

German expo to forge glass art links

A major exhibition of contemporary Australian work in hot and cold glass to be held in West Germany in December is being organised by a senior lecturer with the School of Art and Design, Mr Klaus Zimmer.

'Young Australian Glass' will be staged at the Hessisches Landesmuseum in Darmstadt, which houses extensive collections of stained glass ranging from 9th Century to contemporary works.

Mr Zimmer says the exhibition will be 'a singular event of great international importance', presenting the cream of works by glass artists throughout Australia.

Links with the museum were first established in 1979, with Mr Zimmer as the only Australian representative at its first international stained glass exhibition.

Ties were further strengthened in 1981 when internationally renowned glass designer, Ludwig Schaf-frath, held his first Australian workshop at Chisholm, and with the first contemporary German-Australian co-exhibition of architectural and autonomous glass at the Sydney Opera House Gallery, Canberra School of Art Gallery, and the Melbourne Meatmarket Craft Centre.

In return for Australia hosting the German exhibition, Dr Wolfgang Beeh, Director of the Hessisches Landesmuseum, invited Mr Zimmer and his wife Jenny to organise the December exhibition in Darmstadt.

Mr Zimmer is convinced that 'this exhibition will be a significant contribution to the cultural exchange with Germany and will help to promote the international status of Australian glass'.

He has contacted more than 300 colleagues throughout Australia inviting them to submit works for selection.

Between 25 and 30 flat glass panels and the same number of hot glass pieces will be put on show at the museum in 'visually, a most beautifully presented exhibition'.

Chisholm students past and present who have made their mark in the world of glass design will be invited to take part.

Funding for Young Australian Glass has come from a variety of sponsors.

Mr Zimmer has contributed \$2000 from his own pocket, with a further \$2000 from the Institute and at least \$1000 from the School of Art and Design.

The Crafts Board of the Australia Council has pledged matching contributions of up to \$6000 on a dollar for dollar basis.

Other financial support for the exhibition has been pledged by:

- R&D Electronics — director Ron and Delia Fisher, who sponsored a large commission for Chisholm for glass design at a Catholic Church in Mulgrave, have promised \$2000.
- Yencken Sandy Glass Industries — \$1250.
- Dr Peter Seifert, a solicitor friend of Mr Zimmer's in West Germany — \$1500.

