

MONTAGE

NEWS FROM THE CAMPUSES OF MONASH UNIVERSITY

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Win a dinner party for 40 people



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RESEARCH

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SAVANT

Different sides
of feminism
theory

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Ancient mummies unearthed

Eleven mummies, entombed in Egypt's Sahara desert for 1700 years, have been unearthed by a Monash University archaeologist.

Dr Colin Hope of the Department of Greek, Roman and Egyptian Studies said the mummies, which include adults, children and infants, may be of a noble Roman family.

The discovery was made in February at the end of Dr Hope's seventh annual season as leader of excavation at an ancient Roman period town site in Egypt.

The site is part of a huge international project at Dakhleh Oasis, which is located 800 kilometres south-west of Cairo and covers a 60 x 40 kilometre area.

"One of the Egyptian supervisors employed on my site, Abdul Ghani, came to me and suggested I look at one of the areas I had directed him to work on," Dr Hope said.

"Without knowing what I was to see, I was lowered down a dark narrow shaft that was about two metres deep. When my eyes finally adjusted I could see a whole array of bodies. If I had gone any further I would have been on top of them.

"The first sight was a shock, it really set my heart pounding. Once you get a whiff of the mummified bodies, it stays with you."

One of the two unearthed tombs had been looted and the other had been disturbed, but not really vandalised.

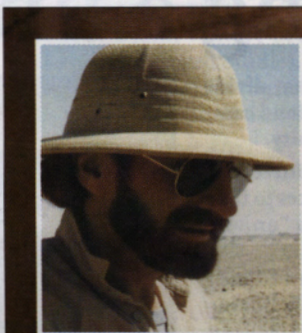
Dr Hope said the entombed people must have been important because the tombs were probably two centuries old when the bodies were placed there. They appear to have been built in the second century, and the mummies probably date to the late third or early fourth century.

The bodies, which Dr Hope suspects are from the one family, were wrapped in linen. DNA studies of the mummies may throw light on their relationship to one another and even on how they died. As yet, however, they have not been unwrapped for detailed study.

"Some of the bandages had already been ripped off, probably by robbers looking for objects of value. One body was still wrapped, but its upper torso and head were exposed, with its jaw gaping. Others had been turned over and were lying face down," Dr Hope said.

But in the dark, four gold rings (three of which were from one female mummy) had escaped the looters.

"Two of the rings are of special interest. One has a carnelian stone featuring a carving of a Roman matron's head with an elaborate bouffant hairstyle. We should be able to date it precisely from the hairstyle," he said.



Some of the 1700-year-old mummies unearthed by Dr Colin Hope (inset) in Egypt earlier this year.

"The other has a one centimetre green stone with an incised male figure holding what may be a cross. This implies the woman was a Christian, but we have to be wary of jumping to conclusions."

Dr Hope said that there were some other interesting objects around the mummies – a basket, several pottery vessels, glass objects, two pillows, and floral bouquets around the perimeter. The location of the mummies was entirely unexpected. They were found in the centre of the town, near a church. "There was a large area of bare stone,

which turned out to be the superstructure of two stone tombs hidden in vaulted burial chambers underneath," Dr Hope said.

Not only was it unexpected, but the discovery came at the wrong time. "We had been working for two months when we found them last February, right at the end of the season. There is still more work to be done," he said.

Dr Hope has applied for a grant to continue the work from December.

Research liftout: full story

City takes youthful counsel

A 21-year-old Monash student has become the City of Moorabbin's youngest municipal councillor.

Cr Joanne Beilby was also the youngest candidate to win a contested seat in last month's state-wide municipal elections.

The second-year economics student from East Bentleigh secured a three-year term representing the city's north ward ratepayers.

Still recovering from an "exhausting" election campaign, Cr Beilby has already set her long-term sights on the mayoral robes.

"Well, I can't see why not," a confident Cr Beilby told *Montage*. "I wouldn't object to being mayor, that's for sure. But at the moment, I want to concentrate on becoming a good councillor."

Moorabbin's civic leaders welcomed Cr Beilby's fresh outlook on local government after watching her in action at her first meeting.

The city's recently elected mayor, Cr Bob Flavell, said the council had a "great balance of experience and new ideas. Joanne is an articulate young woman who should make a big contribution to the council."

"I think it's healthy for local government when young people take an interest."

Cr Flavell said several people had commented on Cr Beilby's age "as though it were an impediment".

"But in my view, a council with a mixture of youth, middle age and maturity functions much better than a council of people the same age," he said.

"I'm 57 years old, but I didn't think of going into local government until five years ago, when I decided to give something back to a community which had given me so much over the years."

"Joanne will be coming from a totally different perspective, so it will be great for the council."

Cr Beilby was inspired to enter local politics at the age of eight when she met the mayor of Moorabbin. She said the meeting "left a lasting impression" because she saw that he was looking after people around her.

After several years of public service for various community groups, Cr Beilby said her decision to run for council was a "natural progression".

Within a fortnight of winning the 7 August election, Cr Beilby had been sworn into council and joined eight specialist committees. She also made it clear to fellow councillors that she was "definitely not a pushover".

Cr Flavell said he was impressed by his younger colleague's determination to serve the community: "I believe that success as a councillor never depends on age, sex, race or creed. It all depends on the ability to represent ratepayers. I think Joanne has that ability."



Moorabbin's youngest municipal councillor, Joanne Beilby, was inspired to enter local politics at the age of eight.

