

MONTAGE

NEWS FROM THE CAMPUSES OF MONASH UNIVERSITY

Vol. 1 Issue 3

13 December 1990

Uni leads in teaching, research funding

Teaching and research has a higher priority at Monash than at any other Australian university.

Figures released last week show that the university will commit almost 70 per cent of its 1991 budget to these two areas.

Comptroller, Mr Peter Wade announced the figure of 68.5 cents in every dollar in the university's extensive 1991 Budget Statement.

Monash will spend an estimated \$178 million on teaching and research. The remainder of the \$260 million budget will be allocated to administration, including maintaining computer systems and running the library.

Mr Wade said the university's total operating budget for 1991 was equivalent to all the land tax collected in Victoria in one year. "Monash is a large resource user," he said. "The university community is larger than many good-sized towns."

"Our budget must not only provide teaching and research facilities, but also community facilities - buildings, sports centres, restaurants, concert halls, theatres, galleries, security and parking."

"We must service the needs of more than 30,000 students in 10 faculties across four campuses. At the same time, we must be accountable to the community which is, in part, providing the resources we are utilising."

For this reason, the university has released to the public a 60-page document outlining the proposed budget distribution for next year. The budget covers everything from the cost of renovating fume cupboards to major building projects.

Next year the university will spend \$20 million on building and maintenance. About 40 per cent of the total budget is being provided by the government. The remainder will come, in part, from investment earnings.

The university has a portfolio of debentures, government bonds, property, shares and investments on the short-term money market. This year those investments reaped about \$12 million, of which \$8 million will go into next year's non-operating budget.

"There will be a big increase in building activity," Mr Wade continued. "Due to our efforts in merging with other institutions, the government has provided significantly more building capital."

"There will, of course, be a delay between starting construction and staff moving in, which may be frustrating. However, we are working to identify priority areas, make better use of extra space, and create more space quickly."

Some of the recent innovations include creating seminar rooms between the lecture theatres in the Menzies Building, refurbishing the basement of the Administration Building, and creating ground floor tutorials rooms and offices in the Engineering Building.

Mr Wade said that the demand for funds exceeded availability.

"In Australian tertiary education, academics in every faculty can, quite rightly, point to areas of shortcomings. The task of the finance people is to find the dollars to maintain and extend our resources and commit a high percentage of that money to teaching and research."

"As the government becomes increasingly tight-fisted towards universities, we will have to be more imaginative and business-like in our approach to finding funding."

"It is not going to be easy to sell the government on our need for extra dollars, especially in times of recession. Therefore, we must seek outside funding."

One example of this is fees from overseas students. In 1990 these fees amounted to \$20 million and assisted Monash in finding places for an additional 825 Australian students.

"Rather than depriving Australian students of places, these fees enable us to take on more students than the government subsidy covers," Mr Wade explained.

He said that unlike many companies, Monash has come in under budget in the past two years. In 1990, the budget was boosted by a \$2.3 million surplus from the previous year. The 1991 budget includes a surplus of \$3.25 million.

(Copies of the 1991 Budget are available from the Budget Manager's Office on 565 5074.)

Crushing cars for the sake of safety

The more cars Professor Noel Murray crushes, the more he will find out about how safe they really are.

And Professor Murray, of the Department of Civil Engineering, believes that some modern cars are not very safe at all.

That's why he and his team are crushing cars using large sophisticated hydraulic testing equipment and then analysing the results.

Professor Murray recently completed a report for Vic Roads on the structural performance of cars in crash situations. His findings were critical of Australian Design Rules and of production line quality control.

Professor Murray, a world expert on thin-walled structures, said that some modern cars which use light, thin-gauge steels in their body structures were not strong enough to guarantee adequate protection for occupants even in relatively low speed crashes.

He said that the Australian Design Rule crash tests were inadequate and required upgrading urgently because they did not take into account varying crash circumstances.

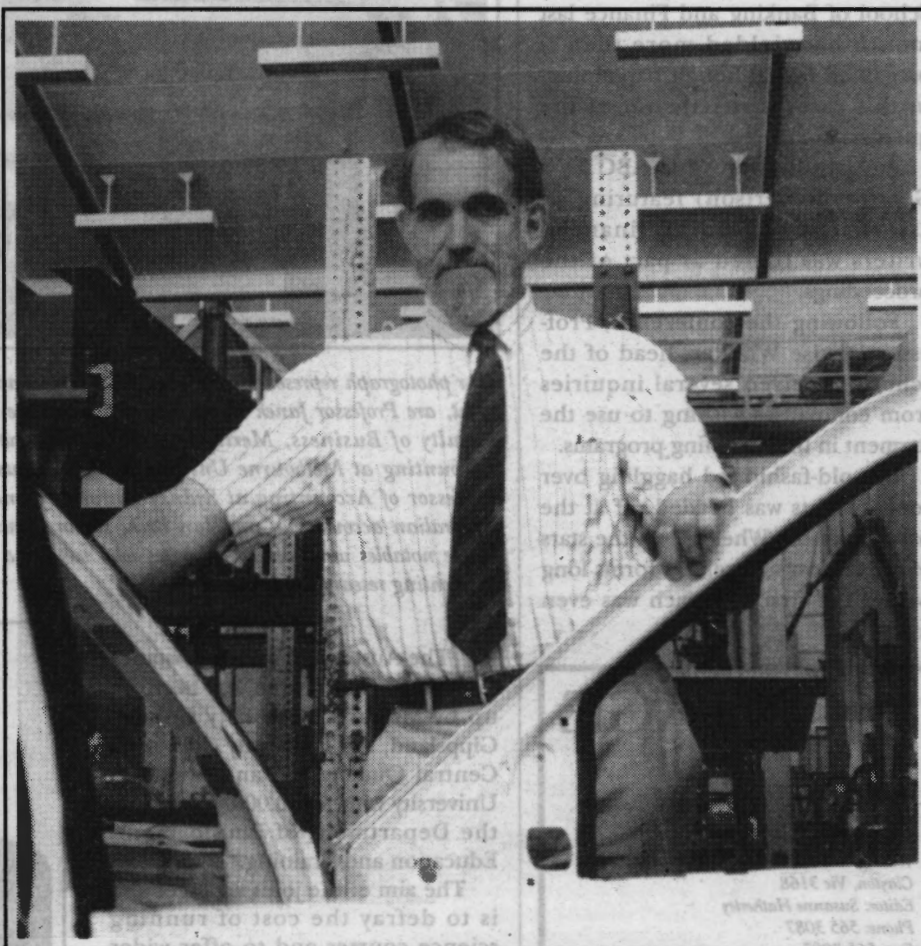
"The problem is that the people designing these cars do not fully understand what happens in a crash situation," Professor Murray said.