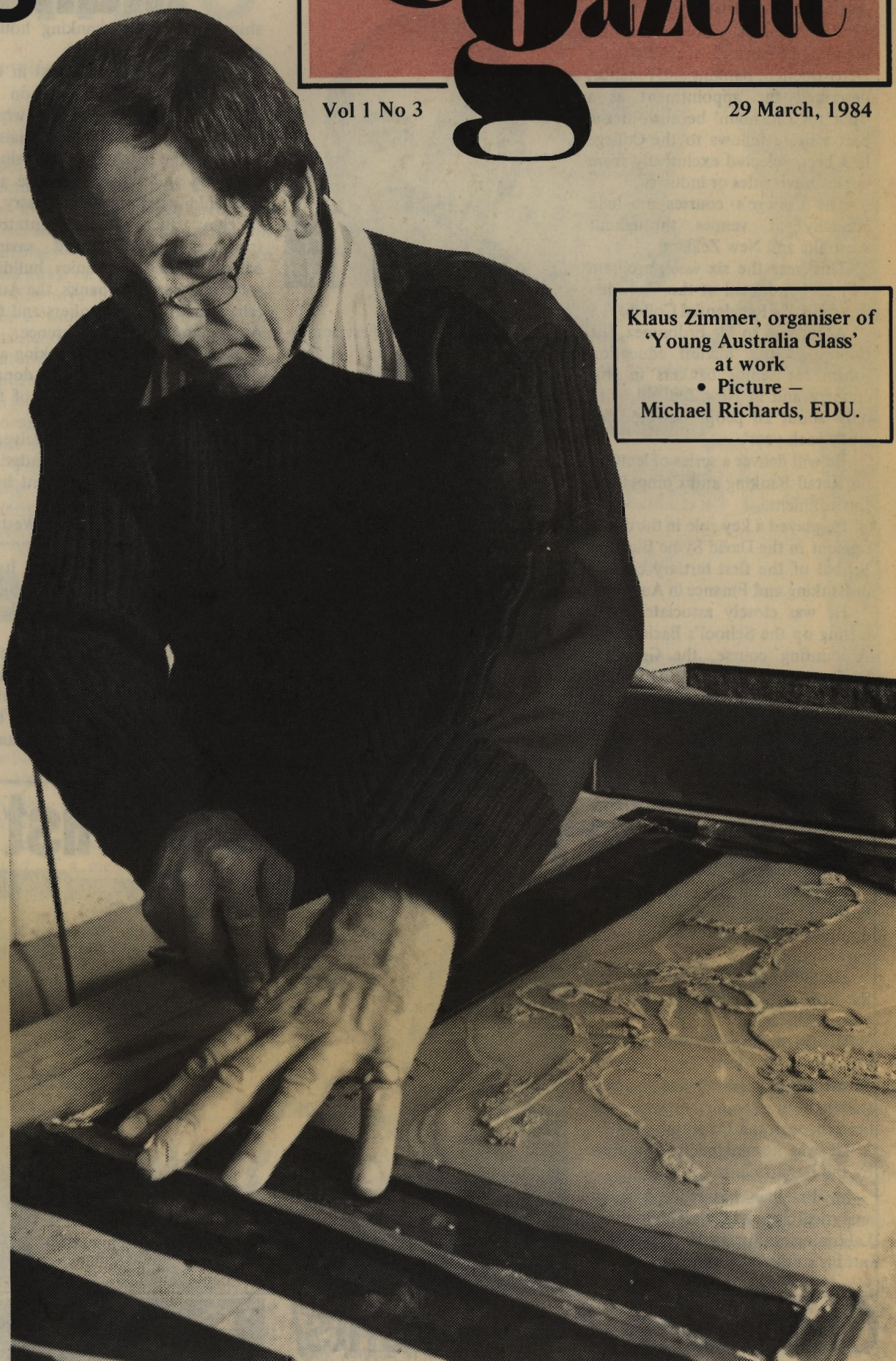
Mr Zimmer said a further offer of help had come from Australian Opera Company singer, Elizabeth Allen.

Ms Allen, a lover of contemporary glass, will give two concerts with other singers from the Company, at the RMIT Glasshouse Theatre on 17 April, and at Chisholm on 1 May.

Proceeds from the concerts will go towards the cost of staging the exhibition.

Mr Zimmer is confident that the exhibition will be 'a powerful statement of the level of art which we are producing'.

An Australian tour is planned for the exhibition after Darmstadt.



Klaus Zimmer, organiser of 'Young Australia Glass' at work
• Picture — Michael Richards, EDU.

Demand for teaching hits all time high

The demand for entrance to Chisholm's School of Education courses was at an all time high this year.

Over 1500 applicants (including 60 under the Direct Entry Scheme) vied for just 70 positions for the Diploma of Teaching (Primary), and more than 900 (again including direct entry candidates) for only 15 places available in the Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood).

According to the Selection Officer for the courses, Mrs Elizabeth Mellor, the job of choosing candidates from such a vast pool was particularly tough and often heart-breaking.

'There was much more demand this year for teacher education courses and as a result, cut-off points went up right across the board'.

Consequently, she says, 'there are a significant number of applicants who received no offers in teacher education this year.'

For those whose only desire was

to be a teacher, and who put down teacher education options only on their VUAC forms, the position was particularly sad.

'It would have been quite possible for students who got an HSC/TOP score in the region of 240 to get no tertiary offers because they had chosen only specialist teaching options such as Early Childhood or Physical Education,' Mrs Mellor says.

'Had they added some other courses to their preferences they may have got something.'

The number of potential students

whose applications were knocked back made the business of selection even more difficult than usual.

Mrs Mellor says during the selection period it was not unusual to have 'five or six weeping applicants and parents' outside the door.

'The fact is they were applicants who could not be accommodated in the system.'

But Mrs Mellor says despite current problems, 'the long term outlook for those who want to be teachers has to be increasingly bright.'

A report by the Victorian Post

Secondary Education Commission (VPSEC) last year advocated an increase in enrolments for the Early Childhood diploma for the next triennium.