NOW & THEN

25 YEARS AGO

University heads visit campus

More than 140 executive heads of Commonwealth universities visited the university on Tuesday 13 August. Many were accompanied by their wives. About half of them arrived at Monash during the morning and stayed for lunch at Farrer Hall. The others arrived in the afternoon and had dinner at the faculty club in the Union...

15 YEARS AGO

As finals fever hits Melbourne, a Monash academic gives a legal warning to sport's 'head hunters'.

Sportsmen who recklessly injure others on the field risk being charged with a criminal offence.

This warning to sport's 'head hunters' comes from a senior lecturer in law at Monash, Mr J. N. Turner.

Mr Turner says that the traditional attitude that bringing sport into the law courts isn't "the done thing" is changing.

"Players are as open to prosecution for acts committed in a sports arena as those without. If they deliberately infringe the rules of the game they are playing, and recklessly injure others, then they may find themselves facing criminal charges and their clubs facing compensation claims," he says.

5 YEARS AGO

A lot of rock... and a bit of Seoul

Monash has been officially declared the Collector of Victorian Rocks for the 1988 Olympics.

Thanks to the Department of Earth Sciences at Monash and other collectors around the country, Australian athletes bound for Seoul will be burdened with

more than their nation's hopes - they will also be carrying samples of selected rocks.

The rocks, like those provided to the athletes of other countries, will be used to build a national monument during the opening ceremony, and they will be incorporated in a permanent multinational monument at the end of the games.

THIS MONTH LAST YEAR

From 'The spike'

An invitation to attend an engineering oration at that university in Parkville has put some recipients offside. Addressed to "Dr", the invitation is extended "to you and your good lady".

This seems to imply that all engineers with doctorates are male, or else, makes an assumption about the preferred companions of engineers.

THE SPIKE



■ What was that?

The following leapt out at us from a collection of recently tabled university papers. It is included without comment. (The emphasis is theirs, the bewilderment is ours.)

'It was agreed to insert a section specifying that if the motion "that the motion not be now put" was lost, that debate of the substantive motion would resume. (This procedural motion is known as the "previous question". According to usual meeting procedure, if the previous question is lost, the substantive motion must be immediately put to the vote without debate.)'

■ Baptism of ire

A glance at a list of teams taking part in lunchtime sporting competitions at Monash suggests that either sport around these parts is warfare in lycra shorts, or anonymity is all the rage, or sides are vying for an originality points bonus. Some of the more thoughtful examples are:

Boots in the Oven, Cherubs of Satan, Wooh Woo, Hapless Water Buffaloes, The Cadaver Slayers, Bump and Thump, and the refreshingly and reassuringly, No Name.

■ Sign righters

To all those who have ever dared enter a Monash campus, nearly succumbed trying to find a car park, but then finally were felled by a perplexity of signs, take heart.

The university is proposing to hire a consultant to recommend improvements to its sign system.

■ Extending extensions

Telephone diversion has plunged one department's communication system into a black hole.

Repeated attempts to contact a certain Ming Wing tenant led to a circular tele-trip around four extension numbers.

When the call switched to the fourth extension, the caller at least expected a friendly answering machine.

But a visual display screen on the caller's telephone told a different story - the call was promptly diverted back to the original number.

And it wasn't even lunchtime!

Creating a university town

Wild blackberries are all that divide Monash University's Gippsland campus from its wider community.

That's the word from university and civic leaders joining forces to turn picturesque Churchill into a "university town".

New student housing and landscaped gardens are gradually linking the campus with Churchill's small but growing commercial centre. However, leaders from both sides of Waterhole Creek agree - those prickly berries are the toughest barriers to tackle.

Bringing the university and its surrounding residents together after years of distant caution was "easy" in comparison. Gippsland senior academic, Professor Barry Dunstan, told *Montage* that the university town concept was a turning point for the small township.

He said Monash and its surrounding community were gradually forging a strong bond. "The university and the community have a great working relationship and it's getting better," Professor Dunstan said.

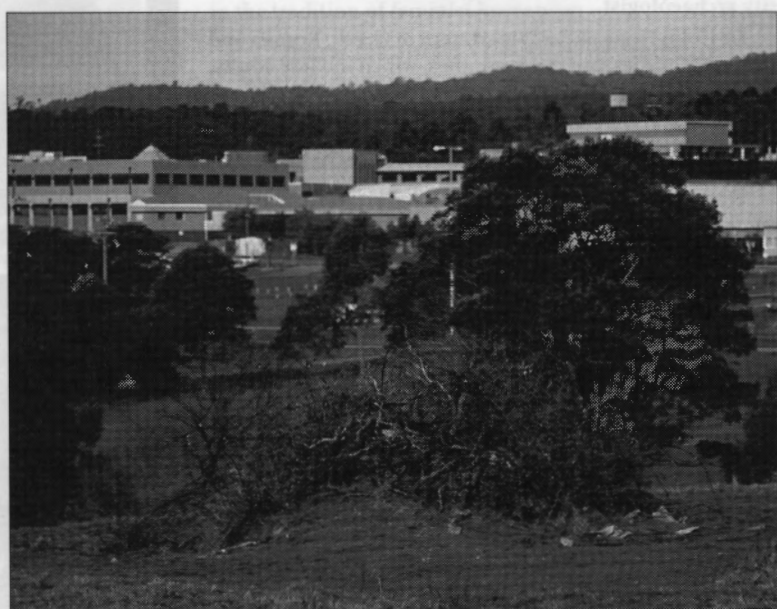
Civic leaders from Morwell City Council have reserved six hectares of land for future university development. Municipal plans also include replacing the blackberry-infested creek with ornamental lakes surrounded by native gardens.