"They keep telling us that these modern cars are just as strong as the old ones, but styles and styling people have got the game by the throat."

"You can't tell me that a lightweight car with tons of power is going to be as safe as a heavier car with a smaller engine."

He said the curved, thin-walled roof pillars which are a feature of most modern cars were not strong enough to prevent crushing in a roll-over. The Australian Design Rules did not contain a roll-over standard.

His findings have led to his current study examining how older and modern cars measure up in a roll-over, using the United States standard as a guide.



Professor Noel Murray contemplates the design of modern cars.

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to Gippsland

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N.B.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into a lecture theatre ...

The university's Centre for Enterprise Development is running a four-day management training course at sea, on board the Alma Doepel, a three-masted schooner built almost 90 years ago.

The course publicity says "the unique environment of the Alma Doepel will allow you to explore and experience management issues and principles. Management insights and competencies will surely follow!"

Along with seasickness, sunburn and the occasional rope burn?

Seems unlikely. Being managers, it will undoubtedly all be smooth sailing.

Monash has witnessed its first – and probably not its last – public hanging.

In a well-organised ceremony (we're not talking clockwork but it was close), an appropriately top dressed dean of Engineering, Professor Peter Darvall, presided over the unveiling of portraits of two former deans of his faculty.

Emeritus professors Ken Hunt and Lance Endersbee were given the chance to defend themselves before their portraits were summarily hung.

A conference presented by the School of Banking and Finance last month has yielded more than it bargained for, although bargaining, in this case, is strictly out of the question.

A 'hypothetical' (à la ABC TV's Geoffrey Robertson) featuring an assortment of leading financial writers was filmed as part of the proceedings.

Following the conference, Professor Denise Wheller, head of the school, received several inquiries from companies wishing to use the segment in their training programs.

But old-fashioned haggling over repeat rights was headed off at the pass. Professor Wheller had the stars of the session sign release forms long before the first approach was even made.

MONTAGE

Public Affairs Office
First Floor, Gallery Building
Monash University
Wellington Road
Clayton, Vic 3168
Editor: Susanne Hatherley
Phone: 565 3087
Fax: 565 2097
Design and layout by Monash University
Publishing and Advertising
Printed by Syme Media (Incorp. in Victoria)
142-144 Frankston-Dandenong Road,
Dandenong 3175
Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. VBGO435

Around the Campi

Hot news from the campuses

CAULFIELD

Three gongs to Professor John Miller from the David Syme Faculty of Business.

He recently received the accountancy profession's greatest honour, life membership, for his international leadership in this field.

As well, Professor Miller was recently made a life member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors in recognition of his contribution to education. Professor Miller helped establish the original Australian diploma course for company directors. A course which is now taught by several universities.

He has also been named national vice-chairman of the Committee for the International Finance Centre which will promote financial expertise in the Asia-Pacific Region. The centre was initiated by the Lord Mayor of Sydney.

GIPPSLAND

A research team at Monash University College Gippsland has solved a problem which causes millions of dollars of damage in open cut mining throughout the world.

The college's School of Engineering has developed a unique electronic detector to protect conveyor belts being damaged by sharp metal objects.

The device is now undergoing field testing at Loy Yang Open Cut mine.



A new gas turbine, designed and built by staff and students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, was demonstrated to Ansett's power plant manager, Mr Alan Pickering, last month. Ansett provided components and technical advice for the project. Pictured are (rear) senior lecturer, Mr Robert Gani, Mr Pickering and student Bruce Gunn, (front) student Stuart Knowles and technical officer Steve Donaldson.

commended at the inaugural Engineering 2000 awards presented by the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

The awards, to encourage female participation in the engineering workforce, were presented by Mrs Hazel Hawke last month.



Our photograph represents more than a century of accounting experience. Pictured, from right, are Professor Janek Ratnatunga, head of the School of Accounting, David Syme Faculty of Business, Meritorious Professor Lewis Goldberg, former Professor of Accounting at Melbourne University, Meritorious Professor Ray Chambers, former Professor of Accounting at Sydney University and considered by some the guru of Australian accounting, and Ian Beck, senior lecturer with the School of Accounting. These notables were among delegates who met for a seminar on the future direction of accounting research.

The Australian Science Distance Education Consortium has been set up by Monash University College Gippsland, the University College of Central Queensland and Murdoch University with a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

The aim of the joint arrangement is to defray the cost of running science courses and to offer wider course options.

CLAYTON

The university's combined Arts Engineering degree has been highly

Professor Noel Murray, of the Department of Civil Engineering, has been honoured by a Czechoslovakian university for his research into the behaviour of thin-walled steel structures. Professor Murray is a world authority on such structures through his work into the collapse of the Westgate Bridge.

The Slovak Technical University, Bratislava, presented him with the Faculty Medallion of the Faculty of Civil Engineering.

Dr Brenda Niall, a reader in the Department of English, is one of only a few women to be elected a Fellow of the Academy of Humanities. There are only 200 Fellows of the Academy in Australia and less than 20 are women.

Dr Niall also recently won the National Book Council Award for her biography on Martin Boyd.

Dr Hans Lausch, reader in the Department of Mathematics, and retired mathematics reader, Dr Emanuel Strzelecki, will be working with Australia's gifted young mathematicians in Sydney this month.

They will attend the first Mathematics School of Excellence, a ten-day program to help prepare secondary students for the 32nd International Mathematics Olympiad, held in Sweden next year.

Doctors Lausch and Strzelecki have been involved with mathematics training for secondary students since 1984. In 1989 all three Victorian team members won medals at the IMO and last year each of the six competitors received medals.



At the signing of a joint research agreement between Monash University, the University of Indonesia and the World Health Organisation are (from left) the Indonesian Consulate Mr Gunawan Tjptosujmiarso, chairman of the university's Study Group On Human Reproduction, Dr Biran Affandi, group member Dr Santoso Cornain, and principal investigator, Dr Peter Rogers, of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

From university chair to World Court bench

"When and how the eventual collapse of apartheid will occur, no observer can tell. There can be little doubt, however, that whether through violent or peaceful change, this aberration on the statute books of mankind will inevitably pass into the realm of historical curiosities to be studied with wonder and disbelief by later generations."

After the book containing this passage was banned by the South African censors, a microfilm copy was smuggled into the country inside a fountain pen.

Black market copies of *Apartheid: The Closing Phases?* were eagerly snapped up by opponents of racial discrimination, and it quickly became an unofficial bestseller.

And now its author, Professor Christie Weeramantry, of the Law Faculty, is in the news again.

Professor Weeramantry has just been elected by the United Nations to one of the world's most important judiciaries, the International Court of Justice. (Only one Australian has held a seat on the court. He was Sir Percy Spender, who served from 1958 to 1967.)

