

MONASH REPORTER

A MAGAZINE FOR THE UNIVERSITY



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A quarter-century on . . . And it's all coming together

1987 is set to be a landmark year for Monash, highlighted by the completion of two major and long-planned projects — and the acquisition of a splendid new amenity that nobody had dreamed of a year ago . . .

- By far the most important development will be the opening of the new \$150 million hospital — now to be known as the Monash Medical Centre — in Clayton Road, just 1.6 km from the campus.
- An equally cherished dream, however, has been the provision of a ground-level art gallery, and this will become a reality next week.
- And, showing a rare talent for making a virtue of necessity, the university this month will gain a fine ornamental lake (plus a "mountain") that started off on the Dandenong Valley Authority's drawing boards as a very mundane flood retardation basin.

The five-storey Monash Medical Centre now nearing completion represents the realisation of a dream that has existed since the university's master plan was first drawn in the late 1950s.

The project has undergone many changes under successive state governments over the years, but a massive boost in funding and status followed the present government's decision last year to amalgamate the project with Prince Henry's and Queen Victoria Medical Centre and to incorporate also the Moorabbin Hospital.

The new complex will operate under a joint board representing the three hospitals and the university.

Construction will be completed in April and, of the final cost of \$150 million, Monash is providing \$9 million.

The five-storey centre will be a major teaching and research facility, embracing specialist departments such as obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, surgery and psychological medicine.

★ ★ ★

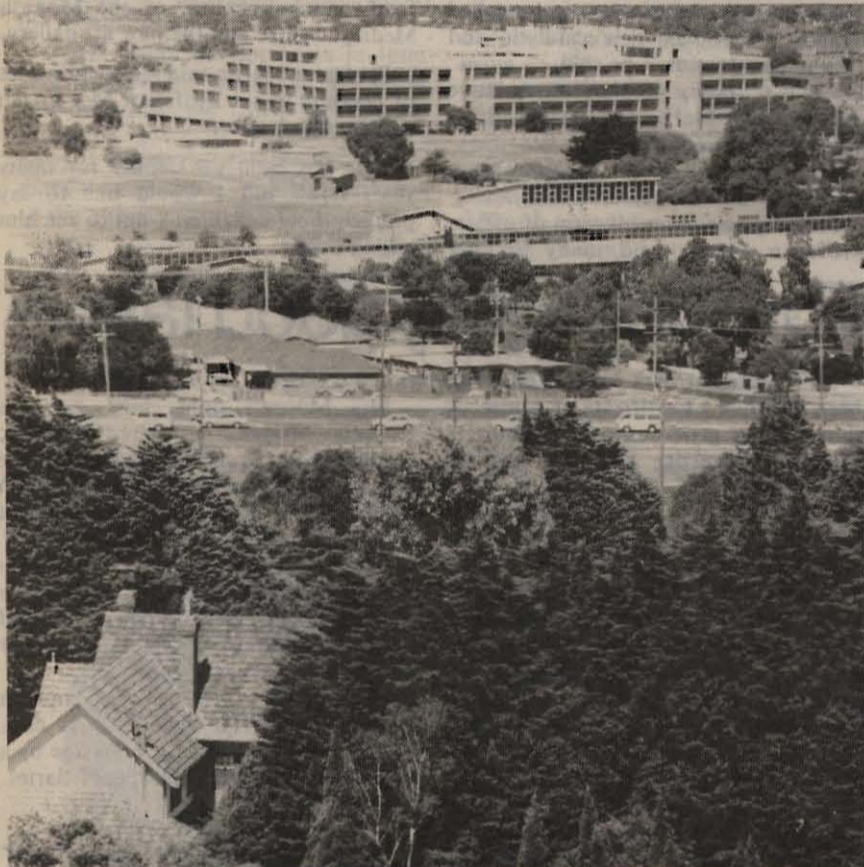
Meanwhile, the Monash University Gallery and the \$7 million Drysdale exhibition will be opened next week by the Governor of Victoria, Dr Davis McCaughey.

The long-awaited gallery is on the ground floor of the multi-disciplinary building now almost complete on the site between the Law Building and the Alexander Theatre.

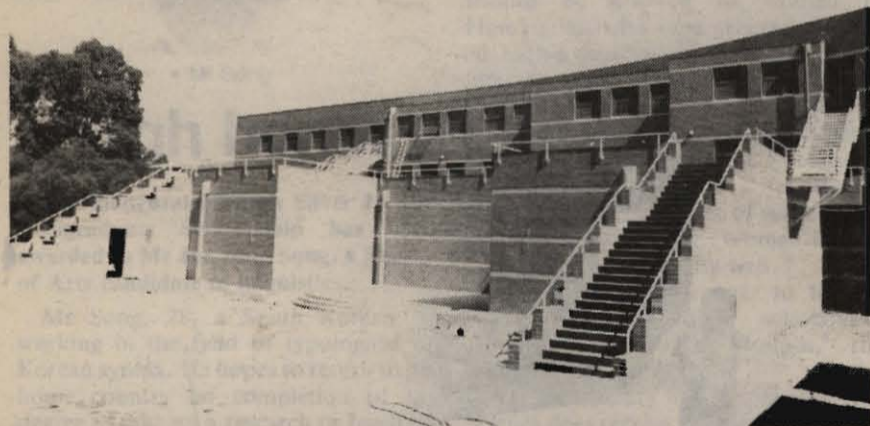
Its construction was set in motion with a fund-raising effort by the Friends of Russell Drysdale, and one section of the gallery will be permanently named after this "best-known unknown artist". (Drysdale was born in England — of Australian parents — in 1912, and he died in Sydney in 1981.)

The exhibition contains 60 works, including 12 drawings, taken from public and private collections around Australia.

Curator, Jenepher Duncan, says it is the first Drysdale exhibition of its kind to be held in a Victorian public gallery. It coincides with an extraordinary



● The Monash Medical Centre looks very close from the top of the Menzies Building. The Vice-Chancellor's house can be seen in the foreground. Photo — Richard Crompton.



● Above: The 'Zig-Zagurat' side (see page 10) of the new multi-discipline centre. The University Gallery occupies the ground floor. Below: This scale model shows the finished lake. (More pictures page 6.)



● Detail from Drysdale's 'The gatekeeper's wife' 1965.

exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria of Drysdale's photographs, taken from 1929 through to the mid-1960s.

Ms Duncan says the Monash exhibition could not have been held without the assistance of the state Ministry for the Arts.

"It's the first major exhibition under the Victorian Government Exhibitions Indemnification Scheme which has it insured for \$7 million.

"The works have come from all state galleries including Tasmania and Darwin, and from the Australian National Gallery," she said.

The exhibition will close on Easter Thursday, 16 April. Gallery hours are from 10-5 Tuesday to Friday, and from 12-5 on Saturday.



● What is this man doing and how will his activities affect the whole university? Turn to page 5 for a Blight-ed view. Photo — Tony Miller.



• Professor Martin presents the framed certificate to Mrs Moore.

Happy return to natural habitat

The former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, has happily returned to his "natural habitat" of scholarship, research and teaching in inorganic chemistry.

Professor Martin, whose 10-year term of office ended on 31 January, has taken up a chair in his own discipline in accordance with the terms of his appointment as Vice-Chancellor.

He has an ARGS grant for 1987 to assist in his research into the production of new kinds of inorganic materials.

"We'll be putting known metals together with other chemicals called ligands to produce new catalytic and related compounds," he said.

"It is a totally new and speculative area but if we hit the jackpot something of significance could emerge."

The grant will pay for equipping a laboratory and for research assistance.

Looking back over his term of office, Professor Martin said many exciting

things were beginning to crystallise, despite 10 "fairly lean years" of government funding.

These included the Science Park on land in Blackburn Road, the establishment of the university's new high-tech consulting company, Montech Pty Ltd, the "splendid" ornamental lake on the north-east corner of the campus, and the forthcoming openings of the Monash Medical Centre and the new art gallery.

Professor Martin said it gave him a lot of pleasure to see Professor Mal Logan as Vice-Chancellor.

"He has been my deputy for many years now, and I would like to say publicly how delighted I am to see him taking over."

For she's a jolly good lassie

Philanthropist Mrs Vera Moore has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her generous contributions to Monash University over the past 13 years.

Mrs Moore, 77, made her first donation of \$4000 in 1974, to buy a harpsichord for the Music department.

Since then she has given more than \$260,000 in amounts varying from a few hundred dollars to \$100,000. This last was donated in 1980 to establish the university-wide Vera Moore Junior Research Fellowship in perpetuity. Since 1972, she has funded the Creativity Program at the Krongold Centre for Excep-

tional Children.

Mrs Moore's only child, Kenneth Russell Moore, a gifted pianist, graduated BA from Monash in 1971. He was enrolled as a Masters candidate in 1972 but was killed in a car accident which seriously injured his mother.

Since then Mrs Moore, whose husband died in 1971, has given generously to the university of both her money and her time, becoming a voluntary worker on many fund-raising projects.

She was born in Leeds, England, in 1910 and her 71st birthday was celebrated at Monash several years ago by a huge party of friends and beneficiaries.

DVC has outside view

The new Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Polmear, has a special interest in encouraging more interaction between Monash and the community.

He believes there are opportunities for closer research co-operation with laboratories close to the campus, and he would like to see the outside public making more use of Monash facilities.

He will also encourage departments to provide any assistance which might lead to improvements in the Australian economy — particularly in regard to the manufacturing industry.

Another of Professor Polmear's goals is to "strengthen areas of graduate studies and research, including Masters degrees by course work and short courses".

He believes that his considerable experience outside the university system will help with these aims.

"I spent half my working life in Australian industry and in research organisations in Australia, the United Kingdom and Switzerland," he said.

"I would like to see more interdisciplinary activities at Monash with respect to teaching, research and sharing facilities.

"I will also encourage more involvement between the academic and general staff so that each gains a better appreciation of the other's role."

Professor Polmear, 58, who came to Monash in 1967, says he is keen to pursue the "positive aspects" of the Hudson Report on Efficiency and Effectiveness in Higher Education Institutions.

"I believe there is a significant need for improvement in areas such as strategic planning, monitoring of objectives, staff assessment and development."

He was foundation chairman of the Monash department of Materials Engineering, and his research interests lie in the fields of aluminium alloys, improved high strength alloys for aircraft, weldable light alloys and aspects of metal fatigue.