Recreation study launched

An extensive recreation study was launched recently, funded by a joint committee that is sharing resources to plan sporting facilities for the community and the university.

"Ten years ago, it was a them-and-us exercise between the university and the community," said Morwell City Council's chief executive officer, Mr Ron Waters. "That's changed now because the townspeople have accepted Monash as an important community asset with international standing."

The State Government developed Churchill in 1970 to offer an alternative growth area to Morwell, which had been earmarked as a proposed open-cut mine site. Since Morwell was never mined, Churchill failed to grow to its expected 20,000 residents and today



Morwell City Council plans to combat Churchill's blackberries and create a more pleasant environment in the university town.

houses only 6500 people. But several hundred university employees and hundreds more students live in the town.

Professor Dunstan said Monash spends about \$35 million a year in the Latrobe Valley, 80 per cent being salaries for people living in or around Churchill. He said the university had also spent about \$3 million on student housing, landscaping and consultancy costs since deciding to develop the university town image about three years ago.

"But it's a never-ending process," he said. "The major elements of the university town will be in place in the next two years, but it will continue for a long time after that. There's some interesting ideas coming out because so many groups are working for one common aim."

Before the university town concept was introduced, most university buildings faced away from the town centre and the institution kept a separate identity from the community. University and civic leaders soon realised the benefits of "re-orienting" the campus buildings. A joint standing

committee of the municipal council and the university was set up to oversee planning.

Monash also pledged to work with the council and residents to develop nearby Mathison Park as an Australian flora reserve over a five-year period. In addition, the city council sponsored a major study on ways to link the campus to the small but growing commercial centre of Churchill.

Population to double

Mr Waters expected Churchill's population to more than double in years to come, thanks to the university. He praised Monash as one of the City of Morwell's biggest success stories: "Monash is a quantum leap from the old Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education. It has international prominence, which is great for the valley."

"The university and the council are working together to achieve common goals that will lead to benefits for the entire community. The recent Open Day at the campus proves my point because it was an outstanding success. Locals were commenting on how great the facility really is."

MONTAGE

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History repeats for returning veterans

Monash University student Mr Erron Palmer has marched into history behind Australia's surviving World War I veterans.

The 21-year-old army reservist has helped a sturdy band of original diggers relive history in a commemorative mission to France's Western Front.

Mr Palmer, an officer cadet at Monash University Regiment, was official escort for 14 veterans and seven war widows visiting the historic battlefields from 27 August to 4 September.

Averaging 95 years of age, the veterans fought for the Australian Army Corps led by General (Sir) John Monash – one of Australia's most distinguished army commanders.

Monash University sponsored Mr Palmer's voyage as a tribute to its famous namesake.

Mr Palmer, a third-year science student, was chosen from several student members of the Monash University Regiment officer cadet program.

He met many of Victoria's veterans and war widows before taking the trip with Melbourne's 96-year-old veteran representatives, Mr John (Harry) Poulton of Prahran and Mr William (Bill) Langham of Yarraville.

War veteran Mrs Margaret Burns also took part in the trip to Villers-Bretonneux, Pozieres, Ypres, Bullecourt, Peronne and Mont St Quentin.

Veteran's Affairs chose the 14 veterans and seven war widows from around Australia to join the historic trip.

After less than a year in the army reserve, Mr Palmer was both surprised and excited at being chosen to represent the regiment and the university.

Before flying to France, Mr Palmer told *Montage* that he saw the trip as a "big responsibility".



Mr Erron Palmer (right) and Mr William Langham before their historic trip to France.

"Seeing the battlefields alongside the diggers who fought there will be very special," he said.

Mr Palmer said his interest in the issues affecting war veterans was sparked at a young age by his father, Max, who was a reservist about 30 years ago, and his grandfather, a veteran who fought in New Guinea.

"I suppose there are not many people my age who feel as I do about veterans' affairs," Mr Palmer said. "I don't think the diggers get enough recognition for the sacrifices they made back then."

"It's a shame Australia cannot send all its veterans across to see the Western Front."

The entourage's medical director, Dr Graeme Killer, said the France visit would be the last of its kind for World War I veterans.

"It's going to be a very strenuous and emotional trip for the veterans," he said prior to their departure.

Last year 920 veterans and widows were asked if they were interested in taking part. Dr Killer said that more than 200 people expressed an interest, but those chosen were more able to handle the long flight and busy schedule.

"Many of them were not fit enough for the trip, but all of the people interested in taking part were assessed. Obviously, it's a very big exercise to organise," he said.

Dr Killer, who led a medical team on the trip, paid tribute to the ex-servicemen and war widows involved in the event.

"These people are ambassadors for Australia. They really are survivors. But even

though their spirits are still very strong, their bodies are not as strong as they used to be."

Of the 324,000 Australian soldiers who fought in World War I, 46,000 died on the Western Front. About 18,000 had no known grave. Those wounded numbered 152,171, with many wounded more than once.

Trip organisers were inundated with requests to lay wreaths at commemoration ceremonies.

The trip was planned to coincide with the 75th anniversary of outstanding Australian efforts at Mont St Quentin and Peronne in August and September of 1918.

Under the command of General (Sir) John Monash, Australian forces weakened the German defences and hastened the end of the war.

Mr Palmer said the army had changed considerably over the years, but many traditions remained.

"The army has developed a unique identity over the course of conflicts in the past century," he said.

"We must all be conscious of the part the diggers played in building the great ANZAC tradition."

Like many young Australians, Mr Palmer was worried about his job prospects "with the economy in the state it's in".

He was considering a career with Australia's defence forces, perhaps in psychology. Officer cadet training with Monash Regiment would improve his chances of employment.