The dean of Law, Professor Bob Williams, described Professor Weeramantry's appointment as "one of the most important honors ever to be conferred on a member of this university".

The International Court of Justice, or World Court, is of major significance to global peace. Its 15 judges, who represent different geographical regions, cover two broad areas of jurisdiction.

First, they arbitrate on contentious matters between states that have agreed to abide by the court's order in the event of a dispute. About 50 countries have such treaty obligations.

Second, they have the power to give advisory opinions at the request

of the United Nations General Assembly or other UN organisations.

In order to be elected, a candidate requires an absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly, as well as in the Security Council. Once elected, a judge serves for a term of nine years.

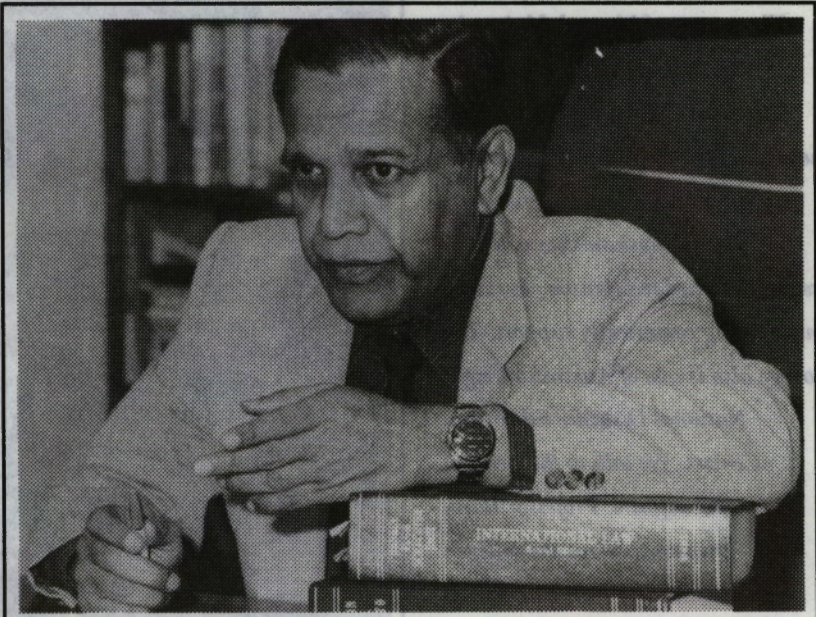
Professor Weeramantry secured 97 votes in the General Assembly and nine in the Security Council, well ahead of his nearest rival who received 51 and three respectively.

"I see my work on the World Court as offering a very challenging opportunity to develop international law and come to grips with some of the new problems our generation is facing - for example, the impact of technology, as well as environmental concerns," he said.

Professor Weeramantry's interests are far-reaching. Chief among them are apartheid, the environment, Third World debt, and the impact of technology on human rights in developing countries.

His achievements are similarly comprehensive. He holds the highest academic qualifications in law, the very rare degree of Doctor of Laws, which he holds from the University of London.

He has written 12 books on topics such as apartheid, human rights, comparative law, and the environment, and is a vice-president of the International Association of Lawyers against Nuclear Arms, and an Associate Academician of the



International Academy of Comparative Law, another rare honor.

He was chairman of an independent commission of inquiry that investigated the feasibility of rehabilitating extensive areas of Nauru devastated by phosphate mining during the island's colonial period, as well as the later period of trusteeship.

The inquiry also considered the question of responsibility for the massive task of greening the small coral island of 5000 people.

One of the highlights of Professor Weeramantry's academic life at Monash - which comes to an end this month after 18 years - occurred when he was invited to speak at the plenary session of a world congress on equality and freedom, held in Missouri as part of the US bicentennial celebrations.

Professor Weeramantry spoke from the standpoint of the Third World on the difficulties it faced in implementing concepts of equality and freedom.

The West, he said, bases such concepts on individualism, whereas traditional societies in the developing world emphasise the

group rather than the self, and duty rather than right.

"In the Third World the individual is sheltered by the group rather than fighting - in the words of Edmund Burke - 'naked and alone against the might of an all-powerful state'," Professor Weeramantry said.

He sees international law as the synthesis of the best thinking of many cultures, rather than the product of one culture alone.

"Law needs to be taken away from mere book learning, so that it can grapple meaningfully with a number of forces operating in society, many of which were not foreseeable at the time some of our legal principles were formulated," he said.

Professor Weeramantry hopes to continue his association with Monash through the occasional lecture. He will also lecture at the University of Colombo, where he is visiting professor.

The World Court sits at The Hague three or four times a year. Professor Weeramantry will take up his appointment there in February.

In Brief

The world-renowned immunologist Professor Sir Gustav Nossal has been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Monash University.

Sir Gustav, director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research and Professor of Medical Biology at the University of Melbourne, received the doctorate last week at a graduation ceremony for the faculties of Engineering, Education and Medicine.

One of Australia's leading economists will return to Monash University in March next year.

A former Monash honours student, Professor Peter Dixon is one of only 10 Australians listed in the *Who's Who in Economics*. He has accepted a Personal Chair in Economics and Directorship of the Centre of Policy Studies which is part of the Faculty of Economics Commerce and Management.

Previously Professor Dixon was Director of the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne.

Professor Dixon will be accompanied by Mr Brian Parmenter, Deputy Director, and other members of that Institute.

Professor Dixon graduated with honours from Monash in 1968 and completed his PhD at Harvard University.

New biotech centre aims to improve exports

A Monash University centre to co-ordinate research into plant and animal biotechnology will be launched this week.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, described the new Monash Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology as "vital to Australia on all fronts".

"The co-ordination and development of this type of research is essential to Australia's economy, agriculture and environment," Professor Logan said. "Australia has lagged in agricultural innovations since the glory days when MacArthur introduced the merino and rocketed Australia from a penal colony to a major wool exporter.

"Recent advances in molecular biology have opened up fresh opportunities which may solve a wide variety of agricultural and

environmental problems. These include improved crop yields, increased plant resistance to disease and pests, chemical-free foods and more natural methods for cleaning up spills in the environment.

We must improve productivity and introduce new varieties.

