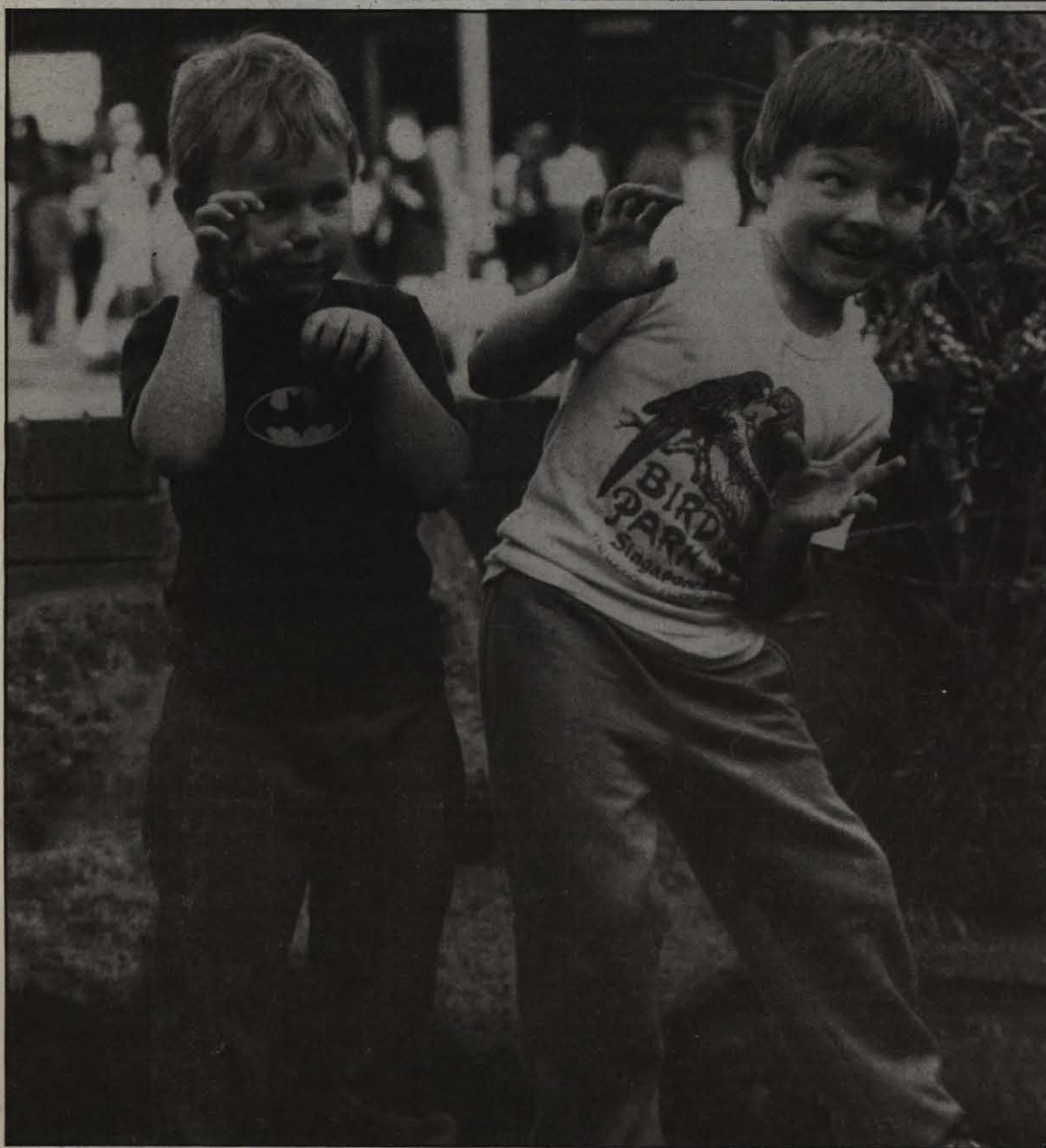
Creche management committee member, Jennifer Weber, said the lack of shade around the houses prompted the tree planting project.

"By planting a few trees we have already dramatically improved the environment and in five years it will look fantastic," she said.

For further information about the creche phone Dorothy Hill on 544 4959.



Helping with the tree planting were (from left to right) Edwina Weber, Nikolas Hammond and Jemma Lanyon.



