



Monash University Medical Foundation launched

By MARY VISCOVICH

A new Medical Ethics Centre will be established under the auspices of the recently launched Monash University Medical Foundation.

Launched on 10 October by the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences in the Grand Ballroom of the Rippon Lea Estate, the foundation will attract support from the medical, health care and scientific fraternities, the business and government sectors and the public.

Faculty dean Professor Nick Saunders told guests, including key members of industry and research groups, that the foundation would not be about "plugging holes" in funding but about adding value to the work already being carried out by the faculty, as well as moving forward with innovative teaching and research initiatives.

"While the faculty has 5000 students, we have to remember that only

about 800 of those are medical students. Therefore, the foundation will not just support medical research and teaching but work towards the life of the faculty in general," Professor Saunders said.

He said the foundation had been established to support the development of special activities, such as the new medical ethics centre, and teaching and learning through the faculty's Centre for Medical and Health Sciences Education.

Also speaking at the launch, deputy dean of the faculty Professor Leon Piterman said initiatives such as new teaching laboratories and the centre were central to the faculty breaking new ground in the medical field.

"The Centre for Medical Ethics will play a vital role in the university and the community at large engaging in that debate in a meaningful fashion," he said.



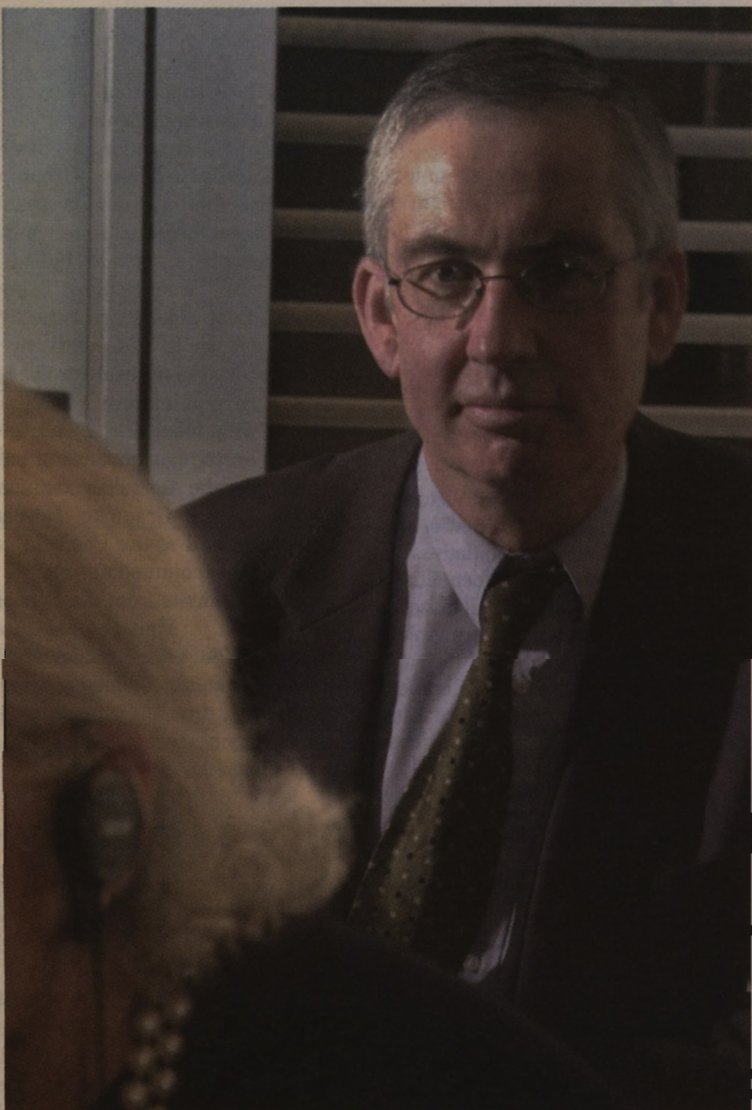
Foundation launch: From left, medical student Mr Nathan Grills, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Professor Nick Saunders, Monash alumna Dr Margaret Howsam, foundation board member Mr David Buckingham, deputy dean of the faculty Professor Leon Piterman and Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson. Picture: MAURICE DREW-GRANT

Adding a thought-provoking note to the night, foundation board member Mr David Buckingham, who is also managing director of Stratpol Consultants and former executive director of

the Business Council of Australia, said the foundation was being established at a time when business investment in research and development was going through a phase of uncertainty.

"But business is also looking at ways they can build alliances and at the same time serve a community purpose, and I am optimistic that the foundation will succeed," Mr Buckingham said.

Trips down memory lane ease dementia



Listening in: Professor Daniel O'Connor with a patient using a new therapy to help alleviate the distress caused by dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Picture: GREG FORD

By ALLISON HARDING

Elderly Australians suffering dementia are reaping the benefits of an innovative drug-free treatment developed by Monash University researchers.

The Aged Mental Health Research Group, based at the Kingston Centre in Melbourne and headed by Professor Daniel O'Connor of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, is using Simulated Presence Therapy to calm distressed and agitated sufferers of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

The treatment involves a close relative of the patient recounting into an audiotape an event or memory from the patient's past which is likely to have a calming effect.

Topics have included a description of the patient's childhood home, friends and activities, a favourite nursery rhyme or poem, and how the patient met their spouse.

The tapes are then repeatedly played through headphones to the patient at times identified as likely agitated periods.

Simulated Presence Therapy is only suitable for patients diagnosed with dementia and with intact hearing, some verbal ability, and a regular propensity for certain behaviours such as yelling, disrobing and aggression.

Senior research fellow and psychologist Ms Edwina Beer, from the Department of Psychological Medicine, said the therapy was first used in a small study in the US in the early 1990s. However, no placebo group was used in this instance, whereas the Monash study is using a comparative study in which the

patients listen to a stranger talking on tape.

"The therapy is based on the belief that the earliest memories of Alzheimer's sufferers are the last ones to fade," Ms Beer said. "So we need to activate those memories to have a calming effect."

"The relative speaks in a conversational tone, with pauses for the patient to respond if appropriate. The anecdotal results so far have been that the tapes appear to have an immediate calming effect on patients."

"And because of their short-term memory problems, the tape is a new event every time they hear it."

Ms Beer said the therapy assisted relatives as well as patients, as it was a positive way of helping their loved ones.

"Often relatives feel guilty that they cannot cope with the strange behaviour of a loved one and have had to place them in a nursing home," she said.

"This therapy empowers the family to be proactive. The response from families so far has been phenomenal - we've had wives, siblings, grandchildren and various other relatives take part."

"It is an intensely personal project as well, because you hear very moving stories from these patients' lives."

Ms Beer said advantages of the therapy included the fact that it did not place further demands on nursing staff and that it was drug-free.

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www.monash.edu.au/news

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Schools



Enhancement Studies closing date

The Enhancement Studies Program gives high-achieving students the opportunity to study a Monash subject as part of their Year 12 program.

Applications for the 2002 Enhancement Studies Program close on 2 November. Late applications will be accepted subject to availability.

Subjects available include Accounting, Australian History/Politics, Chemistry, Chinese (Mandarin), Computer Technology/Programming, Economics, English Literature, Geography, History of WWII, Indonesian, Japanese, Jewish Civilisation, Mathematics, Communications/Media Studies, Music (Performance), and Philosophy.