After serving as a cadet with Brighton Grammar, Mr Palmer was formally inducted to the Monash Regiment in October last year. The regiment is part of a group including Melbourne University Regiment, Deakin University Company and the Officer Cadet Training Unit.

BY WENDY BUSFIELD

Energy industry receives a boost

A unique education and training consortium is poised to capture energy industry deals throughout Australia and South-East Asia.

Monash University's Gippsland campus is a key player in the joint venture, which has won backing from the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV).

The Asia Pacific Energy Education Consortium (APEEC) will provide a comprehensive package for energy industry workers, from apprenticeship training through to PhD studies.

Gippsland senior academic Professor Barry Dunstan will lead APEEC as its new chief executive officer. His appointment was announced this month and takes effect from 1 November.

Professor Dunstan leaves Monash after a 30-year career in education. His appointments included dean of Academic Affairs and head of Gippsland's School of Applied Science.

Monash joined forces with Central Gippsland College of TAFE (CGCT) and Gippsland Group Training Ltd (GGT) to form the new consortium. Conservative APEEC business plans predict more than \$4 million in earnings during the first year of operation.

The concept is in line with the Federal Government's push to boost export trade in South-East Asia and encourage Australian joint ventures overseas.

Government support for the consortium was confirmed last month at the project's launch in Canberra by the Federal Minister for Resources, Mr Michael Lee.

Before entering the consortium, each institution serviced energy industry education, training and consultancy needs, along with successful marketing outside the Latrobe Valley.

With more than 15,000 students enrolled, the three institutions are constantly expanding to meet increased demand. Monash in Churchill – a major distance education provider – has key markets throughout South-East Asia, CGCT provides education around Australia, and GGT has particular expertise in energy industry apprenticeship training and placement.

More than 50 related courses and programs already exist within the consortium, including apprenticeships, associate diplomas, degrees, postgraduate studies and research.

APEEC will also offer a range of enterprise-based seminars to tackle issues affecting the energy industry. Courses and seminars will be available through distance education, Open Learning or on-the-job training at the work site.

In addition, consortium clients will have access to Monash University's research expertise, along with a national search and utilisation service to provide the best skills to industry. APEEC will also handle energy industry marketing in the Latrobe Valley, Australia and the developing Asia-Pacific power industry.

In the future APEEC will spearhead a new national curriculum centre to help the energy industry develop Australia-wide competency levels for vocational education and training. Professor Dunstan told *Montage* that APEEC faced a major challenge to boost the industry's productivity.

He said the consortium's collective experience allowed for expansion into the proposed national grid, along with South-East Asia's rapidly expanding energy and electricity infrastructures.

"The biggest challenge is the ability to be involved in something that increases the productivity of business," Professor Dunstan said. "It's terribly important for the region to have a strong, integrated approach to education and training."

The valley's energy industry is the largest in Australasia and the Loy Yang power station is among the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere.

The valley also houses the largest brown coal operation in Australia and looks set to be the mainland take-off point for a proposed power link with Tasmania. The local industry has also been a major player in the formation of a national electricity grid. Local providers of education have played a substantial role in the development of Gippsland's energy industry.

Monash University's Gippsland campus first started operation in 1929 as a TAFE college for the SEC, becoming an Institute for Advanced Education in 1968. Two separate institutions were later formed – CGCT and Monash Gippsland campus.

Professor Dunstan said the region's educational institutions were again joining forces to meet the energy industry's needs.

Professor Dunstan's first task as APEEC chief executive will be to appoint an independent chairman and board of directors.

The consortium office will be temporarily based at the Monash Gippsland campus in Churchill, but will later move to Morwell in space provided by the City of Morwell.

Dinomania

If *Jurassic Park* had a ranger, it would have to be Monash University's international dinosaur expert, Dr Patricia Vickers-Rich.

Well known for unearthing prehistoric creatures from local soil, the energetic Dr Vickers-Rich has lured a huge collection of dinosaurs to Melbourne.

The Great Russian Dinosaurs exhibit shows the authentic remains of prehistoric animals that inspired Steven Spielberg's latest blockbuster.

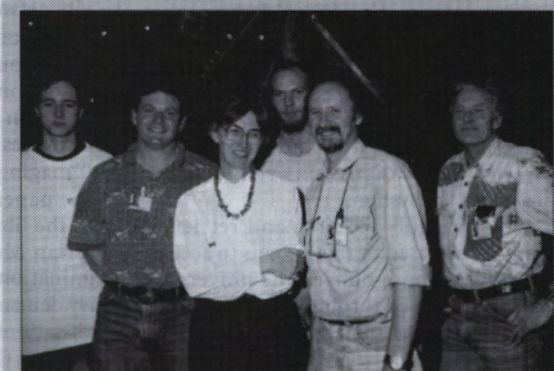
The exhibition was unveiled at the Museum of Victoria on 14 August, as local cinemas were bracing themselves for the movie's September release. Dr Vickers-Rich, director of the Monash Science Centre, led the push to secure the exhibition for almost a year.

Together with husband Dr Tom Rich, curator of palaeontology at the Museum of Victoria, Dr Vickers-Rich has spent the past decade heading an excavation at Dinosaur Cove on Victoria's south-west coast.

Dr Vickers-Rich led a team of scientists to Moscow in May to negotiate the exhibition's visit with the Institute of Palaeontology and the State Association "Rossiya". Only part of the collection has ever been outside Russia.

The Museum of Victoria will be the first of seven Australian museums to publicly exhibit the dinosaurs.