• Professor Polmear

Medical post

Former Monash academic, Dr Margaret Brumby, has taken up an appointment as General Manager — Administration and Finance of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Dr Brumby is no stranger to the institute — Australia's oldest and largest private medical research organisation — where she gained a Master of Science in Experimental Medicine in the mid-sixties under the supervision of Professor Donald Metcalf (now deputy director). The director, Sir Gustav Nossal, has warmly welcomed Dr Brumby and says she will "undoubtedly contribute to the institute's present-day commitment to excellence".

At Monash, Dr Brumby was lecturer-in-charge of biological and health education at pre-service and higher degree levels in the Faculty of Education, and chief investigator on a Centre for Human Bioethics project funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Small Caf gets a new look



• An unusual view of a familiar setting — the Small Caf.

IVF 'first' in America

The Monash-associated IVF Australia company has announced the first American birth of a child conceived using the company's *in vitro* fertilisation techniques.

Matthew Anthony Martinez was born prematurely on 27 November at Long

Island, New York, and weighed just over two kilograms.

His parents, Wendy and Steve Martinez, had been unable to conceive a child because Mrs Martinez has blocked Fallopian tubes.

The most popular student meeting place on campus, the Small Caf in the Union building, has been revamped to improve its services.

Catering manager, Mr Joe Curtis, said the area had become unworkable for staff and customers.

"It's the busiest food outlet on campus, open seven days a week, so it was the obvious first choice for an upgrading."

Nauru inquiry will make legal history

The responsibilities of colonial and custodial powers are being closely examined as part of an inquiry into the future of the island of Nauru.

Professor Christie Weeramantry of the Monash Faculty of Law is leading the independent Commission of Inquiry into the feasibility of rehabilitating extensive areas of the island devastated by phosphate mining.

He says the commission's hearings will have significance for all the island nations of the Pacific.

The commission will investigate the history of the phosphate industry under the administering powers, particularly Australia, to determine responsibility for rehabilitation.

It will study developments in international law on environmental harm, and determine the extent of the consideration given by the administering powers under the League of Nations mandate and the United Nations Trust to the question of rehabilitation.

"The hearing will be of great significance to obligations of trusteeship powers and mandatory powers in international law," Professor Weeramantry said.

Phosphate supplies on Nauru will run

out sometime in the next few years, removing the island's main source of income.

The inquiry has been established now so that mining machinery and extra manpower can be used in any program to reclaim mined land.

The hearings opened in Nauru late last month and will continue in Melbourne and in other places selected by the commissioners.

The co-operation and active involvement of governments in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany is being sought.

These powers were all at some stage responsible for the island (see chart) and each has had an interest in Nauruan phosphate.

However, Australia and New Zealand, which have received the bulk of the cheap, high-quality fertiliser, have a special obligation.

There are two other members of the commission: Mr Robert Hugh Challen, a civil engineer from Queensland, and formerly of Mt Isa Mines Ltd, and Mr

Gideon Degidoda of Nauru. Secretary to the commission is Mr Gokaran Nath Saksena.

Another Monash academic, Associate Professor Barry Connell, an international lawyer and a member of the Victorian Bar, has taken 12 months' leave of absence to act as counsel assisting the commission.

An international inquiry into the phosphate industry on Ocean Island was conducted by the English courts in 1976-77.

It resulted in one of the longest judgments given in the English law reports, causing the sitting judge, Justice Megarry, to describe it as 'litigation on a grand scale'.

(The Ocean Island litigants were awarded an amount of around 12,000-pounds, although millions of pounds had been claimed. But the case differed from that of Nauru in that Ocean Island was a British colony, whereas Nauru was administered under a League of Nations mandate and a United Nations Trust.)

"In all, well over 10,000 pages must have been put before me. The documents and transcripts of the

evidence, when stacked, stand well over six feet high, or perhaps I should say a little over two metres," the judge wrote.

Professor Weeramantry says the Nauru inquiry will need to go into legal and other matters in similar detail.

The commission is required to submit its report to the Nauruan government by 31 December.

HISTORY OF OCCUPATION OF NAURU

1886	Allotted to Germany by Anglo-German convention.
1898	Germany appointed the first colonial administrator.
1907	Pacific Phosphate Company started sending out shipments.
1908-1913	630,000 tons worth 945,000 pounds shipped out.
Nov. 1914	Germans surrendered island to Australian expeditionary forces.
1919	Germany renounced title to island. League of Nations mandate granted to British Empire. Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom participated in administration of Nauru.
1920	British Phosphate Commission appointed to run the industry. Australia became administrator on behalf of the three countries.
1942	Occupied by Japan. After war ended, island reverted to international control in the form of a United Nations trusteeship, and Australia resumed administration on behalf of three countries.
1968	31 January. Trusteeship terminated. Country became independent.

No discrimination in postgraduate awards



• Mr Song

High honor

The inaugural Monash Silver Jubilee Postgraduate Scholarship has been awarded to Mr Jae Jung Song, a Master of Arts candidate in linguistics.

Mr Song, 28, a South Korean, is working in the field of typological or Korean syntax. He hopes to return to his home country on completion of his degree to take up a research or teaching position.

The scholarship carries a stipend of \$9490 a year.

In a congratulatory letter to Mr Song, the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, said the scholarship was a high honor for the university to bestow.

"You will be the first of a long line of distinguished scholars who are expected to benefit from this scholarship in the ensuing years," he wrote.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to different faculties by rotation. It will go to the best applicant provided the applicant is of sufficient merit and of outstanding academic ability.

It will be awarded in the following sequence: Arts, Economics and Politics, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Science.

All Masters and PhD candidates (or intending candidates) studying in the designated faculty are eligible to apply.

A study intended to show that the Humanities suffer discrimination in the allocation of scholarships has actually shown that there are no real inequities between faculties.

The study was undertaken by the Monash Association of Graduate Students (MAGS), the group which originally proposed that the university set up a postgraduate award to mark the 25th anniversary.

The MAGS committee suggested the Silver Jubilee Postgraduate Award should be granted to women in Humanities, who were generally believed to be disadvantaged because of a limited range of scholarships available to them.

But the study showed that when males and females from either the Sciences or Humanities applied for a scholarship they had an equal chance of success based on academic merit. Women in fact performed exceptionally well.

"There does not appear to be any preferential system of scholarship allocation operating at Monash," the report says.

"The inequality which does exist (for Science does receive a greater number of offers) seems to stem from disproportionate numbers at application."

The survey showed that in 1984 and 1985 fourth year enrolments for all students in the Humanities were almost twice those of the Sciences. But only a third of the Humanities students applied for scholarships, in contrast to three-quarters of the Science people.

"There is no difference in the success rate between the two sets of applicants, but the Sciences appear to have a higher acceptance rate," the report said.

"In 1984, 16.6 per cent of applications (male and female) from the Humanities were successful compared with 16.7 per cent success in the Sciences; in 1985, 16.1 per cent of applications from Sciences attracted offers whilst Humanities had an 18.9 per cent success rate despite submitting almost half as many applications.

"The study has provided no evidence

of overt discrimination between the Sciences and the Humanities or between males and females."

An important question which emerged from the study was why women failed to apply for postgraduate awards at the same rate as males and why they continued to be under-represented at postgraduate level.

The lower acceptance rates for postgraduate awards in Humanities were many and varied, but could reflect a disenchantment with the possibilities of an academic career, the report said.

"The raw data of this research did show that some applicants had accepted a variety of employment over the prospect of a higher degree."

Another contributing factor might be the long held belief that it was easier to score First Class Honours in the Sciences than in Humanities, the report said.

In light of the report's conclusions, MAGS has withdrawn its suggestion that the Humanities should be given priority for the Silver Jubilee Postgraduate Scholarship.

Monash is tops in southeast Asia

Monash has a 'competitive edge' in attracting full-fee paying students, says the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.

It has always enjoyed a good relationship with southeast and east Asian countries, where it is probably the best known and most widely respected Australian university, he said.

"A lot of our graduates are now in senior positions.

"Dr Kamel Salih, for example, who did his BA in the Geography department, became deputy vice-chancellor of the Universiti Sains, Malaysia.

"He was recently appointed head of an economic planning unit in the Prime Minister's office."

Engineering graduates were also being appointed to senior positions, mainly in Malaysia.

"Right from the beginning Monash was open to Asian students; the university has been remarkably free of racial prejudice and they were always welcomed into its community."

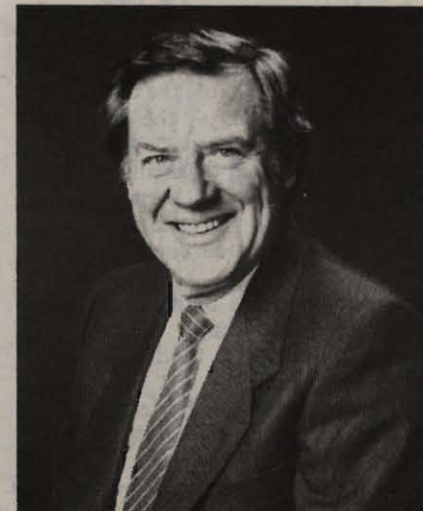
A number of full-fee paying students began courses last year in Engineering, and this year more have enrolled in Engineering, Economics and Administrative Studies.

Professor Logan would like to see these numbers build up to around 100,

and to see the students enrolled in the other faculties as well.

"Part of our strategy ought to be to build on our competitive edge by continuing to attract good-quality students from that part of the world, perhaps by marketing education services," he said.

Professor Logan took office at the beginning of February. The former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, now holds a chair in the department of chemistry.



• Professor Logan

Industrial chemistry returns to Stone Age

The Aborigines may have something to teach us about medicine, says Monash's new professor of industrial chemistry, Asbjorn Baklien.

"There has been very little done on Aboriginal folk medicine, yet plant remedies have been used successfully for centuries."

Professor Baklien, a former research manager with ICI Australia, has an interest in producing drugs and other heal-



• Professor Baklien

ing substances from natural products.

He says that Aborigines, like Asians, cannot generally take milk or milk products but they know how to improve their calcium intake.

"They have a plant which contains large quantities of calcium and they have learned that if they don't eat that plant they will get very sick."