For a handbook and application form, contact Ms Philippa Brown in the Prospective Students Office on telephone +61 3 9905 5859 or email philippa.brown@adm.monash.edu.au

VCE – Change of Preference

Monash will be conducting information sessions during the VTAC Change of Preference period. Students will be able to access information about all courses at all campuses at each session.

Metropolitan region: 19 December, 10 am to 2 pm, South One lecture theatre, building 64 Monash University, Clayton campus, Wellington Road, Clayton.

Gippsland region: 18 December, 2 pm to 7 pm, the Binishell, building 6N, Monash University, Gippsland campus, Northways Road, Churchill.

Students who are unable to attend a session can contact the Prospective Students Office for a copy of the *Change of Preference Information Guide* and advice on telephone +61 3 9905 1320 or email mci@adm.monash.edu.au

New course – direct application to Monash

A new four-year, full-time (or up to eight years, part-time) Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Social Work (BA/BSW) is being offered next year by Monash University. The course will be available either on-campus at Caulfield or by off-campus distributed learning. To be eligible, applicants must have satisfactorily completed the VCE or equivalent.

VCE prerequisites are a study score of at least 25 in English (any) and a study score of at least 20 in any three other subjects.

In the first two years of the course, students must study a major and minor stream of arts units. These must include studies of the individual in areas such as psychology and behavioural studies and a year of studies of society (in areas such as sociology, politics, history and philosophy). Students undertake social work studies in full over the last two years of the degree.

The course aims to produce graduates who:

- have developed critical analysis and communication skills via their studies in the humanities subjects in the arts curriculum;
- have both the theoretical knowledge and the practical skills necessary for beginning practice as a qualified social worker;
- are eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers.

As this course is not listed in the VTAC Guide (for 2002 entry), application should be made directly to BA/BSW Applications, Social Work at Monash, PO Box 197, Caulfield East 3145, Victoria.

For information and application forms, telephone +61 3 9903 1120.

Undergraduate scholarships at Monash

Students wishing to submit a postal application for undergraduate scholarships at Monash must do so before 31 October. Applications submitted over the web have an extended closing date of 30 November. For further information, visit www.adm.monash.edu.au/ssd/sarb/schols/

If you require additional copies of the 2002 *Coursework Scholarships Guide*, contact Ms Donna Aitken on telephone +61 3 9905 3013 or fax +61 3 9905 5004.

Remember the Apple II?

By MARY VISCOVICH

It is a little disconcerting to walk into a museum and find you are older than most of the pieces on display.

But the rapid change of technology which makes a computer obsolete almost as soon as you have left the shop is what makes Monash University's new Digital Evolution Museum so fascinating.

Launched by the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering within the Faculty of Information Technology on 17 October at the university's Caulfield campus, the museum presents a chronology of computing from the early 1960s to the present.

One of the highlights of the display is the PDP-9, which featured in the Australian film *The Dish* as the central computer in the control room of the Parkes radio telescope, used by the Americans to help monitor the first moon landing.

Organiser of the exhibit and IT lecturer at Caulfield Ms Judy Sheard said most of the exhibits in the museum were sourced from Monash computing archives and staff. Many of these pieces were simply gathering dust in long-forgotten corners.

"If we don't make an effort to preserve what we have in terms of our computing history, it will be lost," she said.

It was this concern and a visit to the university by Mr Max Burnett, honorary secretary of the Australian Computer Museum Society, which sparked the idea for the museum.

Ms Sheard said Mr Burnett had become concerned that Monash's first computer, a 1961 Feranti Sirius, of which only 24 were ever made, was lying under a set of stairs at the Clayton campus.



Switched on: Ms Judy Sheard with the museum's earliest example, a Millionar calculating machine from 1901 – the world's first true multiplication machine. Picture: GREG FORD

"His feeling was that this was an incredibly valuable relic that deserved to be preserved, and we hope to include the two-metre wide computer in the display at some stage in the future," Ms Sheard said.

The head of the school, Professor David Abramson, said he was delighted to see the machines finally laid out against a timeline.

"They certainly bring back memories. I have used a number of these computers personally, as an under-

graduate and graduate student and then as a staff member," he said.

Also featured in the museum are rare items such as a Millionar mechanical calculator, dated 1901. These calculators were the first to perform multiplication 'rapidly', and only a few were imported into Australia.

The museum is open to the public and may be viewed during normal university hours. Call +61 3 9903 2701 for details.

New research initiatives for Enterprise Information Research Group

By MARY VISCOVICH AND ALEX ST CLAIRE

Four major new initiatives in Monash's Faculty of Information Technology were launched at an event hosted by the Enterprise Information Research Group (EIRG).

Dean of the faculty Professor John Rosenberg welcomed about 100 guests, including Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson, to the launch at Caulfield campus on 25 September.

The initiatives include a Centre for Community Networking Research, a joint project involving the state government's Multimedia Victoria, the Library Board of Victoria and Monash University.

In declaring the programs open for business, executive director of Multimedia Victoria Mr Randall Straw said the four undertakings would explore the complex relationship and

interplay between information and communications technology and human behaviour.

"Each draws upon the recognition that the quality of the system is dependent on how well it takes the human and organisational contexts into account," he said.

"These undertakings represent the outcomes of a fruitful collaboration with external partners, which is one of the hallmarks of the Enterprise Information Research Group."

Building upon Victoria's world reputation in community networking through VICNET and other Victorian Government initiatives, the new centre will study and develop initiatives to ensure fair access to the benefits of information technology for all citizens.

The three other initiatives, solely funded by Monash, include the Information Systems Development Research Group, the Information Systems Management and eBusiness

Research Group, and the SIMS Graduate Research Centre

The Information Systems Development Research Group will focus on the information systems development process across a wide range of platforms and industries, while the Information Systems Management and eBusiness Research Group will apply this perspective to information systems in electronic business. A current interest of this group, shared with other EIRG colleagues, focuses on the potentialities of online banking for the Australian community.

The SIMS Graduate Research Centre, located at the Caulfield campus, will accommodate up to 25 research students from the School of Information Management and Systems. The centre recognises the needs of students conducting research for the first time and aims to foster a community of researchers.

Trips down memory lane ease dementia

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She said the results of the study, which would eventually involve up to 50 patients, were expected by mid-2002.

Professor O'Connor, who is also professor of psychogeriatrics at Monash University, said it was vital that research into dementia was well resourced.

"With our ageing population, it is a problem that is only going to increase. Already, statistics show that five per

cent of people aged over 65 years suffer from dementia.

"And by 2041, 500,000 people will have dementia, compared to 130,000 in 1995."

■ A conference, Preventing and Treating Depression in Late Life, will be jointly presented by the Monash Ageing Research Centre and the Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age on 15 and 16 November. Contact +61 3 9265 1700 or email zoe.dam@med.monash.edu.au for details.

Monash receives equal opportunity accolade

By ALEX ST CLAIRE

Monash University's family-friendly policies have been applauded in an awards ceremony at which the university was named an 'employer of choice for women'.

In recognition of initiatives that advance women in the workplace, Monash was a finalist at the national inaugural Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency

(EOWA) Business Achievement Awards in Sydney.

Monash was the only university nominated as a top five finalist, with vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson named in the category 'leading CEO for the advancement of women'.