Students of the future come to grips with campus life. Picture: RICHARD CROMPTON

Campus flat offers occasional care

STUDENTS With Children (SWiCh) provides an occasional child care service on campus for Monash staff and students. The SWiCh Flat child care centre is located at the west end of the Union Building and is for children aged from babies to school age.

The service is designed to assist parents attending lectures and tutorials, requiring extra study time or when previous arrangements are not available. Parents are also welcome to use the SWiCh flat facilities for feeding and changing.

Director of the SWiCh flat is Alyson Ball, a qualified Pre-school Mothercraft Nurse who completed her training at Frankston Technical & Further Education College.

According to Ms Ball, the flat provides a relaxed and friendly environment which allows for both group play and individual activities.

"With space for up to four children, it allows time for that special one to one attention that is often needed when children are away from their parents," she said.

The SWiCh flat is open during semester (except from 29 June to 13 July), from Monday to Thursday between 8.45 am and 7.45 pm and on Friday from 8.45 am to 12 noon. During the semester break the flat will be open Monday to Thursday from 9.30 am to 2 pm.

During exam time the flat is open Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm and during re-enrolment from Monday to Thursday between 9 am and 5 pm.

Bookings for the following week can be made through the SWiCh flat each Friday between 8.45 am and 2 pm, or during the week that care is required. Payment should be made to the mothercraft nurse on the day.

For more information contact the SWiCh flat on 565 3125.

Keeping the children amused

FOR many parents the school holidays are spent trying to think up interesting activities to keep the kids amused.

The Monash School Holiday Program, however, takes all the worry out of the holidays.

The School Holiday Programs cater for the children of students and staff aged from four to 14 years old. The programs are located at three venues on the Clayton campus with children placed in age groups; four to seven years, eight to 10 years and 11 to 14 years. Family requests for siblings to be placed together will be met if possible.

The programs start at 8.30 am and finish at 5.30 pm daily. Half day, full day and weekly sessions are

offered. And as demand often exceeds the number of places available, parents are strongly advised to enrol early to avoid disappointment.

Enrolments for the July programs are currently being taken in the Student Welfare Office, first floor of the Union Building. The programs will run from Monday 9 July to Friday 20 July.

The programs have been operating for two years with the aim of providing educational and entertaining activities for children during school holidays. The programs may be seen as an active expression of the university's commitment to achieving equal opportunity.

An Art and Craft consultant, Ms Claire Grant, has been employed to assist with the preparation of activi-

ties for the coming July program. So far, sessions for cottage crafts include terra-cotta pot-painting, followed by planting bouquet-garni herb gardens, copper sheeting designs, lentil and pasta craft, picture marbling, cotton reel people and kite-making.

The programs will also offer a wide range of sporting and drama activities including swimming, aerobics, dance and movement classes, and the opportunity of scripting, performing, and filming video-clips. Multi-cultural cooking will also be featured each day.

For further information about the School Holiday Programs contact the Child Care Co-ordinator Bernadette Brown on 565 3186/3126/4165.



Director of the SWiCh flat, Alyson Ball helps one of the children take a picture, while the others try to get our photographer to look at the camera.

Entertainment and The Arts

Vienna cabaret imitates reality

TAKE an innovative director, a talented performer, and an idea that's been fermenting in her brain for the best part of a year, and you have — Cafe Fledermaus!

Robyn Archer has been described as one of Australia's greatest entertainment assets, and her latest show, *Cafe Fledermaus*, is playing at the Alexander Theatre until the end of June.

Cafe Fledermaus is set in the world of Viennese cabaret around the turn of the century.

A cabaret singer on her way to work is stopped by a young man who begs her not to go inside to work, but to explore life's complexities from his point of view.

However, the young man is persuaded to taste the world of the cabaret, and to see how it reflects the reality of the life which surrounds him.

Written by Robyn Archer, the show also features her in the starring role, and is directed by young Melbourne opera identity, Barrie Kosky, who was responsible for *The Barber of Seville* which was seen at the Alexander Theatre in March.

Sharing the stage with Ms Archer are actors Brendan Higgins and Russell Garbutt, along with musicians Teresa Blake and Lynda Patching.

Having spent a lot of time in London in recent years, Ms Archer developed the idea for *Cafe Fledermaus* during nine months of her time there.