He is keen to research Aboriginal plant remedies, and sees an exciting future in chemistry and medicine "with so many new things coming out".

"The new bio-technology is going to lead to either a cure or prevention for cancer and heart disease.

"We have the basic science and there's going to be an explosion of new things, particularly in the bio-medical field with different drugs, safer drugs.

"Seventy or eighty per cent of the drugs on the market now are derived in one way or another from natural sources, and there is a whole field of Aboriginal folk medicine yet to be looked at."

Professor Baklien, 57, a graduate of the University of Oslo, also specialises in creating new organic compounds and holds 124 patents in 34 countries.

While at ICI, he helped pave the way for the development of a high performance ceramics industry in Victoria.

He left to become a consultant, but was attracted to Monash, and "the only chair in industrial chemistry in Australia", because of the wide range of possibilities for research, contact with industry and contact with other researchers.

He holds the Joint ICI Australia/Monash University chair of industrial chemistry endowed by ICI.

His research and scholarship is to be primarily in an area of interest to both ICI and the Chemistry department.

Professor Baklien is considering another project involving resins, as he believes there is a need for much stronger and lighter construction materials.

"But I didn't come here just to do research," he says.

"We also have to build bridges between the universities and industry — and there's a fair bit of bridge-building needed.

"Australian universities are very good, but interaction between the two groups is not as good in Australia as it is overseas.

"One reason is that Australian industry is not yet sufficiently developed: it has not got the same capacity to absorb and develop academic research as overseas concerns.

"But there's a change going on; a very large number of smaller companies are being set up and they are generally very entrepreneurial; they are going for the high technology end of manufacturing.

"To do this they must have access to researchers, or be able to do research themselves.

"Some larger companies are also getting into high technology business areas," Professor Baklien says.

"ICI was a typical petrochemical company but two or three years ago it went into new areas — scientific instruments, immunodiagnostics and advanced materials."

There was a case for academic researchers to become more outward-looking, to see what had more immediate practical application, Professor Baklien said.

"There is a belief that industrial science is low-grade, not exciting, but this is not generally true.

"It can be very high science, and a lot of it is very difficult and intellectually taxing.

"The attributes of industry and academe are very complementary.

"For instance, industry has lots of capital, academe has none. Academe has lots of imagination while industry is more practical, less inclined to take risks."

Professor Baklien is also involved in a Commonwealth Department of Science co-operative research program with France.

He is chairman of a steering committee for the Promotion of Australian International Research (PAIR)

First find your COW

Hull University's student newspaper *Hullfire* has exposed the activities of a mysterious new university society, ratified by the university council, called the Rosa Luxemburg Society.

"The actual purpose of this secret group," says the paper, "is to launch night raids on local farms and push over unsuspecting sleeping cows. This new craze has gripped America where unprecedented numbers of snoozing cows are being toppled."

The society's 33-strong membership includes the entire university American football team, *Hullfire* says: "Gary Keen, the chairperson of the society, says that 'beef bouncing' is excellent practice for American football. 'Cows sleep standing up and the aim is to push them over. It can take four people to do it and the problem is not making any noise, otherwise they wake, get up and wander around.'"

According to the newspaper: "This secret league has no immediate plans to diversify into bull-toppling, for the idea of confronting a rudely awakened angry bull is enough to make even an entire American football team slightly anxious."

— Times Higher Education Supplement
13 February, 1987

New company opens for business

MONTECH Pty Ltd, Monash University's new high-tech consulting company, became a physical reality with the arrival on campus early last month of its executive head, Dr Paul Hudson.

Plans are already well advanced for the promotion of two major enterprises — a new Biochemical Process Development Centre (BPDC) and a Room Temperature Metal Vapor Laser (RTMVL).

Dr Hudson told *Monash Reporter* that the establishment of MONTECH represents a highly significant step in the university's moves to expand its collaboration with industry.

"Even at this embryonic stage, it's clear that the company will be able to play a major role in many ventures across campus," he said.

"Our long-term objective is the establishment of a significant body of expertise in technology management and commercialisation of research. We aim to be the focal point for interaction between the university on one hand and industry and business on the other.

"We also aim to liaise closely with government departments of industry, technology and commerce — both federal and state — to help advance their technology programs through increased collaboration with Monash scientists, technologists and engineers."

Dr Hudson said that as MONTECH was wholly owned by the university its activities would be philosophically tailored to the role and expectations of the university.

"This will ensure that the company will operate right across the campus and involve all faculties — the humanities and social sciences, as well as the technologically-oriented departments."

The long-term benefits of MONTECH's existence as a commercially-oriented company would include:

- A higher rate of development of university research.
- Increased R&D funding for small and large projects.
- Increased university resources.
- Increased collaboration with industry.
- A more positive community attitude to the university.

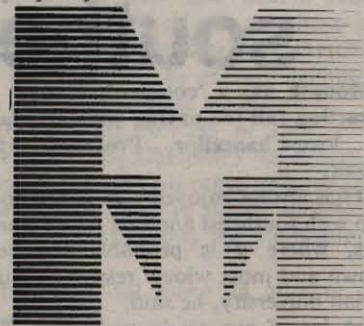
Among the short-term benefits to in-

dividual departments and academics would be:

- A greater marketing potential.
- More freedom to undertake R&D as commercial management is delegated to MONTECH.
- Greater flexibility in the type of benefits flowing back to the campus.
- The establishment of a working relationship which will provide additional resources in the future.

Dr Hudson said the immediate aim of MONTECH is to provide a service to industry and the community by arranging activities on campus.

"The enormous intellectual and technological expertise that exists in the university can be applied more extensively and effectively to solving problems faced by industry and the business community.



MONTECH

"Activities that we aim to provide include short or medium-term research and development contracts which give a strategic advantage to industry; short-term R&D contracts which solve immediate problems facing industry; catering for simple testing or evaluation requests; arranging individual or group consultants, and the organisation of business courses."

Speaking about the two major projects he is currently working on — BPDC and RTMVL — Dr Hudson said that both represented the sort of commercial venture in which the company will play a significant role.

"The Biochemical Process Development Centre is a multi-million dollar commercial proposal undertaken in conjunction with the Victorian Govern-

"The centre will be a research, development and manufacturing company specialising in downstream processing in biotechnology, waste biodegradation and bioprocess design.

"It will develop and use technology related to the high resolution, purification and recovery of proteins and related products required by various other biotechnological and pharmaceutical industries in Australia and overseas.

"It's expected there will be considerable commercial demand for BPDC products from biotechnology, manufacturing, pharmaceutical and agricultural industries, including the diagnostic field related to human and animal health and the food industry, as well as emerging areas such as bi-detectors and bioanalytical instrumentation."

Dr Hudson said that the "principal intellectual expertise" for the BPD centre would come from professors Milton Hearn (Biochemistry), Bruce Holloway (Genetics) and Solly Faine (Microbiology).

The Room Temperature Metal Vapor Laser (RTMVL) is the brainchild of Dr Rod Tobin (Physics) and has progressed to laboratory working model stage.

Says Dr Hudson: "There are many advantageous features of the RTMVL. It operates at room temperature, is capable of rapid changes of frequency, possesses unique operating wavelengths and is cheap to make.

"Ultimately, the RTMVL may find application in display devices, medical treatment, photolithography and scientific research."

Dr Hudson said that MONTECH would also be responsible for the creation of a directory of services available in the university.

This would consist of a comprehensive listing of existing and potential commercial and industrial collaborative facilities.

"Another project in which MONTECH has an interest is an Advanced Ceramics Design Centre, which is being established with the financial assistance of the Victorian Government. It's expected that this Centre will be available to encourage Victorian industry to develop capabilities in advanced ceramics," he said.

Frustration ... Fury ... Fun...

If nothing else, Monash's new telephone system has provoked vigorous discussion, and aroused conflicting emotions.

But, in the end, we'll have one of the finest PABX systems available — once the fine-tuning and "design-enhancement" stages have been

completed (and this will take a little time yet).

In the space of a few weeks, Telecom, Plessey, the Computer

Centre, and many other university staff members have put together a telephone system as complex as any that serves, say, a fair-sized Victorian country town.

And it works. It will work better,

too, in a little while when all the sophisticated variations become familiar to telephone users.

Below, *Monash Reporter's* resident cartoonist takes a Blight-hearted view of the possibilities . . .



• Above left. Supervisor Mrs Betty Gooch turns the old switchboard off for the last time. Left. Operators at work on the new "switchboard" — computer terminals. Above. Parts of the new system going upstairs late last year in the University Offices. Photos — Tony Miller.

A Blight-hearted view

These cartoons and the one on page six are the work of Terry Blight, a member of the university's cleaning staff.

Mr Blight, 60, will admit when pushed that he "always seemed to come top in art at school" (in County Durham). But he put aside his sketching at an early age to join the navy, then marriage and children kept him busy earning a living.

The people who now benefit most from Mr Blight's talents are those he works with — he will provide sketches and cartoons for the asking, delighted that people appreciate his efforts.

He came to Monash in 1961 as a storeman in the Chemistry department. People learned of his other abilities and he was often asked to sketch apparatus and other illustrations for publications like these.

Mr Blight did make an attempt to

strike out on his own but not in an artistic direction.

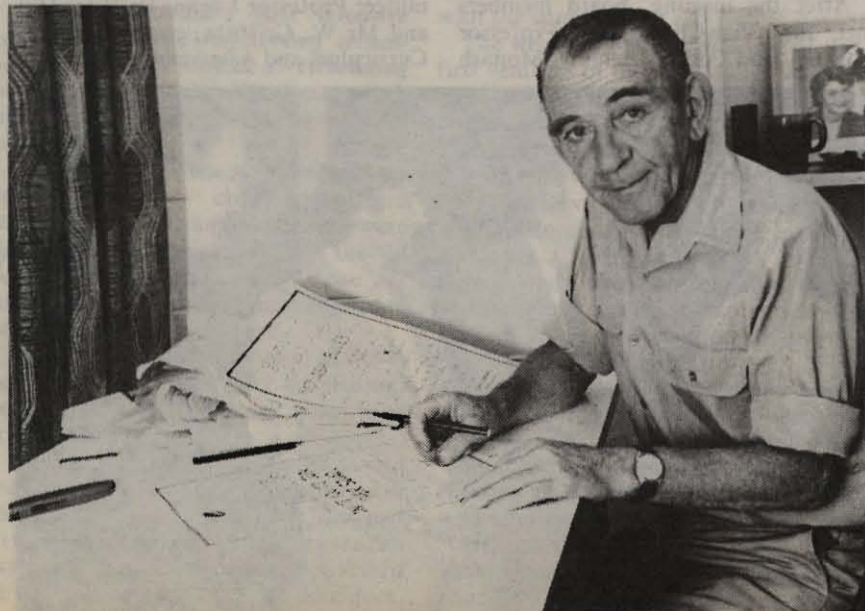
He left Chemistry in 1979 for a short-lived taste of country life as a general store owner in Lexton. Family illnesses soon put paid to that idea and he rejoined the university staff in 1980 as a cleaner with Central Services.