"Monash has adopted staffing policies to provide a work environment where there is a commitment to equity and equal employment opportunity," Professor Robinson said.

"The university has also developed and promoted a coordinated and strategic approach to family-friendly work practices."

The university was a top 10 finalist in the category 'leading organisation (more than 500 employees) for the advancement of women', and the acting manager of the Equity and Diversity Centre, Ms Kay Gardner, was one of 10 nominees in the category 'diversity leader for the advancement of women'.

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Monash makes multimedia work for police

BY JUNE YU

Monash University's Faculty of Information Technology has taken a leading role in developing an interactive multimedia training program for police detectives.

The Future Vision CD-ROM program, developed by multimedia masters students Mr Ben Lipa and Mr Suteck Fu, was officially handed over to Victoria Police chief commissioner Ms Christine Nixon last month.

Ms Nixon said it was important for Victoria Police to incorporate the latest multimedia programs into the force's training to provide new skills and experience to its members.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of Monash University to help maintain and enhance the excellent reputation of Victoria Police and

the service we provide to the community," she said.

Mr Lipa said the program tested detectives' knowledge and understanding of the procedures and processes of crime investigations through the provision of simulated real-life situations.

It allows the detective in training to visit a virtual police world, including the police station, crime scene and interview room.

Responding to the instructions of the participant, it involves attending the crime scene, taking photographs, obtaining fingerprints, writing reports and interviewing suspects.

Mr Lipa said every aspect of the program was developed in line with Victoria Police's assessment system.

"The software tracks the user through the scenario and logs them onto a database, which allows the instructor to review and assess the

trainee's performance and that they have completed the required tasks in the proper order," he said.

Researcher from the School of Multimedia Systems Dr Raymond Li, who supervised the project, said the CD-ROM supplemented existing training systems by applying a realistic, cost-effective simulation that could be delivered when required.

"The program also provides a template from which the police can quickly and inexpensively build fresh or specialised scenarios tailored to specific investigations procedures," he said.

"As far as we know, this package is the first of its kind in Australia to apply this level of interactivity to police competency testing in crimes investigation procedures."

For more information about the CD-ROM, contact Dr Raymond Li on telephone +61 3 9905 2354.



Fighting crime: From left, Dr Raymond Li, Sen Sgt Ged Griffin and Det-Sen Sgt Rod Lloyd of the Strategic Planning Unit and Mr Ben Lipa test the CD-ROM that will help detectives refine their skills. Picture: MAURICE DREW-GRANT

Pharmacy research follows a natural course

BY JUNE YU

Monash University researchers hope to develop natural alternatives to existing anti-inflammatory drugs that could aid arthritis sufferers.

Researchers from the university's Victorian College of Pharmacy have isolated and successfully tested compounds with anti-inflammatory properties in a Thai plant called gynura.

Pharmacological evaluation supervisor Dr Ian Coupar and honours student Ms Cindy Song screened the compounds and found extracts that were more potent than existing steroid anti-inflammatory drugs.

"There is still a need to develop better anti-inflammatory drugs, because

all the existing ones have quite serious side effects and can only be used for short periods of time," he said.

For example, he explained, steroid-based anti-inflammatories could suppress the immune system, increasing risk of infections. They could also retard growth and needed to be used with caution in babies and children.

Dr Coupar said the next step in the research was to identify the chemical properties and the active ingredients of the gynura extract.

Ultimately, the goal was to develop natural or hybrid anti-inflammatory drugs to treat diseases such as arthritis, skin conditions and ulcerative colitis (inflammation of the colon).

Medicinal chemistry senior lecturer Dr Magdy Iskander said gynura, a shrub-like plant, had been used in Thai and Southeast Asian traditional medicine for years as an anti-inflammatory and anti-viral agent.

But, he said, the active chemical constituents responsible for the plant's therapeutic properties had never been properly identified.

"The plant has been used only externally to treat skin conditions. I am hoping that our researchers can develop internal remedies from the plant's extracts," he said.

According to Dr Iskander, other researchers are working on extracts from the doum tree, an Egyptian plant, which lowers blood pressure in rats.

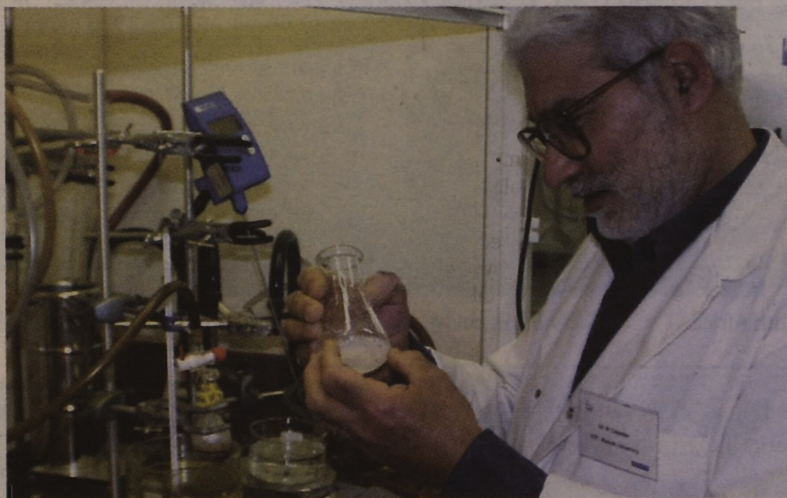
Dr Iskander, whose interest is in natural product-based drug discovery, plans to investigate the medicinal properties of all Aboriginal plants in Victoria. His work aims to provide a scientific basis for natural medicines and herbal remedies.

"There are many natural products and extracts on the market at the moment, and we want to explore the active ingredients of these products to discover new drugs," he said.

"We aim to make Monash a centre of excellence in research on natural products and herbal medicines."

The results of the group's research will be published in *Plant Foods for Human Nutrition* early in 2002.

For more information, contact Dr Magdy Iskander on telephone +61 3 9903 9545.



A natural alternative: Dr Magdy Iskander examining the crystal formation of one of the isolated compounds. Picture: PETER MCGILVER

Record numbers at postgraduate expo

BY MARY VISCOVICH AND ALEX ST CLAIRE

Melbourne Town Hall came alive last month, with 977 Victorians inquiring about further study during the 2001 Monash Postgraduate Information Expo.

In the most successful Monash postgraduate expo to date, official figures placed the number of those seeking information on postgraduate programs at almost three times that of last year.

Staff attending the event represented seven faculties: Arts, Business and Economics, Education, Engineering, Information Technology, Law and Science.

Also attracting interest was the newly announced Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme (PELS), an interest-free loan facility for fee-paying students undertaking postgraduate coursework programs.

These students can now receive financial assistance similar to that which undergraduates currently receive under the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS).

PELS allows students to obtain a loan from the Commonwealth Government to pay for part or all tuition fees incurred from 2002.

For information about PELS, visit www.hecs.gov.au/pels.htm or call 1800 020 108.



BRIEFS

Murdoch speaks out

Australia risks global irrelevance if it does not make an urgent investment and improvement in education, media tycoon Mr Rupert Murdoch warned recently.

The head of News Corporation called on Australia to invest in education and to be more internationally competitive. Countries that lacked top-quality educational institutions were suffering a loss of human capital, he said.

"No country in the developed world needs educational improvements more urgently than Australia, and education is not enough of a core priority," Mr Murdoch said.