Authentic displays will show the remains of dinosaurs and other prehistoric reptiles – some more than 120 million years old – gathered from sites across Russia and Mongolia. Two dozen skeletons, more than 50 skulls, and dinosaur eggs will be among the highlights.



Dr Pat Vickers-Rich (third left) and Dr Tom Rich (far right) with staff from the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Launceston, who helped in bringing the exhibit to Australia.

Pursuing land rights, Brazilian style

The issue of land and civil rights for native peoples is a hot topic of discussion in the Year of the Indigenous People. Visiting professor, Marcelo Dascal, spoke to Montage about his views on the Amazon Indians of Brazil.

Brazil's Amazon Indians must learn more about the country's politics and administration if they are to lead a self-determined existence, according to Professor Marcelo Dascal, who is visiting Monash's Department of Philosophy.

Brazilian-born Professor Dascal, a professor of philosophy of language at the University of Tel Aviv, believes the Indians also need to learn about world organisations such as the United Nations.

Professor Dascal has extensively researched intercultural communication in the Amazon region.

"The most valuable thing we can give them is knowledge about who we really are and how our society works so that they are able to deal with us on equal terms," he said.

"Unless they gain an understanding of [Brazil's] dominant society, they will continue to be exploited."

Professor Dascal said the Indians were defined as "legally incapable" under Brazilian law, and their status was equal to that of minors.

He was concerned that this month's constitutional deadline for the demarcation of all Indian land in Brazil would not be met.

He said the Indians hoped to achieve self-demarcation, but faced problems because they lacked the technical means and knowledge to produce legally valid demarcation.

"They have reached the stage where they want to protect their land and restore their heritage, but are unclear about how to do this in the face of the pressures of the dominant society," he said.

"This is why it is important that they be educated in the ways of the dominant world."

Professor Dascal was also concerned how the Indians would lead their lives once they achieve demarcation and self-determination.

He said that some Indians were hoping to return to their former lifestyles, but in reality it would be difficult to achieve.

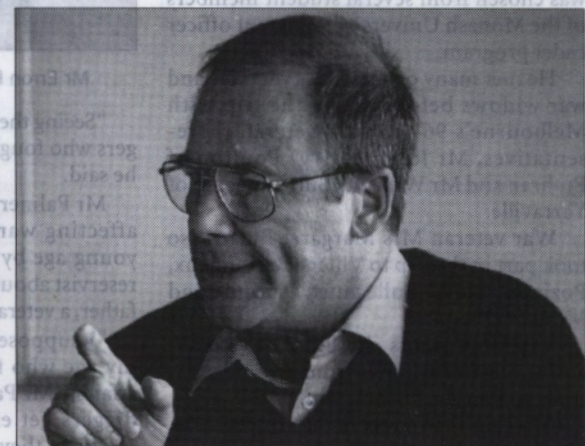
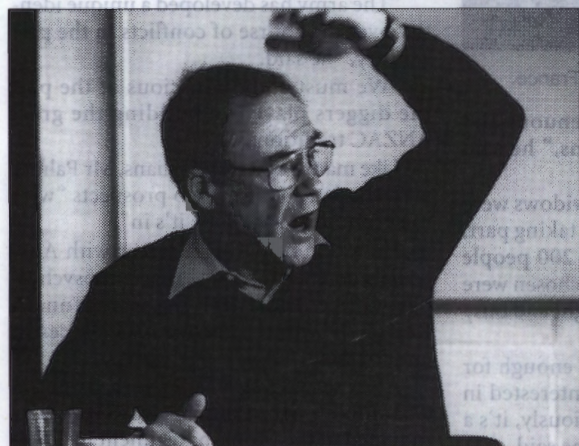
"It may not be possible simply because there is an irresistible appeal for the ways of Western society," he said.

"They have been exposed to the dominant society for some time now. To expect that they can, or would want to, return exclusively to their traditional way of life is questionable."

"These are living people who do not want to be treated as museum objects."

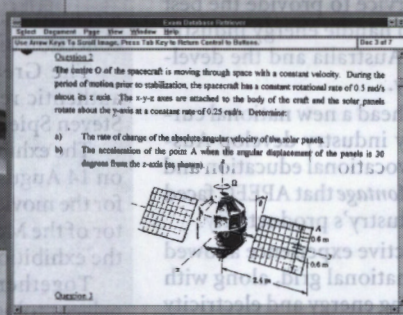
Although adamant that there was a long way to go before the Brazilian Indians achieved equality, Professor Dascal believed things had improved in recent years.

"We are doing no more than our duty towards them, and if we really believe in self-determination, then we have to let them do what they believe is the best for them," he said.



Launching CWIS: (from left) Professor Ian Chubb, Mr Edward Lim and Mr Peter Annal. Right: a view of the imaging system.

Logging onto Monash



Two new on-line computer services are now available to the Monash community.

The Campus-Wide Information System (CWIS) and the Electronic Document Imaging System for Past Examination Papers were launched last month by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Ian Chubb.

The information systems, which were developed jointly by the library and the Computer Centre for local use, have been introduced to Monash following their success in the US.

The information provided on the Monash system includes the telephone directory, faculty and staff handbooks, news, Computer Centre and library information, and information about short courses, scholarships and grants. All Monash publications will eventually be placed on the system.

User-friendly research and retrieval methods are used by the systems to access the server. Those outside the university can be connected through Internet.

CWIS is constructed around Gopher, which acts as a global information service linking similar systems around the world. It provides a convenient means of accessing constantly growing information

resources such as electronic books and journals, library catalogues, bibliographies, and news services.