Now he cleans (and sketches) at the Sports and Recreation Centre.

Mr Blight met an Australian girl when he came here on HMAS Sydney, and his nine brothers and sisters have "followed me out".

His creative streak has shown up in only one of his three children and two grandchildren. Sean Ross, 11, is already sketching like his grandfather and is also an accomplished organist.

• Our front page photo shows a technician at work on the installation of the new telephone system.



AUTOMATIC CALL BACK



CAMP ON.



EXECUTIVE INTRUDE



OPERATION SUCCESSFUL TONE

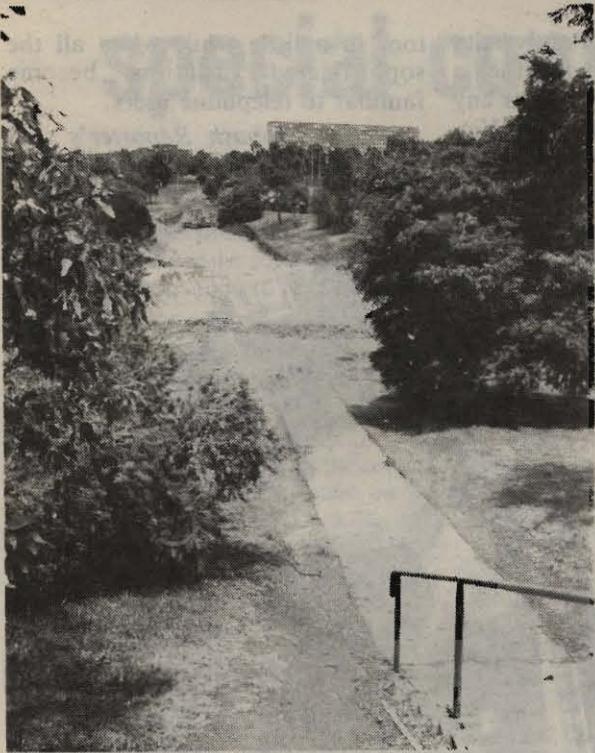


HUNT GROUPS

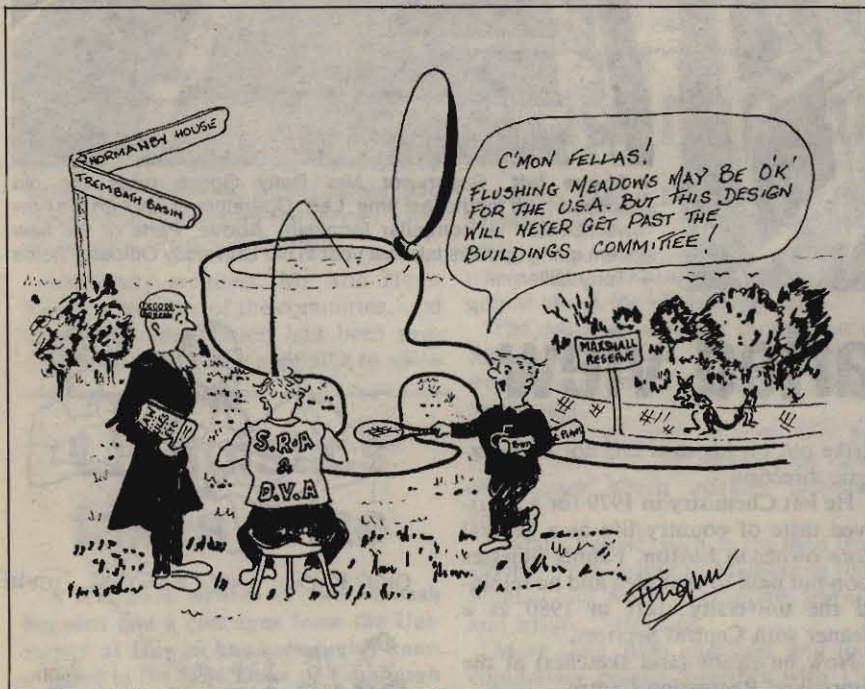


MEMORY PROTECT

Floodwaters a windfall for Monash



When the university learned that part of its land was required for a flood-retarding basin, great minds went to work on turning such a liability into an asset. The results will be spectacular — a magnificent ornamental lake in delightful surroundings and a mini-mountain which will be used for grass-skiing. The entire project has been carried out and paid for by the Dandenong Valley Authority. The lake will be filled some time this month. These photos show the lake site on the south-east corner of the campus. **Top left:** The path south from the Halls of Residence to the main campus has come to an abrupt end. It will be replaced when excavations are finished. **Top right:** Two university staff at the heart of the scheme. Mr Doug Ellis, left, director of the Sports and Recreation Centre, and Mr John Trembath, Buildings Officer, are standing in the lake bed with the mini-mountain behind them. The southern slope will be planted with specially blended grass seed to make the best ground cover for grass skiing. **Below left:** Terry Blight's impression of the problems involved in getting the lake scheme underway — and keeping the occasional critic at bay. **Below right:** About half a million tonnes of earth have been removed from the 150 metre by 60 metre lake bed, and relocated elsewhere on campus. Photos — Tony Miller, Sandy Mains.



VCAB meets in university setting

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Board, the body set up last year to take responsibility for all Year 11 and 12 courses in Victoria, held its first meeting for 1987 at Monash last month.

The chairman of VCAB, Dr Peter Hill, said the visit — made at the suggestion of Emeritus Professor John Legge, chairman of the board's Tertiary Education Entrance Committee — gave board members a valuable insight into the

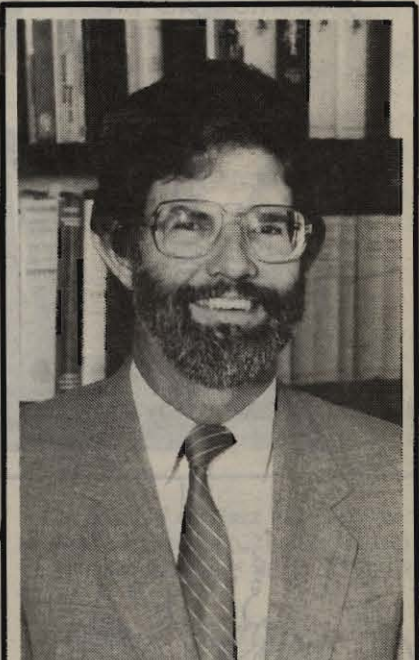
workings of the university.

He hoped that future meetings could be arranged at similar venues.

After the meeting, board members met the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan, and other senior Monash

administrators over drinks.

Photographed here, from left, are: Professor Legge; Mr F. Rogan, chairman of the VCE Implementation Committee; Ms Sylvia Walton, a member of the Tertiary Education Entrance Committee; Professor Logan; Dr Peter Hill; and Mr W. Griffiths, chairman of the Curriculum and Assessment Committee.



The new Dean of Arts, Professor John Hay, 44, was formerly head of the English department at the University of Western Australia. He did his MA at Cambridge and his PhD at UWA, where he played a significant role in the planning of secondary and tertiary education. Professor Hay's major research interests are in Australian and 18th century literature.

Funds needed for study of man-like animals

A long-term field study of the gorilla in Gabon — research of critical importance to man's understanding of himself — is threatened by lack of funds, says Professor Roger Short of Physiology.

Professor Short, who recently travelled to Gabon to serve on an international board reviewing the scientific value of the study, said the work being carried out by Dr Caroline Tutin and Mr Michel Fernandez was superb.

He says it already has changed many of our ideas about the gorilla — the species most closely related to man.

"Before the initial research was published in 1984, scientists thought the total world gorilla population numbered only about 2000.

"Tutin and Fernandez found there were about 35,000 living in Gabon alone, and in a habitat where it was never thought they could exist."

It has been assumed that gorillas inhabited the forest fringes and were plant eaters, but the researchers have found that in Gabon the gorilla diet is 95 per cent fruit and the animal inhabits the central forest."

The rainforest of Gabon where Dr Tutin and Mr Fernandez are working is the only area in the world where man's two closest animal relatives — gorillas and chimpanzees — occur together. The study shows they have almost identical dietary habits, thus exploding another myth, says Professor Short.

Gorilla females mate rarely — once every four years — and only with the dominant male of their band. But when chimpanzee females come into oestrus they will mate with any male in the troop.

The conventional explanation was that this difference had something to do with how groups of the two species were organised for food gathering, as their diets were assumed to be very different.

"We don't know how these highly divergent mating patterns developed or how ours evolved. They could hold the clue to questions about our own mating habits," he said.

Much of what is known about gorillas comes from Dian Fossey's famous studies of a mountain population in Rwanda. But it is becoming evident on the basis of the work in Gabon that the mountain gorillas are atypical.

Gabon, a French-speaking country straddling the Equator in West Africa, is about the size of Victoria, but with a population of around one million. It produces about a fifth of France's oil and most of her uranium.

Much of the country is untouched rainforest which provides a sanctuary

and a refuge for animals. This was where the gorilla was first seen by European man.

"Last year, a completely new primate was found — and there are probably more," Professor Short said.

The studies have been carried out under the auspices of the Centre International de Recherche Medicale de Franceville (CIRMF), a world-class medical research laboratory built using money and assistance from the French oil company, ELF. But ELF now has withdrawn completely from CIRMF.

"What is needed is good research

students who are dedicated, and the money to carry on," says Professor Short.

For many years he has been arguing the importance of studying the world's rapidly dwindling populations of primates, for the insight into our own development and to help preserve them.