"I think what the show does is give everybody a very good glimpse of the flavor of cabaret at the turn of the century in Vienna, which was markedly different from Weimar cabaret.

"It says many things I want to say, and it has lots of things in it that I like, and I'm enjoying doing it," Ms Archer said.

Ms Archer is particularly enthusiastic about her supporting cast.

"Not only did we get a cellist in Teresa Blake, but a very wonderful performer in other respects, and Lynda Patching who is carving out for herself a wonderful career as a sort of rock and roll violinist.

"Russell Garbutt is a performance artist who has lots of big visual ideas, and also plays accordion, tuba and trombone, while Brendan Higgins is not only a bloody good actor, but has a really lovely singing voice," she said.

Ms Archer describes her working relationship with director Barrie Kosky as "terrific".

"He's young, with lots of energy, and lots of physical, visual ideas, and he's had such surprising results in opera, which traditionally can be a little bit intractable," she said.

Ms Archer describes cabaret as "like a sort of musical, but with a bit more guts".

She feels that many different kinds of people will appreciate what she has to offer, although she claims that she doesn't ever look for a particular type of audience.

"I assume that there will be people who haven't seen me in a show for a long time, and also the fans of my Brecht music albums will come," she said.

What Ms Archer values about her shows is the diversity of opinion about various aspects of them.

"I think we're going to get, as always, fights breaking out in the stalls because people like one bit and hate the other bit!

"It'll be a very mixed audience, and from my point of view, anyone who comes is the section of people I'm performing to," she said.



Robyn Archer and Brendan Higgins play it straight in *Cafe Fledermaus*.

Possum Magic comes to life

THE Alexander Theatre is involved in an exciting project this year, being co-producer with the Victorian Arts Centre and Garry Ginivan Attractions of the World Premiere of *Possum Magic* — The Musical.

This ambitious production, held from 9 to 21 July, is faithfully based on the popular book of the same name by Mem Fox with illustrations by Julie Vivas. The book of *Possum Magic* is already accepted as an Australian children's classic with sales of over 350,000.

In this long-awaited stage production, directed by John Watson, the many Australian native animal characters will be brought to life with actors, musicians, dance, original songs and magic! However, the outstanding element will be the

beautiful larger-than-life puppets created by Peter Wilson, co-founder of Melbourne's internationally acclaimed Handspan Puppet Theatre.

The story is imaginative and uniquely Australian. Grandma Poss makes Bush Magic, but she excels herself when she discovers the magic that will make Baby Hush invisible.

The adventure begins when Grandma Poss forgets what it is that will remove the spell. She does know that it is something to do with food, so together they set off around Australia to find the magic that will make Hush visible once again.

Starring as Grandma Poss is well-known Australian actress Geraldene Morrow, who has also recently been cast as Madam Giry in the Australian premiere season of *The Phantom Of The Opera*.

The Alexander Theatre has a national reputation as being the finest presenter of children's theatre in the country with its long-running Saturday Club subscription series and regular school holiday shows.

The Alex previously teamed up with Garry Ginivan Attractions in presenting the sell-out season of *Puff The Magic Dragon*.

Bookings are already open for the July school holiday season of *Possum Magic* and shows signs of filling up quickly. Recently a booking was received at the theatre by fax from an Australian family living in Taipei, China. Who said that people won't travel out to the Alex to see theatre?

Credit card bookings for *Possum Magic* can be made by phoning 565 3992.

Philosopher opens exhibition



"Defective Models": Australian Portraiture 19th and 20th Centuries at the Monash University Gallery was opened recently by Professor Max Charlesworth from Deakin University, pictured above with his wife Stephanie.



Entertainment and The Arts

Heavenly performance by swinging sisters

DAN Goggin's ecclesiastical musical 'Nunsense' recently played to packed houses at the Alexander Theatre as part of its national tour.

Overall, the show was successful, and audience reaction would certainly have given the five sisters that "special high" they sing about in the show.

But like most things human, 'Nunsense', directed by Betty Bobbit, had its ups and downs.

The appearance of the nuns wandering around the theatre at the beginning of both acts did not quite work — they seemed a little uncomfortable about the idea. Performers have to be very "up front" and brazen for this to work, and it didn't

quite hit the mark.