CWIS is accessible to any member of the Monash community who is connected to the university's local area network. For effective use of the system, users should install Gopher client software on their PC (the address of CWIS at Monash is info.monash.edu.au). Arrangements are under way to make it possible to download the software from servers on the university network.

A new joint project between the library and Computer Centre is imaging past examination papers into electronic form so they can be accessed from computer laboratories all over the university.

"Imaging prevents the wear and tear of the papers and theft of the material from the library," said deputy university librarian Mr Hans Groenewegen. "Past examination papers, which are always in heavy demand, will now be accessible from workstations attached to the network."

He says the present system also serves as a pilot for further projects in the electronic storage and retrieval of full-text, library materials.

Monash lawyer defends Nauru

It is not often that a lawyer argues a case for a country demanding compensation from his own homeland. But when working as counsel in international law, patriotic allegiances are not an issue.

Associate Professor Barry Connell can now relax after the 10-year struggle for compensation for the tiny island republic of Nauru.

The case has been passed and Australia now faces a \$107 million payout over the next 20 years. The money will be used to rehabilitate the 21 square kilometre island, which was virtually destroyed by Australian phosphate mining since the early 1900s.

Associate Professor Connell's involvement in the case stemmed from his experience and knowledge of the republic. During the early 1970s, while still a Monash lecturer in international law, he was appointed to the position of chief secretary for Nauru for two years as secretary to the Cabinet and as head of the public service. On his return to Monash, he retained an advisory position with the Nauru Government.

Associate Professor Connell joined a team of lawyers, mostly academics, to take action against Australia in the International Court of Justice to recover losses arising from the absence of rehabilitation during Australia's trusteeship.

The team went to The Hague in 1991 to argue against the preliminary objections raised by Australia. The court ruled strongly in Nauru's favour, and the case was then heard on the merits. After the ruling, Australia showed interest in settlement.

The case of Nauru has been an interesting one for the associate professor in international law and civil procedure. The initial impetus was a letter, which Associate Professor Connell helped draft, to the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, in 1983, seeking compensation for rehabilitation.

Then followed a long Nauruan Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Monash Emeritus Professor Christie Weeramantry, now a judge on the International Court of Justice. Associate Professor Connell was counsel assisting the commission.

The results of the inquiry prompted Nauru to take action against Australia in the International Court of Justice.

Rather than a colonial case, application was made to the court on account of a breach of trusteeship by the Australian Government during their administration of Nauru from 1920 to 1968. Australia, under the mandate of the League of Nations and later under trusteeship from the United Nations, had a duty to preserve the island.

Widespread devastation

Although the Australian and New Zealand rural economies benefited from the cheap phosphate, the mining activities devastated the island. After relinquishing administration powers following the island's independence, Australia refused to contribute to its rehabilitation.

Mining activities have left the land barren – four-fifths of which is now considered useless.

With the help of the \$107 million settlement, the Nauruans are determined to improve the island's environment.

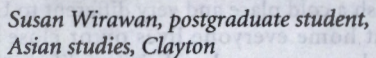
Nauru has now waived any further pre-independence administration claims against Australia.

Associate Professor Connell has now been appointed by the Australian Government to the Refugee Review Tribunal. He says his new role will give him experience in a different aspect of international law.

"International law is becoming extremely important now that Australia is developing closer links with the rest of the world," he said.

"At Monash, we are in the process of developing a Pacific Law Resource Centre so that others may come here for specialist information. Professor Poles of the Law faculty is also developing a course in Pacific Comparative Law."

"Politically, Australia is also becoming more Pacific-oriented, especially with the recent appointment of Mr Gordon Bilney as Minister for Pacific Affairs. I am sure that this will become a greater area of focus and interest for Australia. Monash will be experts when the time arrives."



Frank Burton, senior chemistry lecturer, staff association president, university Council member, Clayton

Terence Kok, third-year banking student, Caulfield



Ian Kyberd, canteen employee, Clayton

New law threatens IVF donor numbers

Under the proposed amendment, children born through reproductive technology would have automatic access at age 18 to information about the donor.

Spokeswoman for Monash IVF, Ms Catriona King, feared the proposed amendment would "decimate" the donor program. She said most donors helped the service to benefit others without compli-

With 15 sperm donors on its books, the centre helped about 20 patients a month, she said. People seeking egg donations already face a four-year waiting list. "We never have as many donors as we need," Ms King said. "This legislation is not going to help at all."

"It will also make it difficult for infertile couples. Frequently, they don't want to tell the child how he or she was conceived."

The law as it stands gives children born through IVF the right to contact the Victorian Health Department at age 18 and ask for information about the donor. But the Health Department cannot release information without the donor's consent.

The proposed amendment relates to Victoria's Infertility (Medical Procedures) Act 1984. It stems from a widespread belief that a child has the right to know his or her genetic parentage.

Victoria's previous Labor Government proposed several changes to IVF legislation. Since the Coalition won power last year, the proposed changes have been under investigation. Health Minister Mrs Marie Tehan recently set up a committee to deal with the proposals.

Meanwhile, the centre needs more male and female donors to help meet demand.

Ms King said men interested in becoming donors must be prepared to give at least 10 donations so that semen could be used by an infertile couple over several IVF or donor insemination cycles.

David Harvey, head of the Centre for Health Education and Social Science, Gippsland

She said women were also required to donate eggs, but the centre encouraged people to find known donors because of the long waiting list.

Monash IVF board members and the scientific director, Professor Alan Trounson, said donations from family and friends would become "increasingly more common" if the proposed legislation was ratified.