In July 1985 at a primate conference in San Diego, Professor Short helped to establish the Great Apes of Africa Fund to finance such field studies. It looks as though Dr Tutin and Mr Fernandez will be among the first beneficiaries.



Twin spotlights on university policy

Dr Cheryl Tillman and Dr Margaret James have taken on the separate tasks of investigating university policy in the fields of occupational health and equal opportunity.

Dr Tillman, 38, the university's first health and safety manager, is already preparing a draft proposal for the staffing of an occupational health and safety branch, in which she also defines the role of the branch.

Since taking up the position early this year, she has interviewed people involved with occupational health and safety, and spoken to staff association representatives.

"I couldn't define the role without making general recommendations on occupational health throughout the university — the roles and responsibilities of departments and sections.

"I hope these will become policy," she says.

Dr Tillman's most recent position was as occupational hygiene adviser in the CSIRO's Occupational Health and Safety Unit in Canberra. Prior to that she spent nine years in Sweden as a senior research scientist at the National Board of Occupational Safety and Health.



• Dr Tillman

She has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of NSW and a PhD in Engineering from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, awarded in 1978 for a thesis titled *Clustering in internally oxidised silver alloys*.

The object of Dr Tillman's appointment is to ensure the university complies with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985, and to improve health and safety at the university.

Meanwhile, Dr James, 47, is working to establish new policies on equal opportunity within the university in accordance with the Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act, 1986.

This requires that an affirmative action program for women be instituted

and an annual report submitted to the government detailing its progress.

Dr James, formerly Research Fellow — Status of Women at La Trobe University, is using recommendations from Dr Gabrielle Baldwin's report on equal opportunity as a basis for her inquiries into staff policies and practices.

"Equal opportunity is a wide-ranging concept which applies to education as well as employment," she says.

"I am looking forward to consulting with members of staff on their views of the needs of the university."

Dr James has an MA and DipEd from Melbourne University, and did her PhD at La Trobe with an adaptation of social science methodology to the history of marital breakdown.



• Dr James

Researchers wish to learn genetic engineering skills

One of Australia's first intensive courses in genetic engineering techniques has brought such an overwhelming response that it looks like becoming a regular part of the Microbiology department's program.

The course was selectively advertised at biotechnology conferences and through the mail, and organisers were flooded with applications for the 24 positions available. Among those accepted were two people from interstate and one from New Zealand.

A second course to be run in May has been filled without further advertising, and inquiries about next year have started already.

Laboratory manager, Ian Ray, said the department had become interested in running the course because it had had difficulty in acquiring research assistants and technical officers skilled in using recombinant DNA techniques. It also saw a way to forge better links

with the community.

The week-long course was one of the first ventures of the new Microbial Biotechnology and Diagnostic Unit, established by the department for such purposes.

It was put together by senior lecturers Dr John Davies and Dr Julian Rood, and structured around a single exercise — taking a fragment of DNA from a genetic body in the cell, known as a plasmid, and inserting into a second plasmid using all the common genetic engineering techniques.

Meanwhile, a Monash student in Microbiology has won the Australian Wool Corporation's postgraduate research award for 1987, in competition with applicants from all over Australia.

Stephen Billington, a first class honours graduate in Genetics, was awarded the scholarship on academic merit.

His PhD project will involve the use of genetic engineering techniques to develop vaccines and a diagnostic test for footrot, the most economically significant disease affecting the Australian wool industry.

Condom scholarship

Ansell International, the largest manufacturer of condoms in the world, has endowed an annual scholarship of \$1000 to the Faculty of Medicine towards the airfare for a student to go to Bangkok to work with Mr Mechai Viravaiya, Thailand's famous family planner.

The scholarship has been provided in gratitude for advice given to the company by Professor Roger Short of Physiology about how to improve the effectiveness of its condoms, particularly against the spread of AIDS.

The first winner of the Ansell-Mechai scholarship is Ms Sandy Lie, a fifth-year medical student. She will be going to Thailand in April for six weeks.

Shannon flies in to special comforts

Californian exchange student, Shannon Peirce, has become the first occupant of a new suite for disabled students at the Halls of Residence.

Already other students in Farrer Hall have prepared a roster for driving wheelchair-bound Shannon to the main campus every day.

She is an exchange student in linguistics from the University of California at San Diego.

The disabled accommodation was completed late last year with the conversion of a little-used guest suite on the ground floor of Farrer Hall. It has two bedrooms and a shared bathroom.

Changes included specially designed furniture and fittings, relocation of light switches and access to power points for recharging electric wheelchairs. Doorways into the dining halls and other areas of the building were widened and ramps built.

The project, costing around \$25,000, was the result of several years of planning by the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.

It was funded by the Victorian Post-Secondary Education Committee through the Burwood State College, and by a special grant from the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin.

University architect, Mr Rob Horsburgh, a member of the committee, said special accommodation had been provided as part of a new approach to allow

the disabled to be more independent on campus.

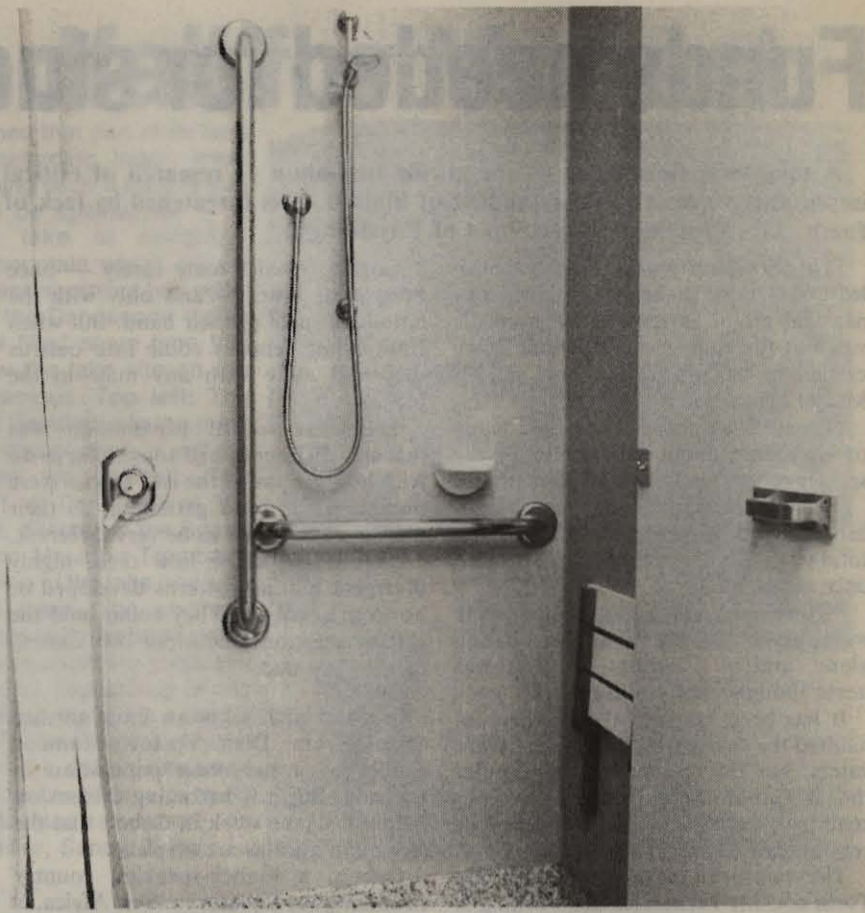
"If it works the committee will start looking for other suitable places, even perhaps adding to existing buildings."

He said the disabled residents would have to be very independent if the experiment was to succeed.

"With the halls being so far away from the rest of the campus, wheelchair travel might prove a problem.

"However, we expect a lot of support from halls' residents, and parking bays have been allocated close to the rooms for disabled students who have their own cars."

● Part of the specially-adapted bathroom in the new accommodation for the disabled at Farrer Hall.



Autumn program goes a long way

Coober Pedy is 1600 kilometres from Melbourne, so Arts and Crafts Centre staff were understandably surprised when someone from the opal town inquired about the autumn program.

The centre is offering more than 40 courses in autumn, from leadlight to stress management, teddy-bear making to massage.

Assistant activities officer, Mrs Val Polley, says it is the tremendous range of courses which attracts interstate visitors.

"Many people, such as the man from Coober Pedy, came to Melbourne for a holiday and want to combine learning and leisure," she said.

More than 2000 interstate and local community people, together with 1500 staff and students, used the centre last year.

Mrs Polley says the centre gives community participants the opportunity to be part of the university spirit and to experience life on campus.

"It also helps to break down the ivory tower myth," she said.

But while the centre is used widely by members of the community, staff participation amounts to only 5.7 per cent of enrolments.

Mrs Polley believes many staff are not aware that the centre runs courses other than arts and crafts.

"We need to let staff know that we've catered for their needs with interesting courses and morning, afternoon and

evening classes and weekend workshops."

A staff discount of 10 per cent and student discount of 50 per cent is available.

The centre opened in 1979, but the university has had an art and craft tutoring system since the 1960s.

Mrs Betty Thompson, the centre's former administration officer, began

organising these courses when she was working for Clubs and Societies.

She retired last November after 16 years with Arts and Crafts and 20 years' service at Monash.

● Arts and Crafts Centre staff, from left, Mrs Carole Carless, Ms Olga Vujovic, Mrs Louise Robertson, Mrs Betty Thompson, Mrs Val Polley and Ms Bev Hunter. Mrs Thompson is holding her farewell gift, a pottery bowl made by tutor Mark Young.



Linguistics takes prize

A text book written by two Monash linguists and a colleague from the University of Hawaii has been highly commended in the 1986 Duke of Edinburgh English Language Competition.

The book, the *Longman Dictionary of Applied Linguistics*, is the work of Associate Professor John Platt and Dr Heidi Weber of the department of Linguistics, and Professor Jack Richards of the department of English as a Second Language at the University of Hawaii.

It was runner-up in the annual international competition which is open to all recently-published books on aspects of the English language.

One of the special features of the dictionary is that it is suitable for non-native speakers of English and for those with little or no background in linguistics.

BRIEFLY

Once a jolly bunyip

Ask anyone what a bunyip looks like and you will meet with confusion, yet bunyips and billabongs go together in Australian folklore.

Despite the bunyip's mythical status, the creature is founded in fact, according to Dr Pat Rich of the Monash

Department of Earth Sciences.