Indeed, the whole show was a little lacking in pace to begin with, although this soon settled down by the second big musical number. Apart from a couple of slight slips by two characters, it was smooth running from then on.

It's probably worth pointing out that to really enjoy the show you need a little 'inside information'. It isn't necessary to be Catholic, but a basic understanding of ecclesiastical pecking orders and politics is probably an essential requirement for

getting the most out of the show.

It's well-crafted in terms of characters — five good rounded characters whom the actresses obviously enjoyed playing.

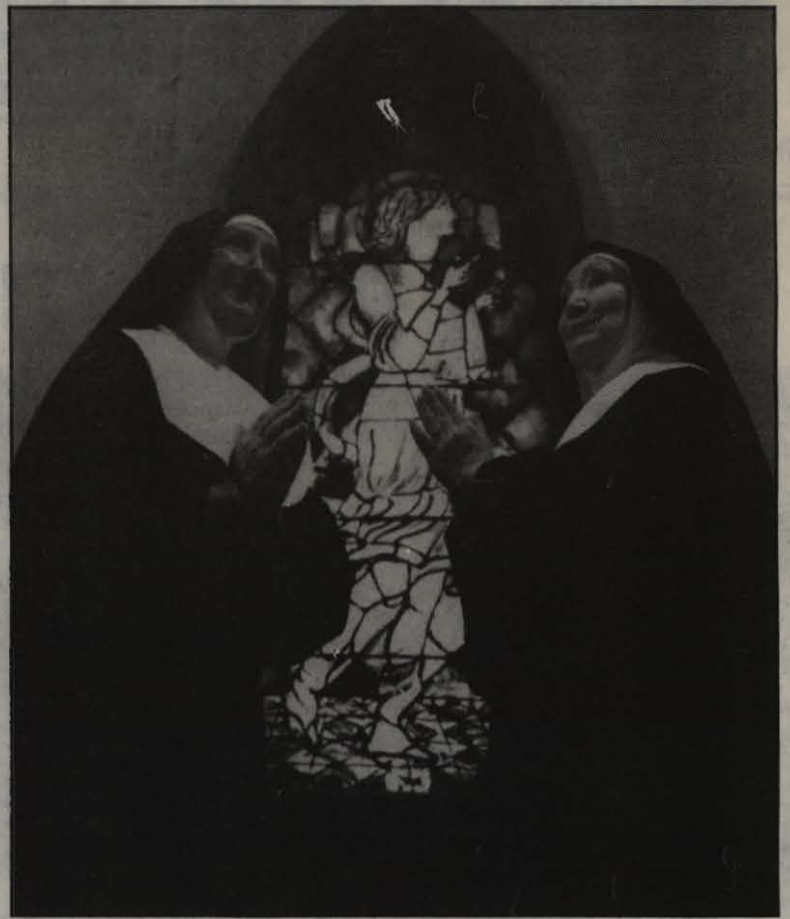
Although it's difficult to single out individual stars, as Mother Superior June Bronhill's natural sense of comic timing really lifted the show. And as her "straight nun", Sister Hubert, played by Patricia Vivien-Lall, provided a nice contrast as a straitlaced character full of charm, but with an occasional comic outburst.

The musical score was not particularly kind to either Bronhill's or Vivien-Lall's classically trained voices, but their characterisations more than made up for that.

Of the younger actresses, Sarah Herlihy as Sister Robert Anne had mixed success. She needs more projection of her character — most of the time it was not quite "up front" enough, although it must be said that her banter with the audience in her quiz segment was excellent. Her "I just want to be a star" solo was also a winner.

Karen Walsh as the novice Sister Leo gave a pleasant performance, while Pat Pitney's Sister Mary Amnesia was also an audience pleaser.

Perhaps the funniest scene was "Cooking With The Blessed Virgin Mary", with such delicacies as



June Bronhill (right) and Patricia Vivien-Lall seeking divine inspiration during the performance of Nunsense.

"Mary Magdalene's Tarts" being featured.

The nun's home movie 'Nun-smoke' had the audience in stitches, and by the second act, those in their seats had been well and truly won over.

In all, 'Nunsense' had a sense of old-fashioned charm — the audience felt it was "their" show, rather than

just something being performed for them.