VPSEC has proposed a total increase enrolments for the School of around 30 students for next year, but the number of those new places which will go to the Early Childhood diploma is not yet known, Mrs Mellor says.

She says the course was originally accredited to take about 60 students, and although numbers were severely cut, demand for

places has remained high.

It has remained a 'traditionally very popular career for women, but in the last few years fewer than 200 places have been offered each year in the whole of Victoria.'

The course offered at Frankston is particularly attractive to prospective students because its graduates are eligible for registration both as primary and kindergarten teachers.

Mrs Mellor says graduates therefore get a double chance, although the major emphasis of the course is on children aged nought to eight.

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LDS tackles the language barriers

One of the biggest problems facing Chisholm's new Language Development Section is coping with the demand for its skills.

According to the co-ordinator, Ms Helen Tebble, the 12 month pilot scheme, which began in February, has already established a strong following among students and staff.

Ms Tebble says the section is the result of the recognition by the Academic Board about four years ago that a 'language in learning problem did exist at Chisholm'.

In 1982 it sought a solution by establishing a joint working party between the Schools of Social and Behavioural Studies and Education. As a result the proposal for a centre for language development under the umbrella of the Educational Development Unit, was recommended.

The main aims of the LDS are to:

- Diagnose the academic literacy needs of students and co-ordinate literacy testing programs for the Institute
- Be available to all students seeking assistance with improving their academic reading, writing and study methods, and provide them with appropriate tuition
- Provide specific courses in English as a second or foreign language.

Although the LDS's main focus is to address the 'literacy problem', Ms Tebble does not see its function 'in the narrow sense of remedial education.

'Rather, we regard it as work in applied linguistics', she says.

Both Ms Tebble and fellow LDS staff member, Ms Jill Anderson, are specialists in the field and share the conviction that students who see academic English as a stumbling block to their studies can be helped.

The Section offers a variety of services for specific problems, including teaching programs, mini-courses and individual tuition.

Those students who can be helped by the programs include:

- Overseas students for whom English is a second or foreign language.
- Mature age students returning to study.
- Special entry students who achieved good results in HSC or TOP subjects, but who failed English. (In this case a condition of entry to Chisholm courses is that students go to the Section for an interview and appropriate follow-up work).
- Students who have had gaps in their education.
- Those who are native speakers of English who would like to raise their standard.

Letter

The first edition of Chisholm Gazette was most impressive, but I have one quibble.

I was disappointed to read that Dr Brian Jenney will 'head up' engineering within the Faculty of Technology. This is not because of any reservations about Dr Jenney, but about the silly American phrase 'head up'.

Dr Jenney will 'head' engineering; he will not 'head it up'. There is enough American cultural imperialism around us at the best of times. I hope the Gazette will agree that we don't need silly American words and phrases in order to enrich our vocabularies.

P.K. Rodan.

- Students who may want extra assistance with their final draft of essays or tutorial papers.

Ms Tebble says the LDS is currently developing tapes for pronunciation and reading purposes for Chinese speaking students who often 'do not have time for acclimatisation of English in the Australian environment because of visa requirements'.

Sessions run every Wednesday at lunchtime by the LDS aim to encourage social interaction between native English speakers and overseas students. Staff are welcome to attend.

Ms Tebble also hopes to either

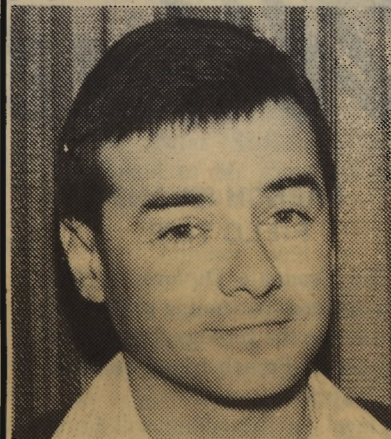
film or tape record a variety of lectures and tutorials 'to enable us to capture strategies in tutorial discussions so we can analyse the language being used in learning, and put it on paper'.

She says the LDS aims to cater for a 'wide spread of demands for assistance with English language', in tutorial presentation, essay writing, spelling, pronunciation, note-taking in lectures, lab reports, oral reading, advanced reading and English grammar, study skills and handwriting.