He said that while the Howard Government had allocated an encouraging \$4.4 billion to support higher education, more needed to be done to develop Australia's universities at a

time when there had been a "disturbing erosion" of postgraduates and a drop in the percentage of young people in both government schools and higher education.

"Adding more places for students will enlarge our universities. Adding great numbers of world-class teachers would revolutionise them."

He noted that last year the Federal Government spent more on peacetime defence measures than on education.

Packaging prizes

Monash visual communication and design students in the Faculty of Art and Design excelled in this year's Southern Cross Packaging Awards, winning awards in each category. Gold prize winners were Mr Warain Benjapong for eau de toilette packaging, Ms Jennifer Paul for an adult money tin, Ms Lena Shifman for a

barbecue sauce bottle, Mr Michael Owen for a mobile phone pack and Ms Jennie Isaacs for a city lunch box.

Strategic success

The recent national championships of the BCG Business Strategy Competition have been won by a Monash undergraduate team from the Faculty of Business and Economics.

The students, who beat state finalists from around Australia and New Zealand, had three hours to prepare a case study of the Australian supermarket industry, before giving a 10-minute presentation of their recommendations to a panel of adjudicators from the Boston Consulting Group.

The Monash team consisted of Ms Laura Brown, Mr David Vines, Mr Mark Sinopoli, Mr Mok Wai Hoe, Ms Jodie Crawford and Mr Justin Quigg.

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2001: the year

Monash's 40th year has been an exciting one – from the opening of a campus in South Africa and a centre in Prato to deals with football clubs and groundbreaking research developments and industry links. ALLISON HARDING looks back at 2001.

New beginnings

Monash University extended its international activities further this year, with the opening of a campus in South Africa and a new centre in Prato, Italy.

As the first Australian university registered to operate as a private higher education institution in South Africa, Monash launched its new campus at Roodeport, near Johannesburg, with 50 new students in late February.

Studies offered include arts, business and commerce, business systems, and computing and information

technology, and further courses are currently being planned.

Pro vice-chancellor Professor John Anderson says the campus is part of the new South Africa's growing involvement with the global economy and will play a major role in educating the country's youth for the challenges ahead.

September saw the opening on the Monash Prato Centre in Italy. The centre is a gateway into Europe for Monash staff and students and is combining with the Monash Centre at King's College London to forge links between the academic and professional communities of Australia and Europe.



First steps: New recruits at Monash South Africa.



The flags are flying: The Monash Centre in Prato, Italy.

Synchrotrons and science centres

Three major projects announced during 2001 – the \$4.2 million Monash Science Centre, the \$300 million Monash STRIP (Science Technology Research and Innovation Precinct) and the \$157 million synchrotron – reinforce the university's commitment to science.

The projects are indicative of how the university will look in 2020. The new science precinct at Clayton

campus will provide a multidisciplinary environment in which the university, businesses and industry will work together to develop new products and industries from research with commercial potential.

And within the new precinct, science will be equally accessible to all students – from primary, secondary and tertiary students through to post-graduate students – working and learning in an industry-based environment.

Monash deputy vice-chancellor (Resources) Ms Alison Crook says

businesses and industry will be drawn to the precinct because of the links it will provide to the overall university environment.

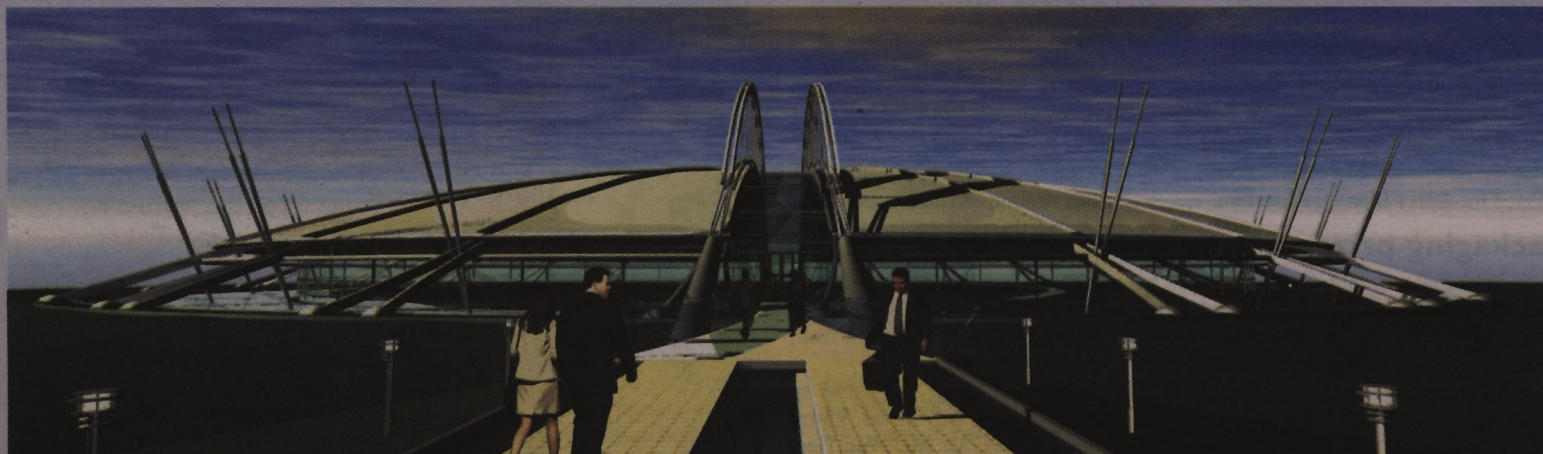
The Monash Science Centre, due to be completed in 2002, will provide the initial starting blocks to inspire children to learn about science. It will attract mainly primary school groups and families, who will come to appreciate science through a range of hands-on educational programs.

Stage one of the STRIP is also due for completion by the end of next year. In total, the planned cluster

will comprise seven buildings and car parks progressively developed over five stages.

Work on the Victorian Government's \$157 million synchrotron, the ideal complement to the STRIP, will begin mid-2002.

The synchrotron – an extraordinarily powerful microscope that will help local and international scientists make major breakthroughs – is regarded as the most significant scientific infrastructure investment in Australia for many years.



Taking off: Australia's first synchrotron will be built at Monash University – a powerful \$157 million microscope that will revolutionise scientific research.

International pursuits

Monash International is moving from Caulfield to new premises at the university's Clayton campus early in 2002.

A four-storey \$14 million complex will be the new hub for the university's international activities – from attracting students to working on worldwide aid projects.

Monash International, which is responsible for international marketing, recruitment and admissions, and the Office of International Affairs, will occupy the western wing of the building. The eastern wing will accommodate student and administration facilities for Monash College and the Monash University English Language Centre.

The complex was a necessary response to the growing demand for Monash College courses, which offer local and international students guaranteed entry into selected Monash courses after one year's preparatory study.

Also announced this year was that the Hangzhou Greentown Yu Hua School has become the second provider of Monash College programs in China.

The Hangzhou School began teaching English language programs in October, with the Monash College Certificate program in business and information technology to begin in March 2002.

The announcement followed the success of the programs at the Guangzhou Huaemi International School, which began teaching English in July.



Malaysian graduates

History was made in September with the graduation of the first students from Monash University Malaysia.

While the university has held graduations in Malaysia since 1991, the September ceremony was the first to include Monash students who completed their degrees in Malaysia.