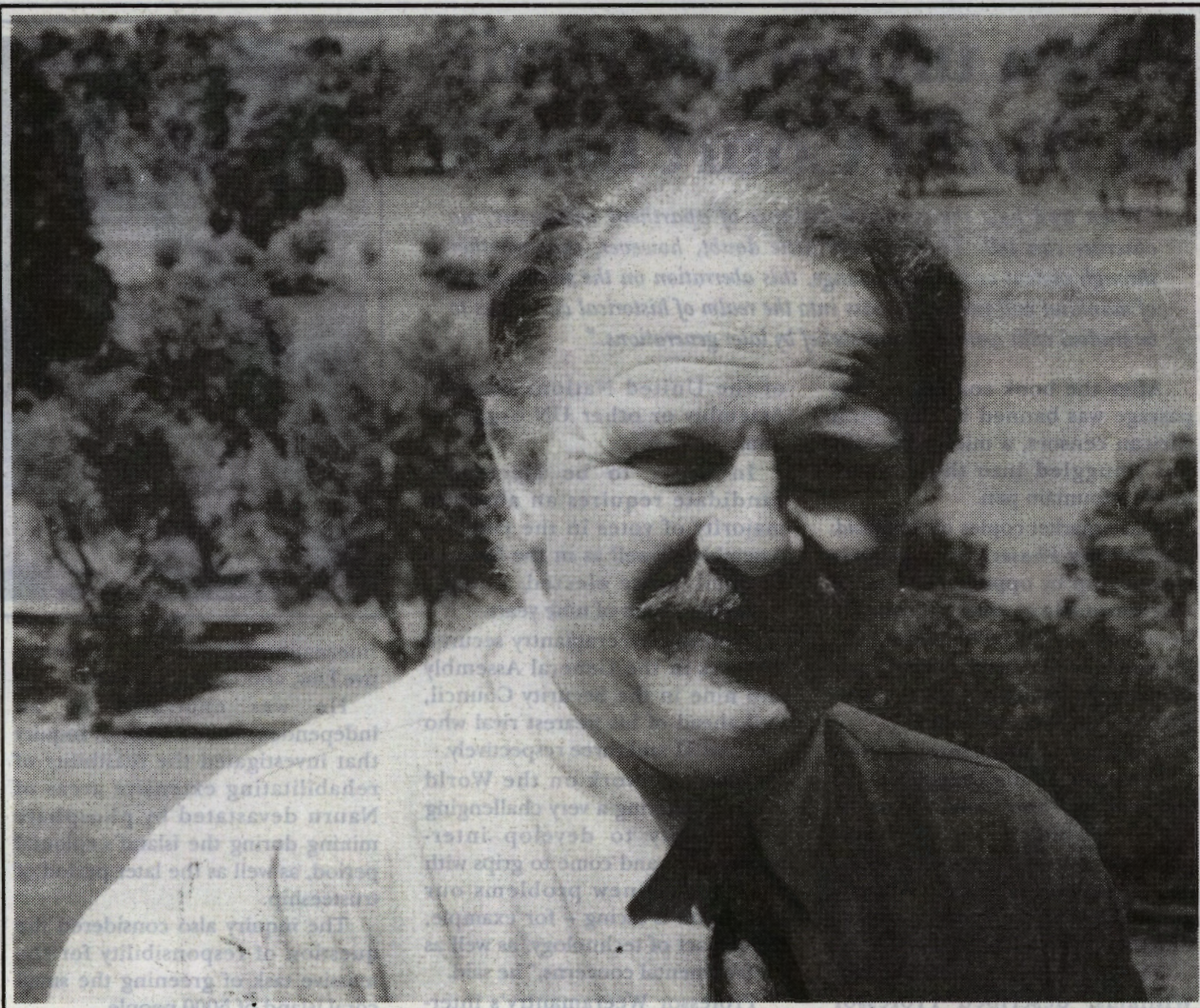
Chairman of the Interim Board set up to establish the Centre, Professor Bruce Holloway, believes co-ordinating research programs and networking expertise is essential if Australia is to retain and develop its world export markets.

"Agricultural production is the mainstay of the Australian economy, providing around 30 per cent of our export dollar. To be competitive, we must improve productivity and introduce new, improved varieties.

"The new techniques in biotechnology are fundamentally no different to the centuries-old practice of selective breeding. However, biotechnology allows us to precisely identify important genes and carefully place them in a wider range of organisms, with the result that we can, for example, develop plants which defend themselves against pests and disease, and crops which will not perish as quickly after harvesting. The latter is particularly important for Australia because we are disadvantaged by distance."

An Interim Board of representatives from Monash University, Victoria's Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DARA), CSIRO and private enterprise has been established to set up the centre.

The merger of Monash University and the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education has forged a new direction for higher education in Gippsland. Monash University College Gippsland has achieved greater national recognition, building on its strong community support. The college also is one of Australia's eight National Distance Education Centres. We talk to the Dean of Academic Affairs, Professor Barry Dunstan, about the college's development and future direction.



All roads lead to learning

The road signs leading to Churchill, a small Gippsland town on the edge of the La Trobe Valley, now tell every visitor what the locals already know.

Churchill is the home of Monash University College Gippsland, and this college is respected as a focus for the entire community.

The college is a part of the Gippsland landscape, a fact confirmed by the local council's renaming of two main roads leading to it.

The Midland Highway has been renamed Monash Way, and the road from Churchill to the campus has become University Drive.

Nobody asked the Morwell Council to change the names, the councillors just thought it would reflect the college's status following the merger of the former Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education and Monash University.

You just can't miss the college, or underestimate the impact that this centre of learning has had on Gippsland over the past 20 years.

But it has not been an easy road, according to one of the college's longest-serving staff members, Professor Barry Dunstan, now the Dean of Academic Affairs and Head of the School of Applied Science.

The college has had to combat indifference in raising the educational standards and career opportunities for Gippsland residents.

Barry Dunstan came to the La Trobe Valley as a sceptical chemistry lecturer from Mildura in 1969. He thought he was coming to the end of the earth, his wife thought it was a "dreadful place," and he gave himself only a year in the job.

Somewhere along the line he "forgot to leave" and now is one of the college's staunchest promoters.

Monash University College Gippsland has been established on the foundations laid by the Yallourn Technical College, which from 1929 provided mainly technical training for SEC engineers.

Gippsland Institute was established in 1968, incorporating the technical college. It has since worked hard to break away from its technical image.

The college's curriculum now includes studies in applied science, business, education, engineering, health sciences, social sciences, visual arts, and is a major provider of distance education.

"We have penetrated deep into the ethos of Gippsland as a whole," Professor Dunstan says. "You are looking at an area which still has education participation rates of about half the Victorian average."

"When we started it was really a disaster area in tertiary education. We had to cultivate the high schools because in 1969 there were only 200 students in the final year of secondary education in the whole of Gippsland."

"We have spent a lot of time with schools in raising students' expectations, at least to complete their secondary education. Many of them did not get past year 9 or 10."

"To succeed you have to turn around community attitudes towards education, and we are certainly not there yet, but the Anderson scores of applicants for our courses have risen significantly over the years."