Professor Trounson wondered if prospective donors could cope with the psychological demands of meeting the products of their donations in 18 years time.

"It's a very personal decision and I believe the information should only be released on the consent of all parties involved," he said. "I don't think there's a lot of people who would feel confident to meet these children. But on the other hand, I've always felt that an open and honest approach is the best in the long run."

Professor Trounson, also the deputy director of the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development, feared a drastic drop in donor number at the IVF centre.

He said donors were originally ensured complete anonymity when they provided semen: "When the program first started, donors had no onus or responsibility."

"But when the Medical Procedures Act was introduced [in 1984], the names were kept on file and that altered the type of donor."

"If the proposed amendment comes in, only people with great sympathy for infertile people in the community will donate."

Professor Trounson said people were already concerned by the Health Department's storage of donor details.

"Ultimately, people will be starting to seek more help from family and friends. After all, there will be less and less people donating."

Stephen Kwong, second-year commerce student, Clayton

Mary Trantino, second-year business student, Gippsland

Dylan Redman, third-year social science student, Gippsland

*Mollie Burley, research associate,
Centre for Health Education and
Social Science, Gippsland*



Heather Kelly, research associate,
Centre for Health Education and
Social Science, Gippsland

Spitroast professionals offer a prize to *Montage* readers

The Australian Spitroast Professionals and Montage have “cooked up” a special competition for Monash University staff and students.

We are offering the chance to win a fully catered function for up to 40 people, valued at more than \$500. Ideal for a student club or department Christmas party, the prize may be taken any time before 31 December 1993, anywhere in metropolitan Melbourne.

Any staff member or student can win by correctly completing the mind teaser and sending the answer to: "Spitroast Competition, Public Affairs Office, Administration Building, Monash University, Wellington Road, Clayton, 3168." Entries close on Friday 1 October 1993.

To enter, write the answer on a piece of paper with your name, student/staff identification number, course of study or position title at Monash, home address, and a

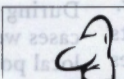
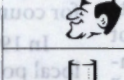

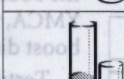
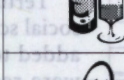
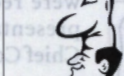
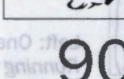
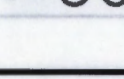


contact telephone number during business hours. The first correct entry drawn on Monday 4 October will win.



Ray Prohasky, telephone 131070

► The visual puzzle (right) has been set up so that each of the signs has a numerical value. The sum of each row and column except one is shown. Figure out the missing number.

Puzzle reproduced courtesy of Addison-Wesley Publishing Company and the author, A. Salvy.

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It's never too late to study

University is not just for teenagers ready to tackle new challenges. This year, more than 3600 mature-age and part-time students, ranging from 23 to 92 years of age, are enrolled in Monash courses.

The executive officer of the Mature Age and Part-time Students (MAPS) Association at Monash, Ms Juanita Fernando, says mature-age students are attracted to university study for a host of reasons.

"Most mature-age students are studying to obtain career goals and to enhance their job opportunities," Ms Fernando said. "There is also a much smaller number of students who choose to study for interest and self-fulfilment."

"These students have spent several years in the workforce. They already have a considerable range of experience, skills and an established work ethic, which they apply to their studies," she said.

Ms Fernando said mature-age students often have to juggle their study commitments with work and family responsibilities.

"This type of situation is very common and highlights the importance of the support services provided by MAPS," she said. "There has been a steady increase in mature-age student numbers during the last couple of years, and our support services have grown to accommodate this demand."

MAPS provides a wide range of services, including a special student orientation program, study skills workshops, student liaison services, child-care facilities, social functions, and a study and lounge area.

Mature-age students are defined by the university as 23 years and above. Of the 3646 mature-age students currently enrolled, 2415 are in undergraduate courses, 647 are completing courses through distance education, and 300 are taking part in non-award courses. Nearly 300 students under the age of 23 are undertaking part-time study.

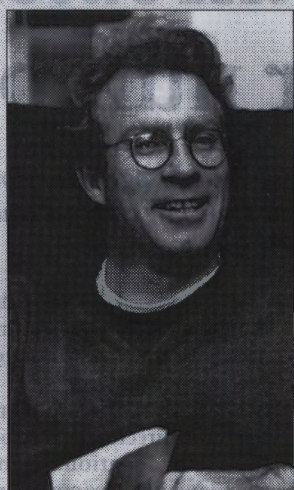
"Mature-age students are younger than people perceive, with the 25 to 35 year age group making up more than half the mature-age student numbers at Clayton campus, and the 35 to 45 year olds forming the next largest group," Ms Fernando said.

She said there is a balanced ratio of males to females studying at Monash: "Mature-age students at Monash have a balanced gender mix that reflects the broader demographics of the community."

The MAPS association grew from a club within Clubs and Societies in the 1970s. "The students at the time believed they needed a separate body that would best represent them," Ms Fernando said.

"Monash is now seen as the leader in providing services for mature-age and part-time students, and other universities are modelling their associations on Monash."

The MAPS office is on the first floor, Union Building, extn 75 3199.



John Cramp (33)

When John Cramp turned 30, he felt he "had missed the boat after leaving school with nothing more than a certificate to swim across the pool". Now, as a third-year arts/law student, he has a driving ambition to succeed.

"I don't know that I work any harder than the 18 year olds in my class, but I do find that my motivation is higher, and perhaps I am more committed to my studies."

"I think it's vital to know why you are studying," Mr Cramp said. "I want to become a QC or a High Court judge. Realistically, I've probably left it too late to reach this goal, but ambition is important now in a way it never was before."