The graduates were awarded degrees in business and commerce, biotechnology, environmental management, computer science and nursing.

Established in February 1998, Monash Malaysia now has a student population of 1500, 13 per cent of whom are international students.

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Accident research

The Monash University Accident Research Centre has continued to make headlines during the year.

A new director, Dr Ian Johnston, formerly head of ARRB Transport Research and former road safety director at VicRoads, was appointed in July.

When interviewed for *Monash News* in July, he nominated aviation and rail safety as fields where MUARC could make a significant new impact.

"There is very little basic research going on into air and rail safety. Australia has a very good accident investigation system, but we don't have a systematic program of injury prevention research," he said.

In a joint project announced in May, new prototype SafeCars were fitted with a range of technologies that monitor driver behaviour and deter dangerous practices.

MUARC project manager Dr Michael Regan said the new technolo-

gies had the potential to reduce the road toll in Victoria by at least 30 per cent.

Research released in June confirming that passengers had significant effects on driver behaviour is likely to help road safety authorities enhance the positive and minimise the negative effects of passengers.

Other ongoing MUARC research includes a collaborative study with Monash's Centre for Applied Drug and Alcohol Research and the Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre to investigate the effect of cannabis use on driving ability.

The study is jointly funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and VicRoads, as well as other baseline MUARC sponsors.

To cap off the year, MUARC is hosting a major conference, *Regain the Momentum - 2001: Road Safety Research, Policing and Education*, on 19 and 20 November.

For more information, visit www.monash.edu.au/oce/roadsafety/intro.htm



Sporting chance: Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson and St Kilda president Mr Rod Butters clinch the deal.

Sporting pursuits

Monash University and Melbourne-based football club St Kilda this year announced a new strategic alliance, the first of its kind between an AFL club and a university.

As part of the deal, signed in June, the club gained access to top sporting facilities at Monash, as well as education and professional development opportunities.

The alliance will also see St Kilda players and Monash researchers collaborate on research projects aimed at improving the performances of players.

The deal also means that St Kilda will be able to establish closer links with its supporter base in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs.

Also announced during the year was the merger of the university's cricket club with Victorian Premier side Hawthorn-Waverley.

The merger means that Monash cricketers now have a direct path

into the Australian Test side through playing for the new Hawthorn-Monash University Cricket Club.

And the university's Peninsula campus is home to an almost-complete \$1 million hockey facility. Campus director Mr John White said the campus would become a central point for sporting activities in the community.

The Monash Student Union will manage the facility, which will be used by local hockey clubs, schools and other community groups.

Mr White said the new facility was a sign of the great working relationship between MONSU, the university and local community groups.

Both the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula hockey clubs, which currently do not have a home ground, will use the new facility for training and home games.

The multipurpose synthetic surface will allow the pitch to be used for other sports, including netball, touch footy and soccer.

Stem cells coup

Researchers from Monash's acclaimed Institute of Reproduction and Development made the US White House's elite register of institutions given access to apply for \$480 million in US federal research funds, it was announced in September.

Monash University and Australian biotech company BresaGen were among 10 laboratories worldwide whose stem cell line was given the nod under the program outlined by US President George W. Bush.

MIRD's commercial arm, ESI Cell International, is funding experiments to be conducted on its existing cell lines, which were derived from embryos donated through an infertility program in Singapore.

Associate Professor Martin Pera from MIRD said the announcement was the first step towards allowing academics and publicly funded research outfits access to stem cell lines.

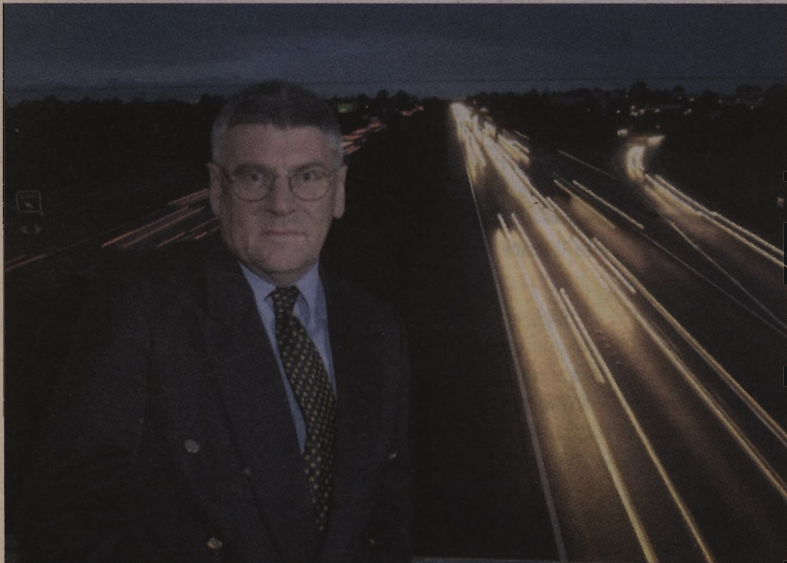
"This will open up stem cell research to a whole new group of researchers, who can now contribute their expertise to help us realise the full potential of stem cells in treating disease and degenerative conditions," he said.

"It will accelerate the pace of our research, because with more people will come more progress."

Embryonic stem cells have the potential to be grown into any kind of cell in the body, including nerve, heart, skin or bone tissue.

Professor Pera said more than 50 applications had already been received from overseas researchers wishing to access the Monash cell lines, and he expected the number of applications to increase significantly.

He said the September announcement was significant as it provided support for stem cell research, enabled Monash researchers to apply for NIH funding, and allowed Monash to collaborate with groups in the US who were using NIH funding.



New directions: Dr Ian Johnston takes the wheel at MUARC

BRIEFLY

A new super research organisation, the Monash Institutes of Health, launched in February, has brought together more than 1000 health and medical researchers working in the Clayton precinct.

MIH consolidates expertise in the fields of DNA sequencing, biotechnology, embryonic stem cells, diabetes, drug discovery, cancer research, population health statistics and clinical practice.

The super research organisation attracted significant interest at the mid-year Bio2001 international biotechnology conference in San Diego, California.



Monash scientists announced in March that they had successfully grown a genetically engineered plant containing a measles vaccine in a technique that could eventually lead to simpler and cheaper immunisation programs for a range of viral diseases, including HIV and malaria.

The Monash research team, from the Infectious Diseases Unit based at the Alfred Hospital, concluded that an edible vaccine was possible.

Researchers from the Australian Crustal Research Centre believe Australia and Java are on a collision course that will eventually see the two landmasses 'smack' together due to continental drift.

The scientists are at the helm of a new virtual time-machine that can visually analyse the earth, inside and out, at various stages of its evolution.

World-first research at Monash University's Dandenong Psychiatry Research Centre identified the natural hormone estrogen as a potentially powerful treatment for schizophrenia.

The study showed significant improvements in female patients' psychotic symptoms when administered with estrogen by skin patches.

The results were so encouraging that the researchers have now embarked on a three-year trial on male patients.

A landmark study by Monash University's Centre for Population and Urban Research revealed that the brain-drain was a myth.

The study showed that Australia actually enjoyed a net 'brain-gain' of more than 155,000 skilled workers over the past five years.

Faculty of Education research revealed that secondary school can be an isolating experience for ethnic minority girls.