If the test of a good show is whether one would be happy to see it again, then 'Nunsense' was a winner — I for one would have been delighted to have seen it once more.

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



Cast members rev up for another night of divine comedy. Picture: TONY MILLER

Stained glass art

IT is not surprising that Derek Pearse's religious beliefs form the basis of his work. As an artist who specialises in making stained glass church windows, a religious background is almost a prerequisite.

Mr Pearse, a member of the Anglican Church, has been designing and making stained glass windows for nearly 40 years. And it would seem Monash is to gain from his experience. Mr Pearse will take four art classes at the Arts and Crafts Centre in July and August.

The courses are Painting with Imagination (7 and 8 July), Landscapes and Seascapes and Art as Self Expression (5 June-3 July), and Watercolor (24 July-21 August).

Mr Pearse studied at the London School of Building and Architecture and worked at Faith House, an organisation connected with the Anglican Church in Westminster. There he became involved with designing all the interior furnishings of a church, a task which included making the stained glass windows.

After emigrating to Australia in 1948, he worked for several firms making stained glass windows before deciding to set up his own business.

Since then he has designed and made some of Melbourne's better-known stained glass windows. The most recent is a memorial window dedicated to the pioneering women of Victoria in St James' Old Cathedral.

In addition to church windows, which Mr Pearse claims can take anything from 12 months to two years to finish, he also makes stained glass windows for homes and coats of arms in stained glass.

According to Mr Pearse, a stained glass artist has to be good at everything "from the designing, figure drawing and painting to cutting glass, choosing the colors, and lead-lighting."

To be successful at stained glass work, however, Mr Pearse believes an artist must approach it from an

art rather than a craft perspective.

"With art there has to be a connection between the artist and the subject and at the same time an ability to let go and be inspired. With craft the end is more or less known."

Mr Pearse says he tries to get students to express themselves through their work. "I try to get my students to put into reality their personal vision so the painting becomes an expression of their own experience," he said.

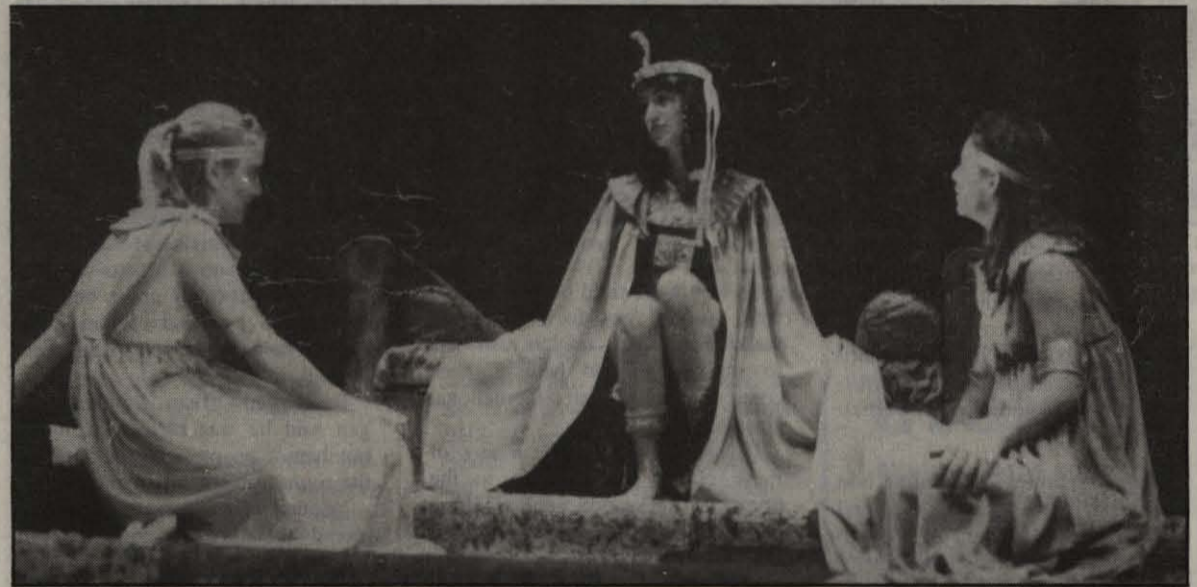
"I often get people in my classes, who have been painting for some time, and have learnt all the techniques and devices, but they have to rediscover their own creativity."