As a measure of success, Professor Dunstan points to the "huge over-demand" for some courses such as the social sciences where there have been 10 candidates for each available place.

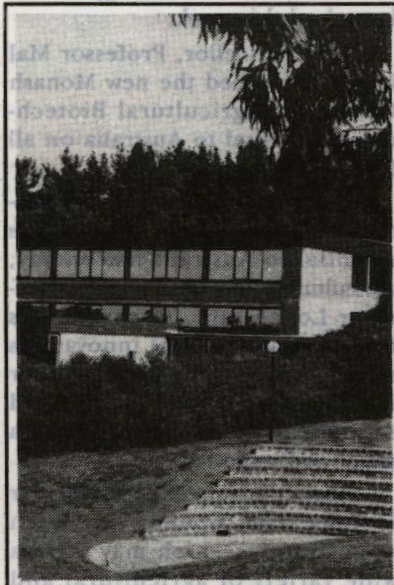
As well as working to improve community attitudes towards the education system, the college has had to provide a wide range of support services.

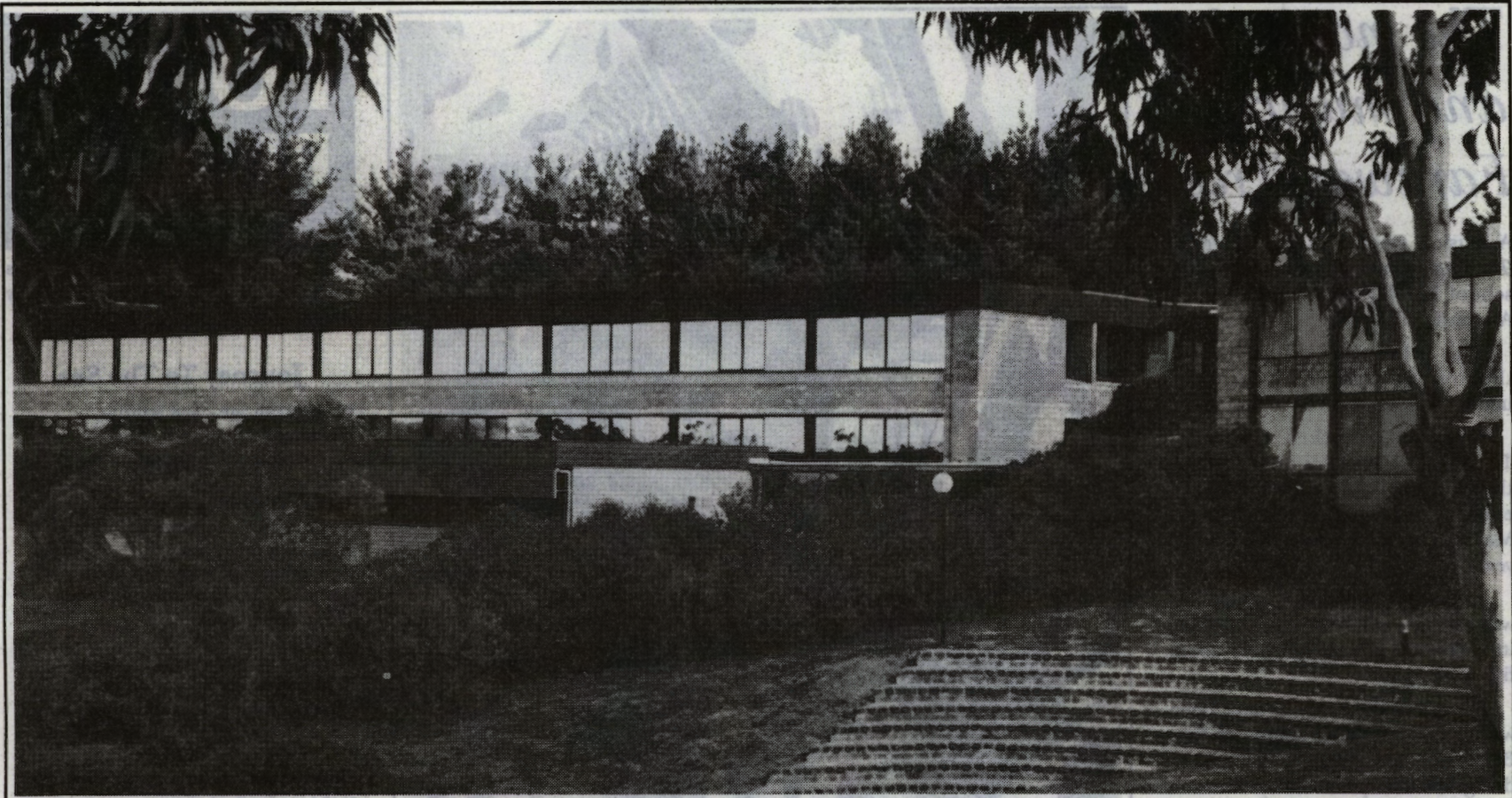
"There's not the depth and diversity in the cultural life that you have in the city, and assisting in providing that has helped people get out and change the society they live in," Professor Dunstan says.

"We have helped to change the fabric of Gippsland in recent years, providing the communities of the region with many hundreds of highly qualified people."

"The community involvement of academic staff and graduates is an important part of what's happened in Gippsland. We have now produced our own generation of managers."

"With many of these people now in leadership positions, we have helped Gippsland residents retain control of their own community."





This very Australian scene, complete with eucalypts, is the setting for a worldwide education program.

Gippsland exports courses to an expanding market

Australian education expertise is in demand overseas, particularly in Asia and the Pacific, but not all potential students can come here to study.

This is leading to a rapid growth in education exports – taking the teaching programs to the students.

As distance education moves increasingly off-shore, Monash University College Gippsland is actively pursuing this fast-growing market.

The Monash Gippsland Distance Education Centre is one of Australia's eight National Centres, providing courses in many disciplines for about 3000 off-campus students throughout the country.

The Dean of Academic Affairs, Professor Barry Dunstan, says the college is actively promoting its distance education courses overseas, describing the growth as a new dimension in education.

Next year up to 500 full fee-paying overseas students could be studying courses developed at Gippsland in business studies, computing, applied science and health sciences. In addition, about 120 overseas students will be enrolled next year for on campus courses.

Professor Tom Kennedy, the college's chief executive, says formal links have been established with the Hong Kong Polytechnic. About 180 students have begun studies in the Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing) and enrolments have opened for the Bachelor of Business, which will begin early next year.

Similar links are being negotiated for Singapore and Malaysia in nursing, business and computing. Investigations into setting up courses in Indonesia have begun.

He says the college has been able to extend its role and influence as a national provider of distance education into the South-East Asian region.

Professor Dunstan continues: "Monash is highly regarded in South-East Asia, and distance education will enable the greater Monash to further extend its substantial reputation in the region.