In a course titled *Bunyips and their ancestors: the history of Australia's back-boned animals*, she will explain and demonstrate how pre-historic species were the raw material of the bunyip image.

The eight-week course has been organised by the Council of Adult Education in collaboration with Monash and the Museum of Victoria. It will be held in the Museum Theatre to allow viewing of fossils. (Inquiries should be directed to the CAE on 652 0620.)

Dr Rich is co-writer of a new book on extinct vertebrates of Australia.

Free Brahms And all that jazz

Werner Andreas Albert will conduct the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for its special FREE promotional concert at Robert Blackwood Hall (1.10 pm Thursday, 26 March).

The program will include Academic Overture — Brahms, Firebird Suite (Extracts) — Stravinsky, Holberg Suite Op. 40 — Grieg, Organ Concerto in F (The Cuckoo and the Nightingale) — Handel.

The Maple Leaf Jazz band returns to Monash on Saturday, 21 March, with a "night to remember" at the University Club.

Manager Mr Paul Ricco says the six-member band has played at major jazz festivals and has an unprecedented following.

The night begins at 7.30 with a Happy Hour, and includes a spit roast supper with salads, sweets and coffee.

Tickets at \$12 a person should be purchased early by contacting Mr Ricco or members of the club's committee.

Searching for the real Victoria

Following closely upon the first two parts of the 10-volume *Australians: A Historical Library* and a volume of the *Oxford History of Australia*, what must surely be the last fruit of Victoria's sesquicentenary has been published.

Victoria's Heritage comes from a series of lectures sponsored by the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, and delivered between March and May 1985.

It has been made available to a wide audience through grants by Monash and the other Victorian universities towards the cost of publication.

The Monash contribution does not end there — Emeritus Professor A. G. L. Shaw acted as editor and five of the eight essayists are Monash academics: Professor Graeme Davison (History), Dr Conrad Hamann and Professor Margaret Plant (Visual Arts), Dr Harold Love (English) and Dr Joe Powell (Geography).

The sesquicentenaries of European settlement in Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia provoked much debate: should they be celebrated — with indulgent self-congratulation and the invariable denial that European

RELATIVE FREEDOM

Said the Owl to the Pussycat:
Friend, how would it be
if you went to sea
without
your beautiful pea-green boat?
Swimming out into
deep dark passages
covered only by water and sky,
Would you
crave some forever absolutes?
Grab God if he happened by?
You say there is nothing to cling to
no truth
no stagnant ideals,
everything
is relative to this moment
nothing is fixed
or assured.
Out there in huge empty waves
with the sharks;
How long could you live
without land?

I am offering you security —
this dazzling clean
sparkling blue pool
just deep enough to swim in,
geometrically proportioned
chlorinated shallows
with lane markers
to define the classes,
concrete walls, ladders
to hold on to
and steps that lead
upwards and on.
You can't drown in these
clear conceptions,
they are crowded
with people like you.
Here your feet can touch rock
bottom —
we have water-wings,
glories and sins.
You can believe in order
and Hell.

LYN WILSON

Relative Freedom is taken from *Poetry Monash Number 20 Summer 1986*, available from the English department by subscription (\$3 yearly). Inquiries to Dr Dennis Davison, English department, ext. 2135.

Victoria's Heritage

ed. by A. G. L. Shaw
Allen & Unwin, Sydney

settlement constituted an invasion of Aboriginal land and the dispossession of its inhabitants — or merely commemorated, in a more critically self-aware act of remembrance?

Victoria's Heritage has as its subtitle 'Lectures to celebrate the 150th anniversary of European settlement', but Shaw prefers to call the book a 'commemoration', and this more properly reflects its contents.

It is mostly, however, the story of Anglo-Celtic rather than of other European immigrants, and presents very little concerning the Aboriginal peoples.

The essays are concerned with various aspects of Victorian history, and range across the disciplines of geography, literature, music, architecture, visual art, history and economics.

They are prefaced by a lucid and succinct historical sketch of Victoria since 1834-35, which directs readers to the widely acclaimed 3-volume sesquicentennial history, *The Victorians*.

It is often difficult to define exactly what is characteristic of a given society and its culture, since these almost inevitably transcend political boundaries.

What is distinctively Victorian? Chris Wallace-Crabbe does not seem to have relished his brief to capture the flavor of literature in Victoria.

He toys with several approaches, and limits his discussion by the use of a narrow and dated definition of literature as 'the realm of letters and the lettered', (thus omitting myth, folklore and song). Yet he probably succeeds in whetting the appetites of the uninitiated and points them towards a rich and varied body of writing.

Another one of the problems intrinsic to such a book is the translation from

the oral medium of the lecture hall to the written page.

Most of the essays here read well, but those concerned with images of metropolitan and rural Victoria necessarily omit most of the illustrative examples the lecturers presumably used in presenting their papers.

Fortunately the diligent reader can follow these up through the extensive footnotes or the lists of relevant illustrations provided.

With Frank van Straten's 'unashamedly nostalgic ramble' through popular entertainment in the early decades of this century, much of the interest of his brief paper is lost as readers cannot hear the voices of those veteran theatre performers he has recorded.

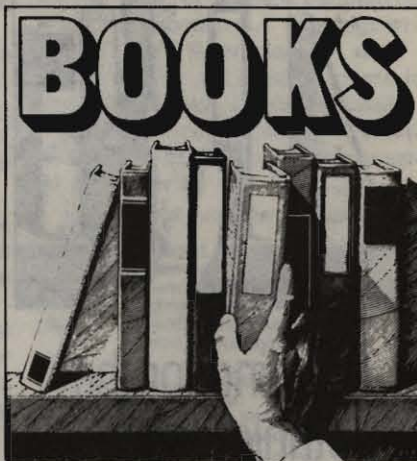
Entrepreneurs

Their reminiscences — and the whole world of meaning which is encapsulated in their ways of saying — are accessible in the growing oral history collection of the Performing Arts Museum.

For the earlier period, such a source is of course largely unavailable, but Love has made use of some of the rich contemporary reportage in newspapers and journals, diaries and autobiographies, and has drawn extensively on recent scholarship, for his lively study of drama and music in colonial Melbourne.

He writes of the exciting achievements of the early entrepreneurs and pioneer players, and indicates the diversity of music-making in an era when people made music nearly everywhere, although mostly within the domestic circle.

In her essay, 'Visual Victoria, waterfalls, tents and meat pies', Plant undertakes 'to stake for Victorian art a tradition' by arguing for powerful connec-



tions between what she calls the 'key places' and the 'key experiences' of the artists from von Guerard to the present day.

Hamann seeks to do something similar for architecture, suggesting that through a search for an inclusive, composite form which could span three different contexts — country, suburb and city — Victorian architects have forged a distinctively Australian architectural tradition.

Davison, author of *The Rise and Fall of Marvellous Melbourne*, furnishes a fascinating discussion of various images of Melbourne over 150 years, and considers their production by artists, painters, surveyors and photographers.

He shows how they have evolved and reflected the changing interests of Melbournites and the physical and social changes the city has undergone.

He regrets the passing of 'the old aesthetic' of 19th-century Melbourne, believing that 'with the rise of Nauru House', Collins Place and now the Rialto, Melbourne has acquired a skyline with all the charm of a half-felled forest'.

Some of the other essays too address the present as much as the past.

In a broad-ranging historical review of the complex ways our 'increasingly urbanised, migrant society' has comprehended and managed Victoria's environment, Powell deplores the current low levels of awareness in this area and calls for more strenuous efforts 'to decipher and communicate what must always be a living document, a document for living'.

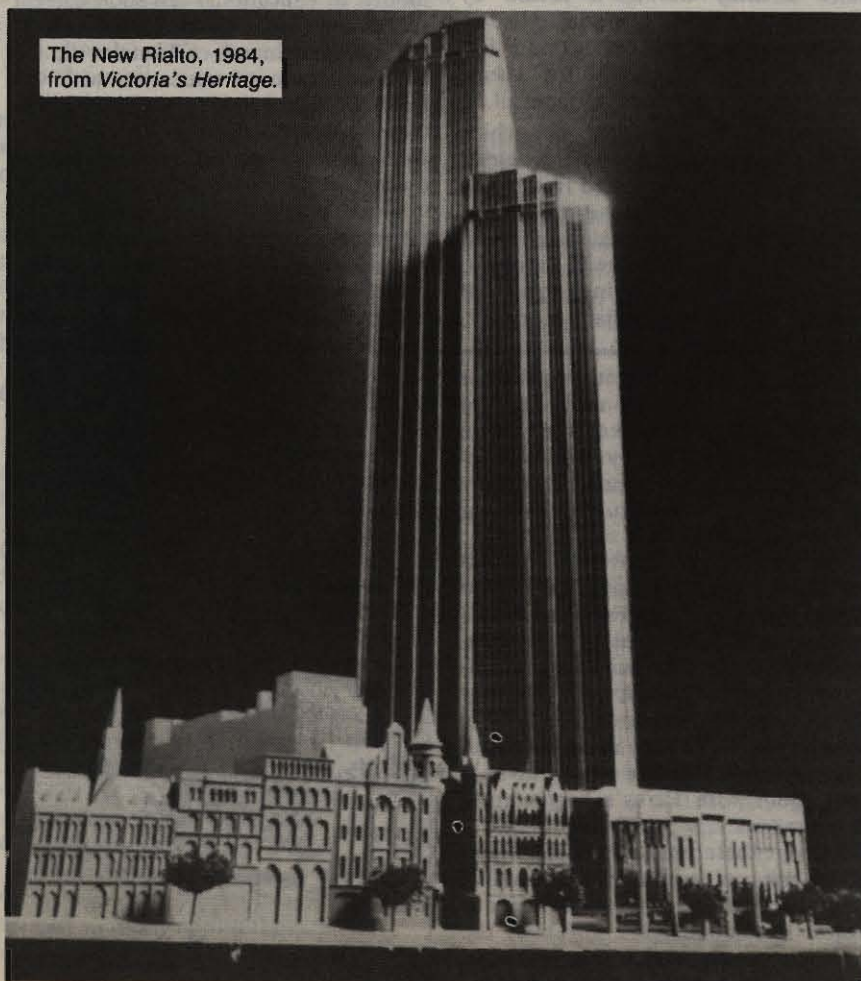
As he makes abundantly clear, there is an urgent need for such practical geographical-historical research, which could change those socio-ecological transactions and relationships which have contributed to the environment deterioration of the past 150 years, and provide a basis for sound strategies for the future.