Dr Georgina Tsoidis's research showed that attitudes towards gender and ethnicity within the Australian education system and school cultures created divisions which disadvantaged ethnic minority girls.

Country towns would fail to attract urgently needed women doctors unless the system was restructured, federally funded research revealed in May.

Senior lecturer from Monash's School of Rural Health Ms Jo Wainer said a deeper understanding of the way women worked was needed.

She said women rural doctors had specific workforce, professional and personal needs which differed to those of their male colleagues.

A new \$12 million education precinct in Churchill, announced in June, will boost Monash's ability to provide the best education and access to study for local students.

The university's Gippsland campus will be a key part of the precinct, due to open in 2003, which will incorporate an education centre for 750 senior secondary students as well as TAFE and university students.

Students in remote areas will be able to link into various programs through an information and communication technology hub.

The Honorable Justice Michael Kirby, AC, CMG, Justice of the High Court of Australia, launched the new International Institute of Forensic Studies in July.

The brainchild of Professor The Honourable George Hampel, QC, from the Faculty of Law, the institute is the first of its kind in the world and has a wide-ranging brief to examine all aspects of the court process and associated professions.

Research comparing how sophisticated legal systems handle expert evidence is among the institute's early projects.

Australian businesses were ignoring a massive untapped market in India at their peril, warned the interim director of the Monash Asia Institute in August.

Associate Professor Marika Vicziany, who completed a chapter in a major report commissioned by the Federal Government's Department of Foreign Affairs, said it was crucial for

Australian companies to make the most of emerging opportunities.

A mysteriously acquired Ned Kelly death mask that languished in the School of Historical Studies for almost 30 years has a new home at the State Library of Victoria.

Professor Graeme Davison, head of the school, presented the bushranger's death mask to the library, which has an impressive collection of 'Kellyiana', in August.

Monash's Berwick campus will be home to a new multimedia centre after 2004. The centre will comprise multimedia laboratories, design studios, staff accommodation, two tutorial rooms and a 220-capacity lecture theatre.

Already allocated \$2 million of Federal Government funding, the campus is expected to attract more funding in 2005.

Scientists from the Centre for Green Chemistry developed a new form of morphine that can give drug addicts the option of pain relief without becoming hooked on the powerful opiate.

The process, announced in July, took about four years to develop and involved three chemical reactions that prevent morphine molecules from entering the addictive centre of the brain.

A very perplexing poll

Can history be used to predict the winner of the 2001 federal election? **PROFESSOR BRIAN COSTAR** from Monash's School of Social and Political Inquiry assesses the chances of the Coalition and the Labor Party.

OPINION

AT THE time of writing, the opinion polls have the Coalition home in a canter, yet morale in the ALP camp is high following Kim Beazley's apparent win over the Prime Minister in their recent television debate.

What an extraordinary election campaign! Several weeks ago all the polls had Labor in front – some by a huge margin. Then we had the Tampa asylum seekers and the devastating terrorist assaults in the US, followed by anthrax threats (both real and imagined) and the delayed bombing of Afghanistan by the US.

Almost overnight the polls went into reverse – Labor's support plummeted and the Coalition's primary vote rose to an historically high 50 per cent.

The pundits claim that wars and international uncertainty always favour incumbents in Australian elections. Yet the evidence is not quite so clear cut.

We are in 2001, not 1966, when Prime Minister Harold Holt won a landslide victory against the backdrop of the Vietnam War. The difference lies in the fact that in 1966 the ALP, led by Arthur Calwell, was actively opposed to Australian involvement, whereas now Kim Beazley fully supports the US 'war on terrorism'.

The 1940 and 1943 elections are better analogies. In 1940, the incumbent, Robert Menzies, was returned but with such a reduced majority that he was soon replaced as prime minister



It's a deal: Prime Minister John Howard and Opposition leader Kim Beazley with Ray Martin before the debate. Picture: AAP

by his party, which lost office in 1941. The Labor prime minister, John Curtin, won a 1966-type landslide in 1943 but against a very divided and weakened opposition.

What was interesting about the 1940 and 1943 polls was that while war concerns were prominent, they did not altogether crowd out debate over domestic issues. Unlike Britain, which postponed an election due in 1940 and formed a national government of all parties, Australia continued the competitive party contest at both federal

and state levels, even in the darkest days of conflict.

The current conventional wisdom holds that if the ALP can refocus the electorate onto domestic matters such as health, education, the GST, and so on, it could still emerge victorious on 10 November.

The rapid improvement of the Coalition in the polls was the result of a quite understandable emotional reaction of voters to the events of 11 September in the US.

It is possible, then, that the Coalition's support has a 'soft' component that may dissipate in the weeks

remaining in the campaign. As well, the Coalition must maintain a high primary vote to be assured of victory because most of the preferences of the minor parties strongly favour Labor. Interestingly, while the minor parties have dipped in the opinion polls since 11 September, the flow of preferences to the ALP has remained constant.

On the other hand, neither the government nor Labor has any central or real influence over future international events or the US reaction to them, yet Prime Minister Howard's decision to commit 1500 Australian troops to

Afghanistan may have unexpected consequences.

Either party could win the election, but it is unlikely to be close – Australian federal elections rarely are.

■ *Monash University's Politics department is one of the largest in Australia, offering courses to more than 2000 students. About 40 undergraduate units are offered along with a range of post-graduate courses. Politics at Monash has an active research tradition, and staff frequently participate in public debates and media discussions.*

VOX POPS

Who will get your vote in the November election? Have recent events changed your decision? Monash News conducted its own mini poll of on-campus voters.



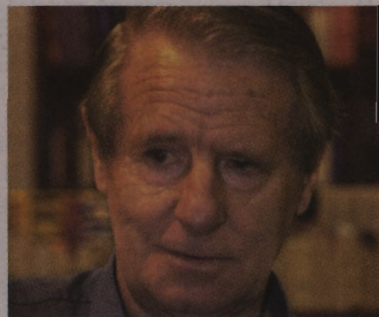
Briana George, 21
Heathmont
Arts/law student

I think I'll be voting for Kim Beazley. He's taking a very good stand on education and the image he puts across is better than Howard's. Unfortunately, I think the Liberals will win because John Howard's taken such a steadfast stance in relation to the asylum seekers, which I don't agree with.



Tanya Figiel, 21
Mount Waverley
Arts/science student

Most likely I'll be voting for either the Democrats or the Greens because I'm not a huge fan of the major parties. I'm really hoping that it won't be the Liberals. I think some of the things they've been doing recently are quite dodgy with John Howard being on the military bandwagon, especially with the Tampa boat crisis.



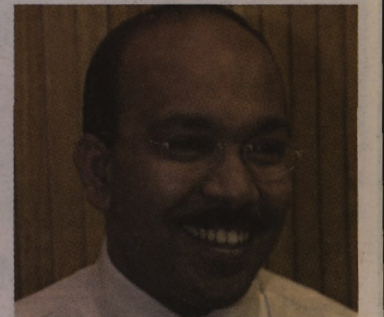
Allan Russell, 69
Doncaster
Stationary buyer

I haven't thought about who I'll vote for. I usually read up and see who is the most genuine. I think John Howard might just get in because he seems to have more strength. He's standing up to everybody now on issues such as the Tampa crisis and the war in Afghanistan whereas before he was a bit meek.