"We are using our distance education courses along with locally-based in-house tutoring. The courses written

and used for our own purposes are being adapted for their teaching environment.

"Our ability to offer Monash degrees off-shore means we no longer have to bring all overseas students to the campus."

He says distance education is attractive to students who do not have the financial capacity to study here, or because of their work or family situation are unable to travel. It also enables students who are already in employment to continue working while studying.

Australian education exports already are worth about \$700 million a year.

"The potential for growth is enormous, particularly when you consider the new technology under development in interactive computer-based learning," Professor Dunstan says.

The college has a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Employment, Education and Training to develop CD-based learning packages, combining video, images and sound.

According to Professor Dunstan these have the potential to revolutionise teaching practices – and not just in distance education.

"Normal practice is for a lecturer to present information, and control the process, but with CD-based learning the student is in control.

"The teaching program will guide students through a number of possible paths. To do that, you need computer interaction.

"Many experiments which could previously only be done in the laboratory, can now be presented this way.

"We're trying to achieve the ability to teach concepts, through a middle course between the practical and the simulated approaches.

"For example, if you want to demonstrate how to grind coffee, you can draw a diagram or you can grind it yourself. We want to get something in between.

"Who knows, maybe one day we'll get it to smell as well."

Work is under way developing trial programs for arts, engineering and chemistry courses.



"The college has been able to extend its role into the South-East Asian region"

— Professor Tom Kennedy

Education from afar

From the time it was first used to train art students in the mid-19th century, education through the postal service has been a feature of Australian life.

Australia was one of the first countries to develop comprehensive formal education by correspondence – by 1911, a student here could theoretically be educated to university level without leaving home.

Other countries made fitful attempts to establish similarly successful programs, but it was not until 1969 that the breakthrough came.

By then the mechanics of self-paced education had become streamlined and cost-effective enough to enable the Wilson Labour Government in the United Kingdom to establish the world's first "university of the air", the Open University.

According to Monash's distance education manager, Gavin Moodie, the blossoming of the system at this time was prompted by a number of innovations.

"The Open University concept was based on cheap technology, such as the television, telephone, car, cheap short-run printing and cheap binding," Mr Moodie says.

"Its use of television and radio may not have contributed much in the way of educational content, but it was a powerful public relations tool."

Although production costs were astronomically high, the Open University did have the effect of making distance education respectable, says Mr Moodie.

The Monash-Gippsland Distance Education Centre serves the Clayton, Churchill and Caulfield and Frankston campuses. Between 12 and 15 per cent of students at Monash will take their degrees through distance education.

Mr Moodie says the most popular distance education courses are undergraduate degrees in business, arts, humanities and education.

The magical and musical Faraway Tree

A musical version of Enid Blyton's *The Magic Faraway Tree* is this season's school holiday presentation at the Alexander Theatre.

The joint production by the theatre and Garry Ginivan Productions will run from 5-26 January.

Manager of the Alexander Theatre, Mr Phil A'Vard, said the theatre's annual childrens' presentation had become a feature of the Melbourne scene over the past 20 years.

He said *The Magic Faraway Tree* was having a return season following its successful production here about five years ago.

Songs for the musical have been written by Melbourne composer Faye Bendrups, and the sets have been designed and painted by Graham McGuffie.

There are two performances daily - at 10.30 am and 1.30 pm - and tickets, which cost \$10.90 for children and \$13.90 for adults, are available now at the theatre's booking office.



David Ashton as "Dame Washalot" in *The Magic Faraway Tree*



Robert Rooney's 'Holden Park 1 & 2' from the forthcoming exhibition.

Travelling through Australian history with Tony and Terry

Fancy a weekend in a forest with a biologist? How about exploring Victoria's desert parks or high plains? Or perhaps an historical tour of Australia's woolly past or a koala watch is more your idea of a day well spent.

If so, an Australis natural history or social history tour could appeal to you.

Australis is a travel company specialising in educational travel for adults, formed by Dr Tony Lee, a former associate professor of zoology, and Dr Terry O'Brien, a former reader in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.



Together, they have more than 60 years experience in zoology and botany and have designed a range of half day, full day and weekend tours, as well as tour packages for Melbourne and Victoria, Central Australia, Kakadu and the Queensland coast.

Next year Dr Lee will lead two wildlife tours to Africa, and Dr O'Brien plans to lead a major excursion following in the footsteps of Charles Darwin into South America and the Galapagos in 1992.

For further information telephone 895 0587; (a.h.) 712 0352 or 836 1623.

A selection from the collection

The final exhibition for the year at the Monash University Gallery will be *Monash University Collection - A Selection*, to be held from 18-21 December, and 14 January to 8 February.

Featured will be new purchases and gifts including major works by young women artists Maria Kozic, Rosslynd Piggott and Christine Johnson.

The gallery's first 1990 purchase was a large collaborative work by Tim Jones and Jon Campbell, both artists whose work reflects the urban condition. Their corrugated iron wall-piece of a car will be on show.

Together with these new works will be a selection of paintings, drawings and sculpture that form the basis of the Monash Collection.

MONASH MARKETPLACE

Copy deadline for the first issue for 1991 is Monday 15 January. Advertisements should be resubmitted for each issue.

The University accepts no responsibility and makes no warrant as to the accuracy of these advertisements. Advertisers are reminded of the provisions of the Trade Practices Act. To include an advertisement in this section, send a written or typed copy to the Public Affairs Officer, Clayton campus. Material will not be accepted by telephone. The editor reserves the right not to include advertisements.

Free

Large quantities of used lateral file pockets and plastic tabs in good condition are available to any Department which will arrange collection from Records Administration, Room

POET'S PLACE

The English Department has published a collection of poems by Bruce Lundgren titled *Journeys*.

Journey To The Sea

Clumsy with age - and arthritis,
he makes his lonely way along the beach,
stumbling and sliding in the hot loose
sand,
angular and stiff as an old gate.
In the parsimonious shade
of a gaily-painted hut,
he removes his clothes, in a slow ritual
practiced, but shaky from the long
passing years.
Beneath the ineffectual screen
of a tired towel of fade stripes,
he somehow manages to make
a transformation, into swimming wear,
that proves a perfect partner for the
towel.
Who on the beach could take offence
at the inadvertent glimpse,
of an extinct manhood. No menace there.
Nor is there in crossing of the sand,
a laborious event, for all the world
like a worn-out explorer approaching
home.
This single ancient bull, no longer of the
herd,
in the cool sea at last, floats on his back
with a grace and ease not known on land
for many years,
rolls and dips, eyes on the wide blue sky;
one almost expects to see him clap
two flippers above his grizzled chest.