The role of academics in the public arena is also central to Dr Marjorie Harper's story of three Melbourne University economists, Douglas Copland, Richard Downing and Ronald Henderson, who over several decades sought to share their wisdom and experience in the field of public policy.

The attempts of these Keynesian economists to help attain a 'just society' through economic development, full employment, social welfare, and redistribution of wealth by fiscal means, stands in marked contrast to the program of many economists today who — influenced by Friedmanite monetarism — seem much less concerned to influence the workings of the Australian economy and bring about a more equitable society.

BAIN ATTWOOD

MARCH 1987



BOOKS



Catering for the ethnic palate

Meals-on-Wheels should become "ethnopalatable" to make life easier for aged immigrants, said Victorian politician, Mr Lewis Kent, chairman of the Australian-Yugoslav Welfare Society.

"There is a clear and urgent need to develop and establish ethno-specific services for elderly people of non-English speaking backgrounds," Mr Kent said.

He was speaking at the launching of a report by a Monash postgraduate student on *The needs of elderly Yugoslavs in the Melbourne metropolitan area*.

The report, written by Yugoslav-born Masters candidate, Radmila Borkovic, was funded by the Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission and launched by the Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Mr Peter Spyer.

It claims existing services are failing to meet the needs of elderly Yugoslavs.

"By the year 2001 almost one-third of Yugoslav-born women and men will be aged 60 and over, making the development of better services an urgent priority," Mr Kent said.



• Mr Spyer and Ms Borkovic



Going berserker

Before university officialdom presents us with a *fait accompli* and frustrates democratic endeavor by announcing that the new multi-disciplinary building is to be named The Percy Roundbotham School of Multidisciplinary and Miscellaneous Studies and Other Academic Activities, something should be done.

(As all recipients, and near-misses of Anniversary Medals will recall, Percy was the legendary gardener of the institution which occupied these grounds in pre-Monash days; Percy hated cab-

MONASH REPORTER

Education bashing on an awesome scale

Melbourne Studies in Education 1986

ed. Imelda Palmer
Melbourne University Press
RRP \$29

This volume is the 28th annual edition of *Melbourne Studies in Education*, and there are rumors from the University of Melbourne Education Faculty that it may be the last.

If *Melbourne Studies* is to fall victim to cost-cutting in education, the irony will not be lost on readers of this particular collection.

Is there any significance in the fact that two previous editors are contributors? R.J.W. (Dick) Selleck (now a Professor of Education at Monash) presents a moving study of a working-class boy caught up in the politics of schooling, class and control in Melbourne in the 1860s. This should find its way onto reading lists on the history of childhood in Australia.

Stephen Murray-Smith contributes an article on his research into three remote island cultures — Tristan da Cunha, Pitcairn Island and Cape Barren Island.

Although education is not a major theme, Murray-Smith suggests ominously that the stable moral economies of these tiny communities may well have been destroyed by the arrival of formal education as it is understood in this volume.

Four articles are centrally concerned with the eternal triangle which marks out the territory between the individual, education and the "needs" of society.

All four should be compulsory reading for educationists, policy makers and politicians.

Historians of education are well placed to remind us that most issues which are hotly debated in the 1980s are not new.

Judith Bessant's article, *Schools under scrutiny during a period of depression 1890-1910*, argues persuasively that schools and teachers are frequently made scapegoats for events which are quite outside their control.

She documents the speed with which public discourse on state-provided education in Victoria turned from pride and self-satisfaction in the prosperous 1880s to destructive condemnation in the 1890s, when economic hardship, combined with underlying structural changes in the Australian economy,

bagged and each year would plant the five-acre paddock with neat rows of them and spend a berserker weekend on a tractor towing a rotary slasher chopping the mature cabbages to bits, roaring a bawdy version of *Rule Britannia* at the top of his voice.)

I am by no means convinced that this is the sort of image Monash ought to present to the public. Furthermore, if Senator Susan Ryan is, as is planned, invited to open the new building and confer upon it the Percy epithet, she may take the opportunity to make some more unfortunate allusions to universities and construe regrettable (but wholly invalid) associations with Percy's horticultural idiosyncrasies.

To avert these perils, I wonder if you should not run a competition inviting members of the academic community to suggest a suitable name for this, the latest jewel in our architectural diadem.

plunged the country into poverty and despair.

The "failure" of the school system was used to justify savage retrenchments.

Yet by the Edwardian period the mood had again changed and there were calls on all sides for publicly-funded education to lead national recovery and reconstruction, chiefly through technical and scientific education.

With the same themes in view, Peter Ling explores the emergence of post-elementary state education in Victoria in the same period.

One of the victims of the 1890s Depression was the Melbourne Teachers' College, a shameful episode in the history of teacher training which tinges with irony Grant Harman's study of the shotgun amalgamation between the Bendigo Institute of Technology and the Bendigo Teachers' College (SCV Bendigo) in a more recent cycle of economic depression and education bashing.

Strident

Richard Pring's study, *Curriculum for ages 14-18: "The new vocationalism?"*, extends Bessant's analysis to Britain in the 1980s. As this article first appeared as his 1985 Fink memorial lecture (another venerable institution associated with the University of Melbourne Education Faculty), Pring begins and ends with quotations from the royal commission on technical education led by Theodore Fink in Victoria at the beginning of this century. Both could have been penned by royal commissioners in the 1980s.

Pring identifies two conflicting models of educational salvation current in Britain. On the one hand, there are the strident demands of Thatcherism for the integration of education with the needs of the market place, backed by unprecedented central government intervention in the secondary schools and in the school-to-work transition process.

The Youth Training Scheme, significantly, under the auspices of the Manpower Services Commission, was launched in September 1983 with a budget of £1000 million — at a time

As the building presents two entirely different personalities to respectively, north and south, it might be in order to give it two names so that visitors would know from which side to approach it. My own inclination would be to name the south face The Pink Elephant, and the northern one The Zig-Zaggarat.

George Silberbauer,
Anthropology and Sociology



when traditional institutions of education were being severely pruned. This is education bashing on an awesome scale.

On the other hand, Pring identifies the "pastoral care" model which seeks to transform the curriculum in order to give young people personal skills and a sense of self-worth in a society which increasingly denies them the traditional route to adulthood through the world of work.

The only contributor to offer his own blueprint for educational reform is Brian Crittenden. He argues for a rigorous liberal education for all Australian children up to the end of year 10.

He is equally as uneasy with Thatcherite vocationalism as he is with the negotiated curriculum favored by the personal development strategists.

Neither does Crittenden share the current Australian enthusiasm for encouraging all children to complete 12 years of full-time secondary education.

He argues for a wide range of institutional and school-to-work options after year 10, although the details are not spelled out.

Like many traditionalists who have not been in the classroom for some time, Crittenden tends to write as if any teacher worth his or her salt could teach the prescribed liberal arts curriculum at Methodist Ladies' College in the morning and at Broadmeadows East Technical School in the afternoon without missing a beat.

He agrees that a liberal education after year 10 might not be appropriate for all children but, unlike Richard Pring, he leaves hanging questions about which children will "choose" not to proceed and how these "choices" are bound up with the reproduction of inequality in Australian society.

If readers of *Melbourne Studies in Education 1986* begin to hanker after simple firmness of purpose and consensus in educational matters, John Watt's damning indictment of the propaganda machine in South Africa's elite white schools should serve as an antidote. So too will Max Charlesworth's splendid essay, *Educational and cultural diversity*.

Marjorie Theobald

Hazards in the schoolground

The average schoolground is a potential source of trouble and injury for pupils — and a legal minefield for teachers.

The duty to protect teachers from "reasonably foreseeable risk of injury" has been spelt out by Mr Peter Heffey, senior lecturer in Law at Monash, in a booklet recently quoted by Mr Justice Matheson for a case in the South Australian Supreme Court.

In *Harvey v. Pennell* (1986) Australian Torts Reports 80-052 at 67,962, the judge described Mr Heffey's work as "illuminating", and used a section of it in his judgment.

The 64-page book, *The duty of schools and teachers to protect pupils from injury*, contains up-to-date information about actions which can be taken against teachers and schools when a child has been injured.

Copies are available at \$6 each from *Monash University Law Review*, Faculty of Law, Monash University.

A taste of life in the tertiary world

Nearly 300 Year 11 students had their first taste of tertiary education in December during a three-day live-in course based at the Monash Halls of Residence.

The Junior University Program, organised by the Careers and Appointments Service, introduced the students to such subjects as in vitro fertilisation, the exploration of space and laser technology.

The students came from more than 90 schools in Victoria and southern New South Wales, and most left with a completely new view of tertiary education.

"I hadn't realised there were so many courses offered," said Sally Eshuys from Highvale High School, who discovered many alternatives she had not thought of before.

The program gave confidence to Donna Arani, a student from Star of the Sea.

"I had an image of the perfect student as super-intelligent and only interested in study," she said.

"I always believed I couldn't conform to that image, but now I feel much more confident about attending university."

The program was based on a scheme which has been operating at the University of Queensland for the past 16 years, but it differs in that private sector and government employers are invited to speak to the students.

The Junior University Program was organised by the director of the Monash Careers and Appointments Service, Mr Lionel Parrott, and careers counsellors Mr Bryan Barwood and Ms Katherine Lock.

Careers on tap

Meanwhile, the first large-scale Employment Contact Centre at an Australian university operated for three days last December in Robert Blackwood Hall to encourage re-enrolling students to look at their career prospects.

Law, teaching, accounting, engineering, banking, computer and public service representatives were on hand to offer advice and to recruit students and graduates.

Final year and graduate careers counsellor, Mr Bryan Barwood, said the arrangement gave students the ultimate career planning opportunity.

Many of the representatives gave away brochures detailing required qualifications and job descriptions.

Students from other tertiary institutions also took advantage of the range of employers looking for graduate recruits.

Mr Lionel Parrott, director of the Careers and Appointments Service which operated the centre, said companies sent their top-line recruiting staff.

He believed this reflected the increasing demand for graduates in the workforce, and in accounting and banking firms in particular.

The number of unemployed graduates is decreasing as a result of employers recognising the worth of hiring graduates who have a wide range of skills, Mr Parrott said.