Mr Pearse derives his own inspiration from creation theology. "In the past three hundred years the Western Church has been very anthropocentric and tended to separate Christ from the rest of creation, but I believe that creation is wholistic and everything is related," he said.

For bookings or further information about courses at the Arts and Crafts Centre, phone 565 3180.



Mr Derek Pearse



A scene from Antony and Cleopatra: "The costumes were effective in marking a difference between the pragmatic Romans and the sensual Egyptians. Picture: TONY MILLER

Play leaves memorable impression

THE Royal Shakespeare Company it is not, but the Monash University English Department led by director Dr Dennis Bartholomeusz is quite capable of breathing life and interest into the most complex Shakespearean texts.

And the recent production of *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Alexander Theatre was no exception — a difficult play, an inexperienced cast, and the odd technical hitch, but for all that the production made sense and conveyed the turmoil of Shakespeare's story and the power of his language.

It was held together by solid lead roles, Richard Pannell played Antony with his usual ease and flair. Beside him, Ray Goodwin managed to convey in his Octavius an almost boring efficiency which inevitably triumphs.

The most difficult part in the play, however, is that of Cleopatra, who changes from a coquettish, fickle, vain, mercenary girl in the first half of the play to a resolute and faithful woman steadfastly facing death at the end. But for a certain self-consciousness in the intensity of the final scenes, Debra-Ellen Neilsen handled what must be one of Shakespeare's most challenging roles very well.

Antony and Cleopatra has not been staged frequently. Perhaps it is because of the difficulty of coming to grips with the vast scope of a work peopled by characters who are larger than life and in whose hands the fate of the known world lies.

Shakespeare's story is told with great leaps in time and space, and the rapid momentum of short, busy scenes. The production coped with this by good use of what is a deceptively large acting space.

The stage was divided into Rome and Alexandria by the use of Roman and Egyptian pillars. But for these and an Egyptian throne area, the stage was essentially bare. Characters used a series of entrances and exits, adding to the sense of space and business.

The costumes were effective in marking a difference between the pragmatic Romans and the sensual Egyptians. In fact, it was a pity that more could not have been made of the Egyptian masks seen at the very beginning.

But the central feature of any Shakespearean play is the text and the language. If a production can enliven the words, and send the audience home dwelling on memorable passages and exchanges, then it has served its purpose.

On this criterion, *Antony and Cleopatra* was a success.

Sport and Recreation

Test your health and fitness

DO you want to improve your volley for tennis, your serve for squash, or simply your health and fitness? Then sign up for one or more of our recreational classes.

Monash Sports & Recreation offers a wide range of classes and levels to keep you interested and active. The classes are designed to help improve your skills, knowledge, fitness and health in the sport you choose, and each class is taken by a friendly qualified coach.

All classes cost \$10 for six one-hour lessons and are held before, during and after work.

Some of the classes offered are:

Tennis — Beginners classes cover basic hitting skills and techniques for people with minimal tennis experience. The intermediate classes are for those players who have completed the beginners course or who are not quite ready for the advanced level. In the advanced classes players learn strategies, new techniques and advanced match play tactics.

Squash — Beginners learn basic hitting skills, rules of the game and court coverage. There are also intermediate classes for those who want to improve their skills and all round court ability.

Self Defence For Women — A beginners course will explore the options available to women who find themselves in situations of unprovoked aggression. No martial arts experience is needed. For those women who want to learn a higher level of skill options there is also an intermediate class.

Body Dynamics — Aerobic weight training for older adults (30+). This fully supervised program offers all round fitness for both men and women who don't have the time to go to the fitness room. The class will be held before work and strengthen and tone muscles, and improve aerobic fitness and flexibility in a fun, motivating environment. Medical certificates will be required before participating.

Body Dynamics — Circuit Class This class caters for both men and women who want a hard work out to improve aerobic fitness, strengthen muscles and increase flexibility. The class will be run during lunch-

time or after work by a qualified instructor.

Body Dynamics — Aerobic Weight Training For Women Catering for women only, this fully supervised class offers the best all round fitness improvements. Muscles will be toned and strengthened, but not bulked, in a fun, motivating class.

Aerobic Fitness — This new and exciting class will incorporate a variety of aerobic classes including low impact, cardio funk, resistance light weights and apparatus type classes in general for those who want to learn more about aerobics.