Poet to Seashell

Blast you shellfish!
Curse your blind and shapeless life,
your cretin convolutions
and slimy formless mass.
Damn your cheek!
to form from deep within the dark
necessity
of your minute spiralling genes
this perfect patterned shell -
which lies complete
and smoothly smug
on a human palm.
What kind of universe
bestows
upon a gastropodal lump of primitive
flesh,
the right
to make with sinuous ease,
and clear unconscious grace,
a poem
of such unerring form and style,
while I, and all my tribe of poets,
struggle and sweat
to make some flawed and broken
fragments?
Must we unlearn speech?

Scholarships and Fellowships

The Sir Robert Gordon Menzies Scholarships to Harvard 1991/92 for Australian citizens or permanent residents who have not previously enrolled in a postgraduate degree course at a US university. Closing date: 31 December

The Australian Federation of University Women - South Australia Bursaries to assist women with study or research for a higher degree or postgraduate diploma. Closing date: 28 February

AFUW Victoria - Beatrice Fincher and Amy R. Hughes Scholarships are open to all members of the Australian Federation of University Women. Applications to Mrs Nenita P Sy, 72 Glenelg Drive, Clayton South, 3169. Closing date: 31 February

Australian/Greek Travel Awards 1991/1992 offered by the Australian government for study in Greece. Closing date: 15 February

Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering Postgraduate Research Awards and Supplements for postgraduate students whose research projects are associated with nuclear science and engineering. Closing date: 28 February

DAAD-Grants for Study and Research in the Federal Republic of Germany. There are various programs for Australians. For further information contact the Higher Degrees and Scholarships Section on 565 3009.

Royal Anthropological Institute, UK - Prizes and Research Funds. For further information contact the Royal Anthropological Institute, 50 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 5HS, UK.

Graduate Scholarship - Department of Materials Engineering.

Finnish Government Scholarships 1991/92. Finnish language and other subjects related to Finland. 4 January

The Postgraduate Scholarships. 25 January

Postdoctoral Studies. 4 January

Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. 15 March

For further information on these and other scholarships, fellowships, study grants and prizes, contact the Higher Degrees and Scholarships Office on 565 3009.

Research Grants

Egg Industry Research and Development Council. 14 December.

Chicken Meat Research and Development Council. 17 December.

Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation Fellowship. 21 December.

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation - Program Grants. 4 January 1991.

Further details, application forms and guidelines are available from the Office for Research, Clayton campus, ext 75 3012 or 75 3085. Applications must be lodged with the office by the date specified.

Officer for Medical Education

The Faculty of Medicine is considering appointing a full-time officer for Medical Education to be responsible for those aspects of the Faculty management which are educational, rather than procedural.

These include development of the schools link program, schools liaison, and special projects such as open days.

The officer also will be responsible for dealing with inquiries from potential students (undergraduate and postgraduate); servicing the educational committees of the Faculty (such as the curriculum review committees); and producing documentation and information for the Faculty on attrition rates, reasons for failures, selection mechanisms and procedures, examinations and assessments, course evaluations etc.

The officer also will be expected to monitor and keep abreast of changes in government policy on medical education, and to assist the Faculty with developing new courses within the broadened range of the Faculty's involvement in the medical and health sciences.

This may suit a person whose previous experience has been either academic or administrative. The Dean invites expressions of interest from the university community. Contact Professor Robert Porter, ext 75 4312, or executive officer, Brian Ruck, ext 75 4307, to discuss the position.

Distance education workshop

Monash University College Gippsland's Distance Education Centre is running a residential workshop at its Churchill campus from 11-14 February. Costs are eligible as expenditure under the Training Guarantee Act. For further information, phone (051) 220 277 or fax (051) 220 578.

Retirements

Mr Trevor May, a carpenter and painter supervisor in the

Maintenance Department, retires at the end of this year after 24 years of service. All are welcome to attend a presentation in the maintenance workshop at 3.15 on 20 December.

Mrs Beverley May retires at the end of this year after 21 years at the university. Mrs May worked in the Faculty of Medicine for 10 years, and since 1981 has handled student enquiries and enrolments in the Science Faculty office.

A farewell to mark the retirement of Central Services coordinator of cleaning, George Teasdale, after 19 years service will be held in Robert Blackwood Hall on 20 December. A presentation will be held at 1.00 pm. Food and drinks will be supplied throughout the day. For further information or to contribute towards a gift, contact Nat Ritchie or Lindy Burke ext 75 3992.

Mr John Rosevear, deputy manager, Finance Branch, retires at the end of the year after 25 years of service.

Neighbouring faiths conference

A conference examining the state of relations between the Muslim and Christian communities in Indonesia and Australia will be held at Monash from 2-5 February.

Guest speakers at "Understanding neighbouring faiths 1991" will be six prominent Indonesian intellectuals who will talk about the concerns of their country's Muslim community.

The conference will be presented by the World Conference on Religion and Peace, in conjunction with the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies and the Australia-Indonesia Institute. For further information, contact the centre on ext 75 4993.

Study tour of South East Asia

The management and marketing section of the School of Business (Gippsland campus) is organising a study tour of Singapore and Kuala Lumpur from 31 March to 7 April.

The tour is open to staff, students or small business people wishing to establish commerce and export contacts in either country. The tour also offers marketing students first hand international marketing experience.

The cost of \$1800 includes travel expenses, accommodation, handouts and meals for the entire seven day tour. For further information or bookings contact Siva Muthaly on (051) 220 618 or 220 380.

Young Endeavour Science Awards

In 1989, the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr John Dawkins, discussed with the Minister for Education and Science in the United Kingdom, the establishment of an exchange scheme for science undergraduates in their honours year. Agreement has been reached to fund the scheme known as the 'Young Endeavour Science Awards', to be awarded annually to four of the outstanding science honours students in Australia.

Terms and conditions of the award are as follows:

1. Each student will be given a minimum of \$7000 to cover the cost of a return airfare to the United Kingdom and incidentals. Fees will be waived in the United Kingdom and free accommodation will be provided on campus.
2. There will be four awards annually to science honours students who must be Australian citizens.
3. Recipients of the award would be required to undertake research for a period of at least three months in a British University in the same field of research that the student is undertaking in post-graduate studies.
4. Recipients of the award would be required to provide a verified statement of outcome of research undertaken in the United Kingdom. This statement will be transmitted to the Research Training and Careers Committee of the Australian Research Council.
5. The supervisors of successful applicants will largely have the carriage of negotiation the exchange arrangements for their students, based on the agreement that the UK institutions will waive all fees and provide free accommodation.

Science students completing their honours degree are invited to apply for the above awards. Application forms may be obtained from Professor M. G. Irving, Co-ordinator, Young Endeavour Science Awards, P.O. Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2015.