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Want to be on a winning side? The Monash University Chess Club is proving unstoppable with top honors in the state for the third consecutive year.

All four club teams made the grand finals of the Victorian Chess Association's Inter-club competition, and the A and C grades won.

But the club caters for all levels of play from master to beginner, and newcomers are welcome. Its rooms upstairs in the Union Building (next to Wholefoods Restaurant) are open from 8am to 8pm weekdays.

Members include undergraduates, postgraduates, academics and general staff. Pictured above playing for the A Reserve team in the finals are, from left, Richard Excell, Ranjeet Singh, Adrian Turner and Ritchie Nairn.



Visitors to the Junior University Program were Donna Arani, left, from Star of the Sea, and Sally Eshuys from Highvale High School.

Counselling

More than 60 staff members attended a recent seminar organised by the university's Counselling Service on *The conflicting life tasks of students in tertiary education*.

They included representatives of student services, senior administrators and academic staff from every level.

Serbian visit

The Serbian Minister for Education and Physical Culture, Mr Milomir Petrovic, visited the Slavic Studies department recently, bringing with him more than 50 books to add to the library's Serbo-Croatian collection.

Monash is the only university in Australia where Serbo-Croatian is taught as a subject.

Research conferences

The Australian Academy of Science is calling for proposals for research conferences to be held in 1988 through the Elizabeth and Frederick White Research Conferences program.

One or two conferences are held each year in the physical and mathematical sciences related to the earth, the oceans, the atmosphere solar-terrestrial activities, space sciences and astronomy.

The conferences, held over a two-day period in the academy's Ellerton Becker Building in Canberra, are intended to fill, in Australia, part of the niche filled by the Gordon Research Conferences in the United States.

Inquiries should be directed to Mrs Hilary Beck, GPO Box 783, Canberra, ACT 2601, (062) 47 5330.

MARCH DIARY

The events listed below are open to the public:

- ALEXANDER THEATRE**
- 10: **COMEDY** — "Middle Age Spread" by Roger Hall. Pres. by Alexander Theatre, in association with Harvest Theatre Co., SA, and Victorian Association of Performing Arts. Nightly at 8.15 until 21 March. Admission \$14.90 (concessions available).
- Reservation inquiries: 543 2255.
- ROBERT BLACKWOOD HALL**
- 8: **AFTERNOON CONCERT** — "I have a Song to Sing O!", by Australian Choral Association. 2 pm. Admission: adults \$10, concession \$7. Inquiries: 259 9544.
- 8: **BODY-BUILDING** — IFBB Southern States Championships. Judging, 12 noon, \$7. Evening session, 7.30 pm. \$25.
- 16: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Ensemble. I pres. works by Frederic Dyvernoy, Toru Takemitsu, Franz Strauss, Ernest Bloch and Don Banks. 1.15pm. Admission free.
- 23: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Choir

- of Ormond College performing works by Felice Anerio, Marc Antonio, Luca Marenzio, Benjamin Britten, Edward Bairstow, Herbert Howells, Gordon Kerry, Johann Sebastian Bach, Francis Poulenc and Johannes Brahms. 1.15 pm. Admission free.
- 28: **EVENING CONCERT** — Folk Concert presented by Chao Feng Chinese Orchestra in full costume. 8 pm. Admission: adults \$9, concession \$7.
- 30: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Zenobia Vakil-Patel (piano) pres. works by Mozart, Schubert, Bartok. 1.15 pm. Admission free.
- Inquiries — RBH booking office, 544 5448.

LECTURES, SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS

- 2: **ARTS & CRAFTS** — Brochure of short courses and weekend workshops offered by Monash Arts & Crafts Centre now available. Inquiries: ext. 3180.
- 5: **UNIVERSITY SERVICE** — "Current ethical issues in education", by Elizabeth Britten,

- Principal of Shelford Girls' School. Religious Centre, 1.10 pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3162.
- ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE** — "Aboriginal Australia", by Eve Fesl. R6, 1 pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3245.
- 12: **LECTURE** — "Ethical issues in the professions — Engineering", by Professor J.D.C. Crisp. R3, 1 pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3150, 3162.
- ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE** — "Pre-European History", by Dr D. Frankel. R6, 1 pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3245.
- SEMINAR** — "The preservation of a culture: Three early Sundanologists", by Greg Ralph. Pres. by Centre of Southeast Asian Studies. Room 515, Menzies Building, 11.15 am. Inquiries: ext. 4993.
- 13: **EXHIBITIONS** — Russell Drysdale and The Monash University Collection: two exhibitions to celebrate the opening of Monash University's new art gallery. Open weekdays 10 am - 5 pm., Saturdays 12-5pm, until 16 April. Ground floor, Multidiscipline Centre. Inquiries: ext. 4217.

- 15: **MONSTER GARAGE SALE** — Monash University Parents' Group invites sellers and buyers to get together in the Humanities Car Park from 8 am to 1 pm. Inquiries and reservations: 570 3337, 565 3100.
- 19: **LECTURE** — "Ethical issues in the professions — Law", by Professor C. Weeramantry. R3, 1 pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3150, 3162.
- SEMINAR** — "Recent political developments in the Philippines", by Ian Bell, ABC. Room 515, Menzies Building, 11.15 am. Inquiries: ext. 4993.
- ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE** — "Pre-European History", by Mr W. Atkinson. R6, 1 pm. Inquiries: ext. 3245.
- 26: **SEMINAR** — "The collection and presentation of a culture: A prelude to nationalism", by John Paterson. Room 515, Menzies Building, 11.15 am. Inquiries: ext. 4993.
- ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE** — "An overview of colonialism", by Dr A. Markus. R6, 1 pm. Inquiries: ext. 3245.
- LECTURE** — "Ethical issues in the professions — Accountancy", by Mr K. Smith. R3, 1 pm. Inquiries: ext. 3150, 3162.

Making fun of the mid-life crisis

New Zealand's only full-time playwright, Roger Hall, visited Melbourne last week to pave the way for his latest comedy, *Middle Age Spread*, which opens at the Alexander Theatre on March 10. Hall also wrote the hit comedy, *Flexitime*.

Arts/Law student, Monica Keightley, editor of the amateur theatre magazine, *Theatre Club*, spoke to Hall about his plays.

Variety magazine voted *Middle Age Spread* the best comedy of the year in 1985, and the show played to packed houses for 18 months on London's West End.

It has been labelled a "comedy of manners", a description which Hall considers apt.

"I often call it a 'serious comedy' — it'll make you laugh but you can go away and think about it," he said.

"It's not a farce; the characters aren't subservient to the plot. You're interested to know about them as people."

Middle Age Spread is set at a dinner party for six — none of whom want to be there, but feel they must attend because of social pressures.

Unfortunately, the hostess (Elizabeth) isn't *au fait* with the private lives of her guests. As the dinner party develops, her husband Colin's clandestine involvement with Judy (a teacher in the school at which Colin is now headmaster) becomes an issue. The situation is complicated by the fact that Judy's husband (Robert) is seated opposite Colin. Reg, a lecturer and an obnoxious drunk, looks on with his poor wife Isabel. They also suffer a setback when it is revealed that Colin and Elizabeth's daughter is pregnant to their son.

How much of Hall's characterisations are stereotypical, and how much believable people? "The characters are stereotypes in the sense that people recognise them, but they're still very much individuals," he says.

How does he feel about the characters? "Reg behaves abominably, but I agree with his views, which is interesting, because I've put my views into an unsympathetic character.

"It's more interesting to write characters that aren't black and white, but fall in between."

Paul Eddington (*Yes Minister* etc.) performed in the London production as did Richard Briers (*The Good Life*). The play was Anglicised ("Richard said 'There's no way audiences will accept me other than being British'"), and Hall accepts this wryly — top-name actors are usually necessary for successful West End plays. "Better an Anglicised play by a New Zealand playwright than none at all," he says.

To what extent is *Middle Age Spread* a product of New Zealand? Clearly it has had massive international appeal. Hall believes the New Zealand influence may have come through, though his English upbringing probably shows also.

What about the inevitable comparisons with Williamson and Ayckbourn? Hall sees parallels: after all, he and Williamson are both the first play-

wrights to make their local audiences accept local plays.

"Before *Flexitime* (*Glidetime* in New Zealand) there was no one play that captured the New Zealand public's imagination — and Williamson did the same here." He believes, however, that Williamson is "more violent and angrier".

Middle Age Spread is the Harvest Theatre Company's first production for 1987. It will be seen in four states. The Alexander Theatre is hosting this South Australian company in conjunction with The Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres.

Meanwhile, Roger Hall has not been standing still; his latest play, *Multiple Choice*, starring Suzannah York, has just opened in London. His Mills and Boon spoof, *Love Off the Shelf*, has also taken off.

★ ★ ★

Middle Age Spread will have a short Melbourne season at the Alexander Theatre from March 10-21, at 8.15 nightly. Special staff and student discounts apply and bookings can be made on ext. 3992.



● Rod McLennan and Pamela Morrissey in *Middle Age Spread*.

Newcomers meet mein host

The unique Monash Host Scheme has ways of making shy newcomers welcome.

With the serious business of enrolment over and done with — allowances, ID cards, library rights and more — students departing from the enrolment centre in the Main Dining Room walked into an ambush.

Even the most self-conscious gave up trying to look invisible as Host Scheme co-ordinators Harvey "The Mouth" Kalman and Vicky Richer greeted them loudly and joyfully, extolling the virtues of joining in with this wonderful exercise in human relations.

The response was terrific — almost 90 per cent of the newcomers consulted wall maps to find their host groups and were computer-matched with second and third year veterans who would take them through the initiation rites of the university.

The specially-developed computer

system was operated by volunteers, all former beneficiaries of the scheme, which has been operating for many years.

It is constantly being improved and this year it will be "marketed" as well to students receiving second-round offers.



● Co-ordinator Harvey Kalman, centre, and voluntary helper Wendy Bainger (3rd year Arts) seated, enrolling Gregory Young, left, and Peter Smith in the Host Scheme. Both are 1st year Arts students. Photo — Tony Miller.

Monash Reporter

The next issue will be published in the first week of April, 1987.

Copy deadline is Friday, March 20 and early copy is much appreciated.

Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor, Lisa Kelly, Information Office, University Offices, or ring ext. 2003.