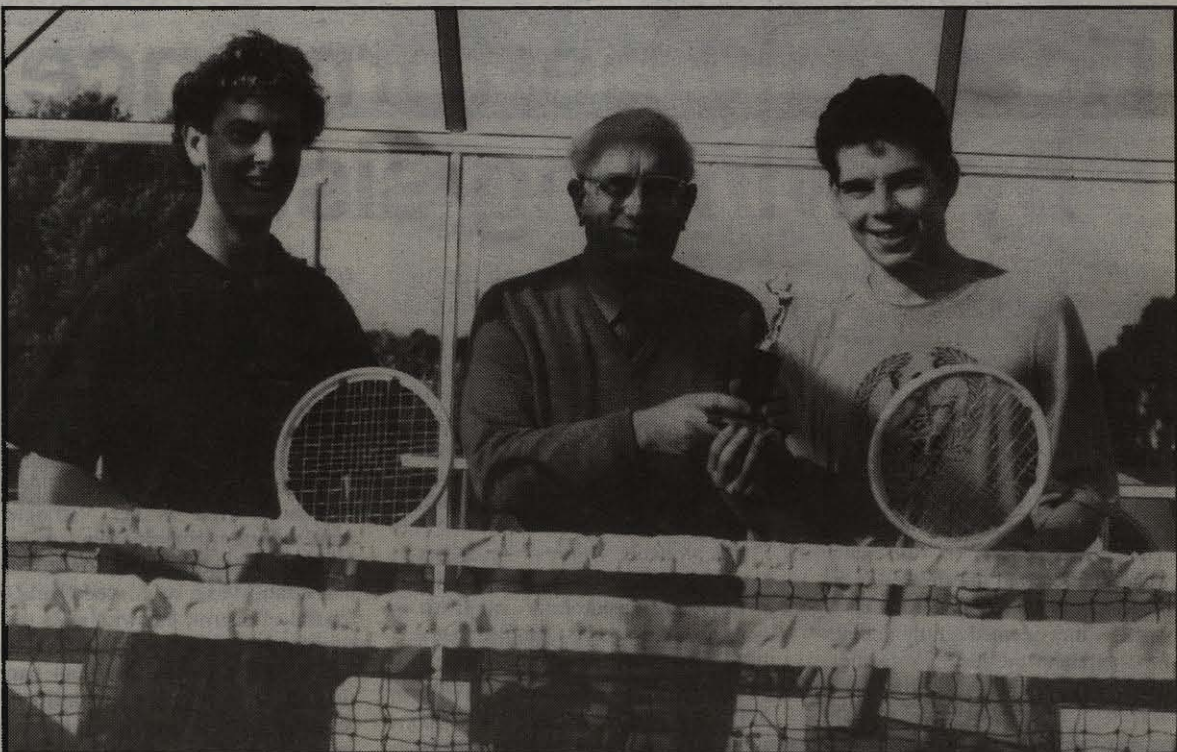
Aerobic Circuit Conditioning & Muscle Toning — Catering for both men and women, this new class will cover the best of both worlds giving you a 30-minute weights circuit followed by 30 minutes of aerobic exercise. Taken by a qualified instructor this class should not be missed.



So if you are tired of missing that first serve, or feeling puffed walking up stairs, or you just want to stay active and healthy, then come along to our recreational classes.

If you are interested in any of these classes come down to the Sports & Recreation general office and book in. Remember, all these classes fill quickly.

Leigh Branagan
Recreational Officer



Squennis Champion, Andrew Rotstein (right) receives his trophy from Director of Sport and Recreation, Doug Ellis as his opponent, Stephen Morgan watches.

Inaugural squennis title

THE first Monash University Squennis Championships were held last month, and despite the cold and blustery conditions many people turned up to watch the event.

Sussan Pascoe won the women's final, beating Jacinda Hart in three sets, 15-6, 8-15, 15-9.

The men's final was won by Andrew Rotstein who is both a former tennis and squash player. He beat Stephen Morgan in straight sets; 15-5, 15-9, much to the delight of some enthusiastic spectators.

For their efforts the winning couple each received a trophy, which was presented by the Director of the Sports and Recreation Association, Mr Doug Ellis.