Karen Haroutunian, 28
Hawthorn
Hairdresser

I'm undecided at the moment, I would not want to vote for either of them. I used to vote Liberal but I probably would like to vote Democrats. I'm a bit disillusioned at the moment. I was so embarrassed when John Howard spoke in America last month. I think he's the worst public speaker known to man. I hope that Labor will win.



Ravi Ravitharan, 39
Wantirna South
Research fellow

I haven't quite made up my mind yet. I'm going to play the cards very close to my chest. I'll probably vote for the Liberal Party because I usually vote for them. Going with the current trend, I think they will win unless they muck up, for example if events escalate and things go really badly.

Cray matter works to enhance engineering research

BY JUNE YU

A \$1 million world-class Cray super-computer will boost the research capabilities of Monash University's Engineering faculty.

The recently donated Cray SV1, which will be one of Australia's fastest supercomputers, is designed to work on scientific and engineering problems requiring very large single calculations that cannot be done on a normal desktop computer.

Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering head Professor Greg Egan said the machine would be a powerful tool for ongoing industry research related to genomics, telecommunications, mining, defence and the automotive industry.

"Our work includes simulating very large telecommunications networks, including the next generation mobile networks, in order to determine their performance in applications such as video-conferencing and video-on-demand," he said.

"We are also modelling solar storm activity over the Antarctic and its effect on telecommunications systems."

Professor Egan said the department, along with colleagues in mechanical engineering, was interested in infrastructure management.

"In our case, this is best represented by our work with the electrical power industry. We are conducting simulation studies of the behaviour of electrical power distribution networks to determine the most cost-effective times to replace parts such as transformers," he said.

"It is very important to be able to predict their lifetimes so they can be replaced in a cost-effective manner."

He said this could lead to significant cost-savings for power companies, which could be passed on to consumers.

He said the Cray was becoming a popular tool for "code breaking" work on the human genome project in gene sequencing and matching.

Department of Mechanical Engineering researcher Professor Rhys Jones said the Cray would help the department's work with the aeronautical industry and the Australian Defence Department.

"The Australian aeronautical industry has to ensure that its systems are safe and capable of meeting operational requirements," he said.

"It needs ways of assessing airworthiness and how to undertake structural modifications to ensure a particular operational lifetime. The Cray will be used to work out and simulate stresses on F111 aircraft to aid in this work."

Professor Jones said the mining industry would also benefit from the Cray's computing power.

"Australia now exports 37 per cent of the world's coal. We are looking at how more can be exported without increasing axle loads on the rails," he said.

"The only way you can do that is to produce lighter ore carriers. The challenge is to make these without compromising the safety of mine workers."

Other Monash faculties, including Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and Science, would also be able to use the Cray for their research.

Monash's engineering students will also have access to the Cray for studies related to computer architecture.

For more information about the Cray supercomputer, contact Professor Greg Egan on +61 3 9905 1369 or Professor Rhys Jones on +61 3 9905 3809.

Gippsland student wins art prize

The 2001 Campus Activities Victoria Tertiary Art Prize, which attracted 45 entries from eight universities across the state, has been won by Monash visual art student Mr Adam Cochrane for his work 'Greater Than'.

The art prize, which aims to showcase the work of tertiary students from across Victoria, is an open competition, accepting works in any artform or medium, including photography, film and video.

Mr Cochrane, a second-year student from the Gippsland campus, received the award for 'best overall work' at an exhibition opening held at the Switchback Gallery last month.



Prize winner: Mr Adam Cochrane with his award-winning work 'Greater Than'. Picture: DELWYN HEWITT

ARTS SCENE

Visions of ecstasy

Ecstasy and the Pleasure of Collecting, on display in Switchback Gallery at Monash's Gippsland campus, will feature the Allan Aldous Asian art collection and recent acquisitions to the Latrobe Regional Gallery permanent collection.

The collection draws together historical Japanese coloured woodcuts, kimonos, contemporary sculpture installation and Australian art.

The exhibition, which runs until 15 November, is a prelude to the display of the permanent collection, which will go on show when the gallery's redevelopment is completed.

Gippsland show

From 20 November, Switchback Gallery will feature an exhibition of works by final-year visual arts students, including paintings, photography and sculptures.

For more information, contact +61 3 5127 6261.

Cut and Paste

From 9 November to 15 February, the Faculty Gallery will present *Work: Cut, Paste, Paint, Create, Burn*, which features a selection of student work from across the studios in the Faculty of Art and Design.

Contact the gallery for more information on +61 3 9903 2882.

Made in China

Visiting Chinese artist Professor Liao Jun will display a selection of his work in the Faculty Gallery of Monash's Caulfield campus.

Professor Liao is dean of the School of Fine Arts at Suzhou University.

Contrasting black on the pure space of paper, his work abstracts flowers, birds, trees and the inspiration of nature.

The exhibition, titled *Professor Liao Jun*, will run until 6 November.

Novel

Wilson's Promontory, the southernmost tip of the Australian mainland, is the spectacular backdrop for romance, sex and murder in the latest novel by Monash University academic Associate Professor Peter Fitzpatrick.

Promontory is expected to do for 'The Prom' what his AFI award-winning screenplay *Hotel Sorrento* did for the seaside Peninsula town.

Head of the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies at Monash, Dr Fitzpatrick also co-wrote the successful football crime novel *Death in the Back Pocket* and the screenplay *Brilliant Lies*.

In his new novel, a bush-walk in the summer of 1924 goes horribly wrong for the assortment of characters in the fictional tale.

Promontory is published by Hybrid Publishers.

Milestone collection

Monash will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its art collection this year. To commemorate the event, the university's Museum of Art at Clayton campus will feature *Monash University Collection 1961-2001: Forty Years of Collecting*.

The collection was established by the first vice-chancellor of Monash, Professor Louis Matheson, who allocated £500 annually for art acquisitions.

The collection now consists of more than 1100 contemporary artworks in different media by 330 artists.

It will run from 4 to 21 December and will then continue through January 2002. For more information, contact +61 3 9905 1632.

Chamber music

The final concert in the Making Music Series will be held in the Music Auditorium at the Clayton campus on 11 November at 3 pm.

Sponsored by the Monash MBA Program, the concert will feature chamber music performed by staff and friends of the School of Music - Conservatorium.

A concert by re-sound 2001, a performance of music by Steve Adam, Thomas Reiner, Iannis Xenakis and others, will take place on 23 November at 8 pm in the Drama Theatre, Clayton campus.

Telephone +61 3 9905 1111 for information and bookings.

INPRINT

Building a New Community: Immigration and the Victorian Economy

Edited by Andrew Markus
Published by Allen and Unwin
RRP: \$35



With around 50 per cent of Australians being either the child or grandchild of an immigrant, it is easy to see the strong and lasting influence immigration has had on the nation. Victoria, in particular, is Australia's most multicultural state, and Melbourne is one of the world's great multicultural cities.

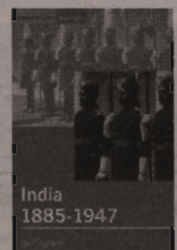
Building a New Community delves into the past 100 years of immigration to Victoria, looking at various groups who came to the state, the conditions under which they arrived and the businesses and industries they created. The text analyses the direct economic benefits of immigration such as the impact on growth, investment and entrepreneurship.