Essentially, she says, 'we have to help them to communicate sufficiently well to ensure they perform well in their studies'.

APS prize-winner

Applied Psychology graduate, David Johnson has received the Australian Psychological Society's Prize for his outstanding success in Chisholm's 1983 Graduate Diploma program.



David Johnson

He completed the course with high distinctions in all six subjects.

The APS prize includes an award of \$100 plus subsidised travel costs to the Society's annual conference to be held this year in Perth.

Mr Johnson will present a paper at the conference outlining the research project he pursued during his studies, which involved development of a method of testing the vocational maturity of blind people.

He was able to show that blind children are generally as mature in their vocational development as those who are sighted.

Mr Johnson was a recent recipient of a Commonwealth Post-Graduate Award. He is currently enrolled in the Department of Applied Psychology MA by research program.

Portsea for sale?

The Education Department wants to sell Chisholm's Portsea Annexe as part of its current program of disposing of redundant land.

The Department's Westernport Regional Office has listed the site for sale at market value and the Institute has been asked to comment on the proposal.

In a letter to the Director, Mr Patrick Leary, on 16 January, the Department's Principal Facilities Planning Officer said the annexe (formerly Portsea Primary School No. 2929) was no longer required for future state education purposes and therefore was available for immediate disposal.

The letter said the Department agreed in 1968 to the land, buildings and facilities being used by the then Frankston Teachers College as an annexe for educational camps; although it appeared that no formal agreement or lease was ever drawn up.

The Associate Director, Dr Graham Trevaskis says the Institute is faced with the options of:

- Purchasing the property outright at a price struck by the Valuer-General.
- Exploring a joint use arrangement between Chisholm and the

Department.

- Withdrawing from any involvement with the site.

The options form the basis of a report currently being prepared by Frankston campus manager, Mr Barry Bilham.

Recommendations drawn from the report will be put to the Education Department within the next few weeks.

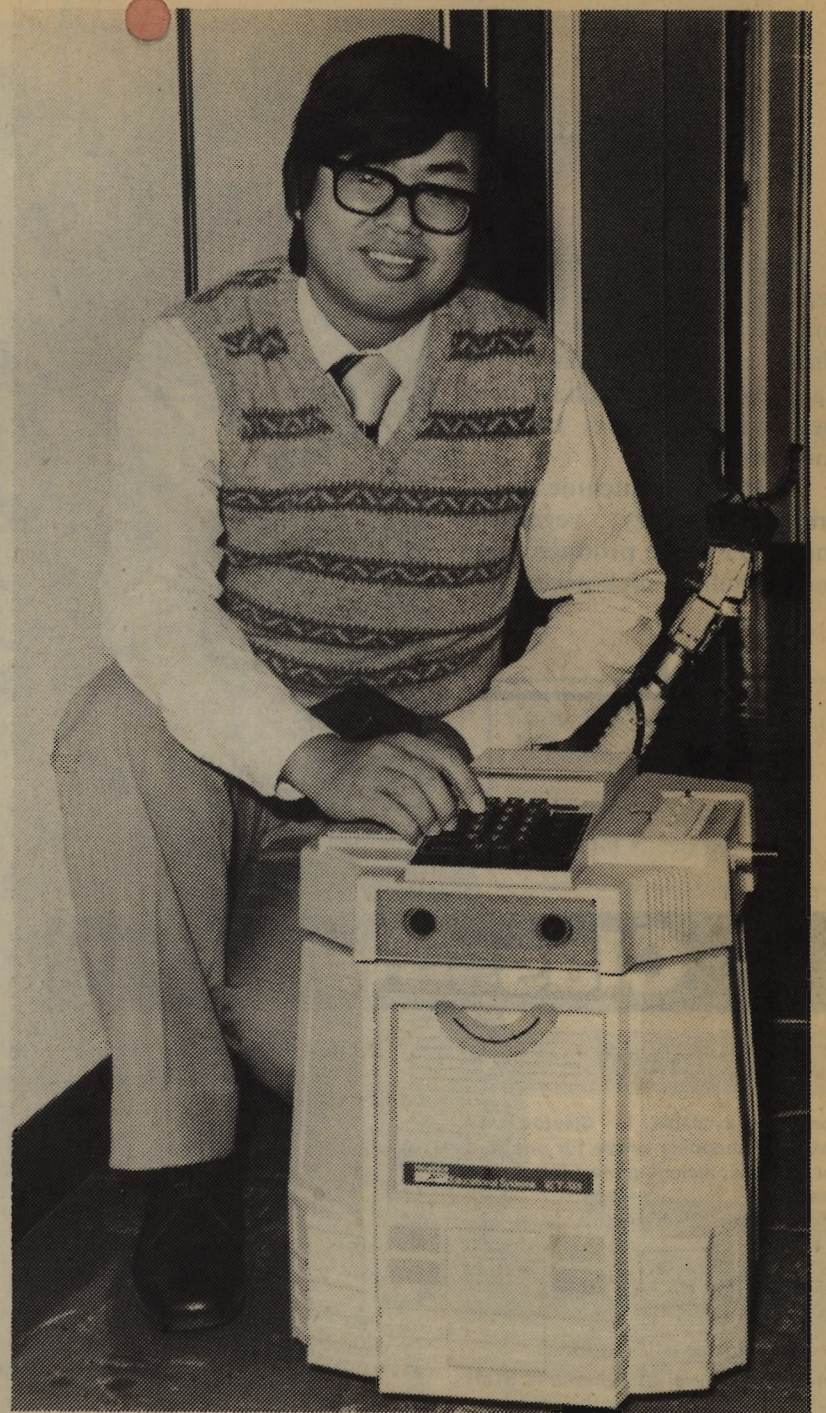
The annexe is at the southern end of the Mornington Peninsula, and the facilities on the three acre, former rural school site include a small staff lodge, two student lodges, a modern kitchen and amenities blocks.