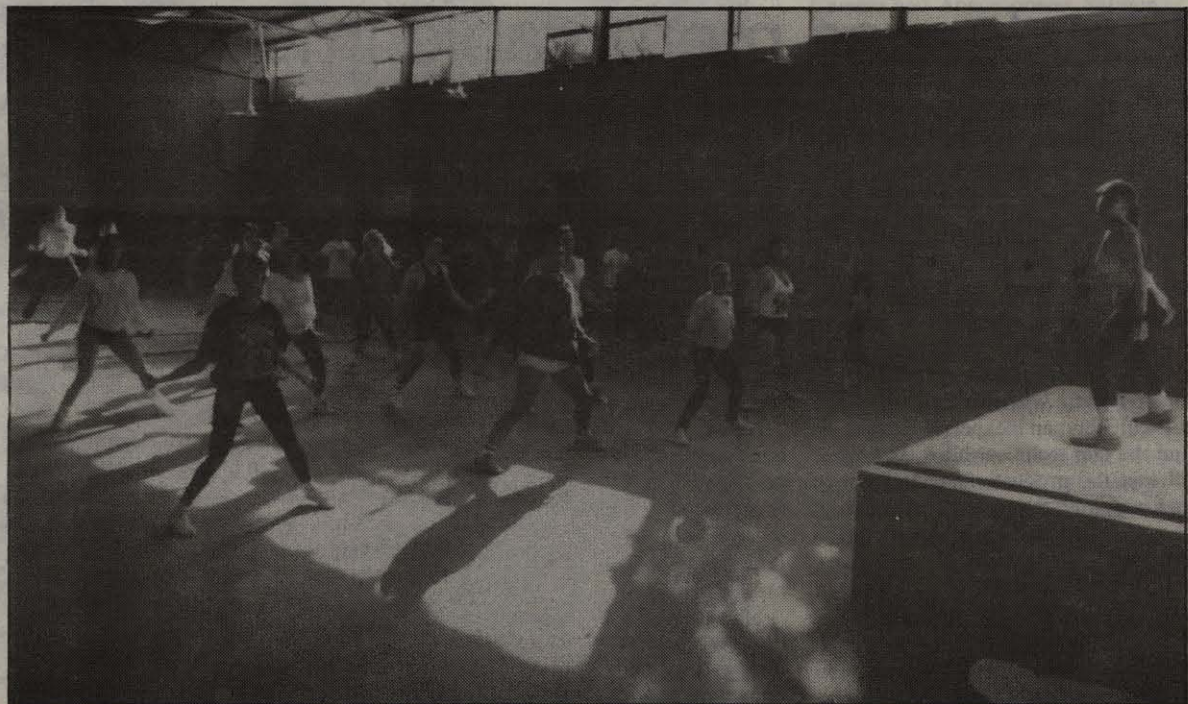
After the match, Morgan attributed his loss to a lack of fitness. "It's only a small court but you have to move around a lot and I got tired in some of the longer rallies," he said.

Recreation Officer, Leigh Branagan said he was pleased with the number of people who had entered the round robin tournament.

"Squennis is only a new game but already there is a growing interest in the sport. It is easy to play and is a challenging and interesting game for people of all standards," he said.



Sussan Pascoe is all smiles after winning the women's squennis title. Picture: TONY MILLER



One of Monash's aerobics classes in full swing.

Aerobics has all the right moves

AEROBICS has changed dramatically since the late 1970s, when people flocked to health centres to dance, jump, step and bob their way around a large room while listening to the music.

There are now many different types of classes ranging from low impact (which has little or no running) to super advanced classes (which go for up to one and a half hours). In between these two extremes there are many varied and entertaining classes to keep the mind and body occupied.

Instructors now have to undertake a 20-week course to become quali-

fied to teach aerobics and are continually updating to learn new movements and safety exercises.

At Monash, Sports and Recreation offers 21 classes a week, from Monday to Sunday. Classes run for approximately 50 to 55 minutes and vary from low impact to advanced classes. A timetable can be picked up from the Sports & Recreation Control Desk. Each class costs \$1.70 or 10 tickets for \$15.

Aerobics has become a great way to keep fit and tone up the body. With regular participation (about three sessions a week) a good level of fitness can be reached and you'll have heaps of fun.