Applications should be lodged by 31 December.

Christmas Carols

The Faculty of Education Choir invites all members of the university to its annual concert of Christmas carols, to be held in the Religious Centre, Clayton campus, between 1 pm and 2 pm on Monday 17 December.

Road crashes are the single largest cause of death in people aged between one and 44 years.

For each death, 10 people are hospitalised and another 10 require medical treatment. As well as the enormous pain and suffering, road crashes in Victoria cost the community about \$1500 million each year.

What can be done to reduce road trauma: the modern 'epidemic'?

Alcohol is known to be the most important contributing factor to serious road crashes. At a blood alcohol reading of .15 per cent – three times the legal limit – the chances of crashing are more than 20 times greater than when sober.

This year a major attack has been mounted against drink driving.

Police have been given 13 new booze buses by the Transport Accident Commission, which has also run the "If you drink then drive, you're a bloody idiot" campaign. These buses have achieved a high level of visibility, and the number of breath tests have increased.

The results have been dramatic: among drivers killed, the percentage with an illegal blood alcohol content has dropped from a ten-year average of 35 per cent to below 25 per cent.

Excessive speed is generally regarded as the second most important contributing factor to the road toll. Not only is the probability of being involved in a crash much higher if travelling at say 80 km/hr when the traffic stream is travelling at 60 km/hr, but also the laws of physics indicate that the severity of injury will be about 78 per cent greater.

In April, a major publicity campaign began in support of the increased use of speed cameras. Since then, speeds have dropped. So too have deaths on those occasions when alcohol has not been involved.



by Peter Vulcan

This year, road deaths in Victoria are 30 per cent down from last year, with a fatality rate per registered vehicle approaching the best among other countries with a high vehicle usage.

While this is partly due to a slow-down in economic activity (and possibly the recent increases in fuel prices), it also can be linked directly to the tough action taken against drinking and speeding drivers.

It will be interesting to see whether community pressure will support continuation of these tough measures. If they are relaxed, the road toll is likely to bounce back upwards as it has in the past.

Another tough measure is the compulsory wearing of bicycle helmets, a world first. This has resulted in greatly increased wearing rates and preliminary indications of reduced head injuries.

Novice drivers continue to be involved in too many crashes, particularly in their first two years. The challenge of how to "put an experienced head on young shoulders" is still to be met. Most have responded well to the zero blood alcohol requirement, which has led to some reduction in crash involvement rates.

Australian measures directed at road-user behaviour are tougher than those in most other highly motorised countries, partly due to our relatively poor roads. This is probably a result of low population density.

Nevertheless, considerable road trauma savings could be made by improving our road system, including divided highways, sealing of shoulders, removal of roadside hazards, improvements at locations with a bad accident record, installation of roundabouts, and traffic lights with turn arrows.

These improvements are highly effective, with benefits several times greater than their costs.

Similarly, research has shown that improvements in vehicle design can also reduce crash injuries. Such improvements include seat belt tighteners and air cushions activated in the crash, improved padding, softer steering wheels and stronger structures.

The greatest challenge for the future is how to direct the billions of dollars the community spends each year as a result of road crashes to implementing the highly cost-beneficial counter measures.

In other words, decision-makers must be persuaded that prevention is safer (and cheaper) than cure.

In the meantime, each of us can play our part by adopting safer and more courteous behaviour when using the roads.

Dr Peter Vulcan is director of the university's Accident Research Centre.

DIogenES



As much as they try to put it off, it's that time of year when thousands of Victorian families prepare to commit seaside.

Christmas holidays in the suburbs seem to begin the same way – with murmurings from the children about how they haven't seen the sea for at least 10 years.

They have no trouble, however, recalling the smell of salted wind, the taste of warm ice-cream, the ocean's distant rocking of their bodies as they fall asleep.

But parents view things a little differently. As someone whose innocence was squandered in a bank manager's office, you remember only the hundredweight or so of fine

sand evenly distributed throughout the caravan or rented beach house, the sting of sunburn beneath the shower, the high-water marks on the paperback you got for Christmas.

But you cave in to their wishes. Anyway, when was the last time you had a holiday?

The day arrives. You have packed everything invented by man or woman that folds, from the paperback to the windbreak. Three litres of number 50 sunblock go in as well. So do eight bottles of Schmidts strawberry wine, a sure-fire cure for hangover.

You steer the car out onto the highway. Five hours later you reach the city limits. At this rate you should glimpse the ocean after the ski season starts.

The Battle of the Bulge is being re-staged in the back seat. The temperature and tempers rise. Children are threatened with boarding school and a withdrawal of their video allowance.

Miraculously, the traffic parts. By 9 pm, you have put the last child to bed and broached the first bottle of wine. In a strawberry-induced haze you lean against a rotting verandah rail, breathe the ozone, watch the headlights of latecomers winking along the coast road, and thank your own personal god.

The rail suddenly gives way, and you plunge headfirst into an overgrown rose bush.

It is then you remember that your new first-aid kit, complete with fold-out operating theatre and surgical staff – a gift from a concerned relative – is sitting in the quiet of your darkened kitchen at home, its only company the children's cat.

Those whose jaws do not shatter at the slightest censure, read no further. This is for owners of glass jaws only ...

We all know our weakness: it's that old verbal uppercut, criticism. That wonderful demonstration of piety that begins with a bang and ends with a whimper. Ours.

Of course, there are times when we deserve to have our noses rubbed in our mistakes. But what confounds and upsets most of us is the way in which the rubber treats the rubber.

The ritual usually begins with a wagging finger, either emphasising a certain deficiency in our character or pointing to something we botched: an ungrammatical sentence, an incorrect total, someone's name spelt wrongly.

In the face of such sanctimony, we crumble.

It happens. All we can do is reconstruct our face and watch as our assailant smirks and slinks away.

Some people's skin, on the other hand, is positively elephantine in its thickness. "It's nothing," they will

intone. "Water off a duck's back, water under the bridge." And so on.

Such pachyderms usually attain life's highest peaks. They are politicians, actors, restaurateurs. Some are even professional critics.

While criticism is grist to their mills, ours just grind to a halt when called on to process the wretched stuff.

But our turn will come. For years we have been saving the critics' vitriol, against the time when we can fling it back in their faces.

Which brings us to the critic, whose social ranking is probably best defined in the scene in Samuel Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot' where Vladimir and Estragon attempt to out-abuse each other:

"Moron!"

"Vermin!"

"Abortion!"

"Morpion!"

"Sewer-rat!"

"Curate!"

"Cretin!"

(The coup de grace is then delivered with devastating accuracy.)

"Critic!"

The playwright may have been taking a free kick, but we all know exactly what he meant.