Frankston campus has used the annexe for a variety of activities during its 16 year involvement there.

These include programs for first year education students, activities involving students in the Graduate Diploma in Outdoor Studies and Art and Design, and a program for third year education students designed to equip them with supervisory experience with school children at camps.

Primary schools also use the annexe regularly.

Mr Bilham says it is likely Frankston will argue strongly for Chisholm's continued involvement at Portsea.



U.N. job for robot man

Robotics lecturer, Dr Ken Wong, has secured a prestigious United Nations appointment to China.

He will spend a month as visiting specialist in robotics at the Department of Computer Sciences at the Chengdu Institute of Communications Engineering in the Sichuan Province.

The appointment, by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), is particularly noteworthy considering Dr Wong's age.

He is 32. Normally, he says, UNIDO would expect a consultant to have at least 10 years experience in industry and past appointees have tended to be in the 45 - 50 age bracket.

In Dr Wong's case, they were prepared to make an exception.

His appointment is part of UNIDO's program of assistance to industrial development in countries which lack expertise in certain areas.

The program is designed to bring developing countries, such as China, up to date with advances in industrial technology.

Dr Wong describes the appointment as 'a rare chance'.

'It will be a new experience for me. China is a country of a lot of contradictions and contrasts.

'They design and manufacture their own super-computers to a standard that's world class, but they lack expertise in applied technology.'

Dr Wong says in the wake of the Cultural Revolution, China has been left behind in many areas of technological growth.

Only now is it starting to catch up, although a major obstacle is the acute lack of people with the expertise to assist in the country's transition to a modern industrial society.

And Dr Wong says those few people have in the past 'been restricted to military applications - among the civilian population people with the necessary expertise are very rare'.

In a country of a population around the 1000 million mark, only a small number of Institutes with an emphasis on high technology exist, he explains.

The Institute has asked Dr Wong to take with him an American robot kit (the walking, talking, seeing Hero of which Chisholm's Robotics Centre has two) for educational purposes.

He has asked the Australian government to relay the request to UNIDO.

Dr Wong will spend most of his time at the Institute lecturing to a group of interested professionals, and hopes to set up a project which can be carried on after he leaves.

Dr Wong joined the Robotics Centre at Chisholm in March last year after three and a half years with ICI Australia researching the automation of analytical instruments.

He came to Australia from Hong Kong in 1975 to study at Monash University, completing a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (with first class honors) in 1977, and a PhD in electrical engineering in 1979.

He hopes to take up the UNIDO appointment in July.