Current Monash University academics contributing to the book include Associate Professor Andrew Markus, deputy head of the School of Historical Studies; Dr Bob Birrell, director of the Centre for Population and Urban Research; and Associate Professor Tony Dingle, head of the Department of Economics.

India, 1885-1947:

The Unmaking of an Empire

By Ian Copland
Published by Longman
RRP: \$20.50



The period of British rule in India lasted from the early 1800s to 1947 and, for a majority of this time, it was considered the permanent 'jewel in the crown' of the Empire. The British considered themselves excellent rulers, and Indians, for the most part, were resigned to the rule of the foreign Raj.

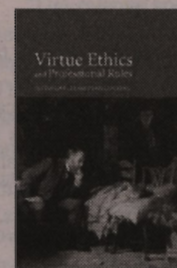
But in 1885, the Indian National Congress was established and, only 60 years later, India was given its freedom. In *India, 1885-1947*, author Ian Copland probes the reasons behind the sudden change.

The text begins with the establishment of the congress and concludes with the first years of independence, detailing India's struggle for self-rule, with Gandhi as its central figure. The author suggests the decolonisation process was a complex series of events, not simply the result of nationalist pressure.

Dr Copland teaches history at Monash University and heads the university's Centre of South Asian Studies. His previous publications include *The Burden of Empire: Perspectives on Imperialism and Colonialism*, and *The Princes of India in the End-Game of Empire, 1917-1947*.

Virtue Ethics and Professional Roles

By Justin Oakley and Dean Cocking
Published by Cambridge University Press (2001)
RRP: \$125



From the time of the Ancient Greeks, it has been argued that the development of good character traits or virtues is the foundation of morality - a person is good if they have virtues and lack vices, a theory known as virtue ethics.

In *Virtue Ethics and Professional Roles*, authors Justin Oakley and Dean Cocking take examples from medical and legal practice to develop an exploration and defence of virtue ethics.

The text provides insights into the notions of professional detachment, professional integrity and moral character in professional life, and demonstrates how a virtue-based approach can provide insights into the nature of ethical professional-client relationships.

Dr Justin Oakley, a senior lecturer and director of the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University, is also the author of *Morality and the Emotions*. Dr Dean Cocking is an academic in the Philosophy department at Charles Sturt University in New South Wales.

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

Books featured in 'Inprint' are available or can be ordered at Monash's four on-campus bookshops.

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www.monash.edu.au

Child-friendly map makes the grade

BY ALEX ST CLAIRE

Starting high school can be a difficult time for many youngsters, so a group of education students from Monash University's Peninsula campus has created a child-friendly map of the Frankston area to help make the transition smoother.

The map, which folds to business-card size, contains information about Frankston's central activity district in an easy-to-read 3D style.

Pay phones, bus stops, parks, taxi ranks and organisations that welcome youngsters are displayed by symbols on the map.

The Monash students, from the Faculty of Education, completed the project under the guidance of senior lecturer Dr Karen Malone.

The idea for the project originated with Dr Malone, who presented a report, titled 'Growing up in Frankston', to the local council in 1999.

She shared her idea with third-year students, who interviewed youngsters from Frankston and surrounding areas to establish the level of awareness of their city and their needs.

"The initial research revealed that young people often found it difficult or scary going to Frankston," Dr Malone said. "They also said they needed information about where safe public toilets were located and who to contact for bus and train schedules."



Mapped out: Students show their child-friendly map to young volunteers, with senior lecturer Dr Karen Malone (fourth from left). Picture: MAURICE DREW-GRANT

The feasibility study for the transition map, presented to the local council at the end of last year, received high commendation, and this semester the students completed the project.

"Monash University has generously supported this child-friendly initiative," the students said. "It shows a great commitment to the community, and we've been pleased to have been involved. It's been a great experience."

Sponsorship from child-friendly organisations listed on the back of the

map paid for the printing of the plastic-coated maps.

"The students working on the map have been walking the beat, drumming up sponsorship and enlisting designers," Dr Malone said.

The maps will be presented to Year 6 students as part of their orientation package for secondary school. They have already received a great response from the children involved in the pilot scheme. "I think it's a cool idea," said one Year 6 student.

28 years ago - 1973

Plans for the Krongold Centre complete

Plans for the proposed Krongold Centre for child training, to be built on a site adjacent to the Education faculty at Monash University, have been completed.

The university's architect, Mr Alan Scott, designed the centre from sketch plans drawn up by Mr Fred Perry, senior lecturer in education, and other members of the Faculty of Education.

Funding from the Krongolds will help create a purpose-built environment in a quality research and clinical setting to support a range of post-graduate studies in special education.

■ *Dr Henry Krongold and Mrs Dinah Krongold returned to the Krongold Centre in September to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the centre's opening.*

10 years ago - 1991

Computer network brings Monash campuses closer

A computer network being installed at Monash will bring the campuses closer together, according to the director of the Computer Centre, Mr Peter Annal.

The ethernet network will allow for fast information transfer in an

40 YEARS

1961-2001

In 1961, 363 students arrived at a new university in Melbourne's south-east. Today, more than 44,000 people are studying at Monash University. We look back through the years.

expanded network, giving access to institutions around the world.

"Ethernet is a great technological step forward for Monash. It allows a link with the computer down the hall, across the campus, on the next campus, or even across the continents," Mr Annal said.

"Files which were originally sent through the regular mail will now be delivered electronically."

■ *All of Monash's eight campuses are now linked by an intranet involving around 400 web servers and reaching*

staff in Victoria - from Gippsland in the state's south-east to Parkville in inner-city Melbourne - and internationally in Malaysia, South Africa and Europe.

7 years ago - 1994

Investigating the Khmer Rouge

A Monash historian is studying more than 200,000 pages of documents found in a secret extermination facility in Cambodia during Khmer Rouge rule in the 1970s.

The documents - confessions extracted from prisoners while being tortured, as well as records of the behaviour of the interrogators - have been microfilmed by Cornell University for analysis.

Leading specialist in Cambodian history Professor David Chandler has received a grant from Monash vice-chancellor Professor Mal Logan to purchase the microfilms, which will be stored in the university library.

■ *Years of research by Professor David Chandler, now an emeritus professor in Monash's History department, resulted in the publication last year of a book titled Voices from S-21. The book bears witness to the suffering of those incarcerated in one of the Khmer Rouge's most notorious prisons.*

Compiled by DEREK BROWN. Telephone: +61 3 9905 5329 email: derek.brown@adm.monash.edu.au

There's still time to change!



Monash Change of Preference Information Sessions

Now you have your VCE results you may want to reconsider your course selection. At the Monash Change of Preference information sessions you can speak to faculty representatives about the courses you have selected or want to apply for. Every course at each of our campuses will be represented, so come along and discover how at Monash, the world is your campus.

Metropolitan region: Wednesday 19 December, 10 am - 2 pm
South One Lecture Theatre, Building 64
Monash University, Clayton campus
Wellington Road, Clayton

Gippsland region: Tuesday 18 December, 2 pm - 7 pm
The Binisshell, Building 6N
Monash University, Gippsland campus
Northways Road, Churchill

To find out more, contact our Prospective Students Office for your free **Monash Change of Preference Guide** or download a copy at www.monash.edu.au/cop. The guide provides useful information about tackling the Change of Preference period including information on undergraduate courses, entry requirements, fee-liaible places and more.

Prospective Students Office
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