Mr Cramp, who lived in the UK for five years and has travelled extensively, works for a courier company on Thursdays and Fridays to support his studies.

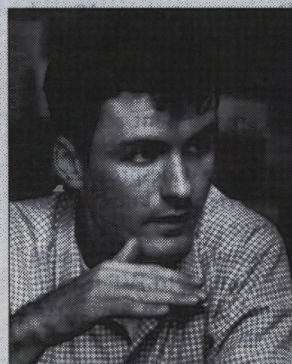
"Between work and class, I have very little time to become involved in university activities, but I've made some good friends and study has certainly changed my lifestyle for the better."

Mike St Clair-Miller (28)

Limited career opportunities in the UK encouraged Mike St Clair-Miller to move to Australia three and a half years ago. He is now doing first-year arts at Monash, working towards either a major in psychology or social work.

"When you are 28 and only just getting around to study, it's a big step," Mr St Clair-Miller said.

"I often look at my friends who are established with secure jobs and a career path. They own their own house, and you think to yourself, I'm still trying to get to that stage."



"I have no illusions about study. I'm here for four years to finish a degree which will let me work in an area that interests me."

"I don't have much to do with the younger students. This is not a conscious decision though, it just happens like that. I do spend a lot of my time in the MAPS lounge, either reading or mixing with other students."

"I find Monash a cold place and very different to UK universities - at home everyone lives on or close to the campus, but here everyone has their own life in the suburbs."

Elizabeth Moss (38)

For mother of six children, Elizabeth Moss finds study a break from household chores and running around after her family.

"Sometimes I think I'll go mad if I don't get out of the house and do something for myself," Ms Moss said. "Studying is something I've always wanted to do, and knew that I could do ... I just had to wait for the right time."

Ms Moss, whose children range in age from five to 18 years, has been planning to study at Monash for many years.

"In the 1970s, I used to watch student demonstrations at Monash on television and think it was the cultural mecca of Melbourne," she said.

"I used to wonder what it would be like to be one of those students and I have wanted to come to Monash ever since."

"I'm studying for myself - every other thing I do is for everyone else," she said.

"Study is a release from the family, and I look forward to classes," she said. "I've tried to get involved in class activities as much as family commitments allow me, and I've even been on an Italian camp with all those young 20 year olds."

"At Monash I'm just myself, even probably a dog, but as long as I'm enjoying what I'm doing, I'll continue to study."

Ms Moss, a part-time first-year arts student, hopes to share her knowledge by teaching Italian.



Rallying around the runaways

Victoria Police have welcomed Monash University's innovative approach to helping potential teenage runaways.

Police are using the university's comic-style education kit in special secondary school classroom programs across the state.

Running to? - Running from was developed by the Centre for Continuing Education at Frankston and the National YMCA of Australia.

The education kit was unveiled in August as part of Missing Persons Week, a police-run promotion to help curb the number of people reported missing each year.

Monash project officer Ms Christine Vincent said the kit was designed to help Australia's biggest group of missing people, those aged from 12 to 16. She said the stories encouraged teenagers to consider their options and discuss issues with teachers, parents, youth workers and police.

Ms Vincent researched and wrote the material, while freelance artist Mr Tony Sowersby produced the artwork with a group of teenagers. Both author and artist have worked as youth workers with teenagers and their parents.

The comic is an Australian first, suggesting safe alternatives to running away from home using problem-solving and decision-making skills. It uses four main teenage characters to represent varied backgrounds and values.

Ms Vincent said the storyline threw each character into situations that young people could encounter.

"The comic includes incidents that could have far worse outcomes than depicted," she said. "These outcomes are alluded to, but were not written into the comic to avoid sensationalism and to remain credible."

Ms Vincent said the stories involved a variety of adult characters,

most of them positive and helpful. "This is deliberate so that a young audience will be encouraged to view adults generally as being interested and concerned about their welfare," she said.

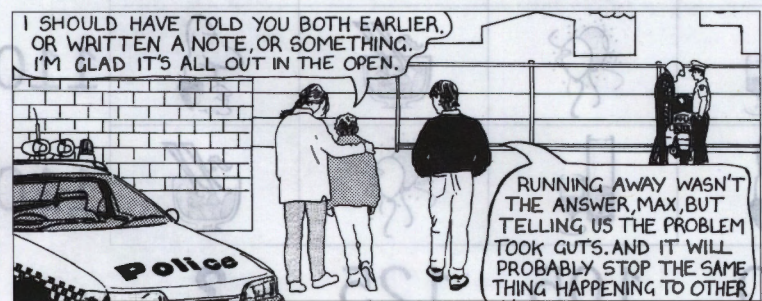
"Also, if any young reader is experiencing similar situations as depicted in the comic, it is important that the negative effects of adults in their lives be counterbalanced with the optimistic view that not all adults act in a similar manner."

Ms Vincent worked as an Outreach youth worker in a bayside suburb of Melbourne for nine years. During this time, teenage runaway cases were her main concern, with local police referring parents to her for counselling.

In 1984, Ms Vincent worked with local police to research and write an information booklet for parents of teenage runaways. Strong demand for the booklet led to assistance from the YMCA, which secured trust funds to boost distribution.

Tertiary qualifications in welfare, social sciences and health education added to her achievements, which were recognised in 1990 with the presentation of a Victoria Police Chief Commissioner's Certificate.

Left: One of the comic strips from *Running to? - Running from*.



Courts "not guilty" of gender bias

A recent Monash study has shown that although men and women have different experiences of the criminal justice system, the difference cannot be attributed to gender.

Law lecturer Ms Bronwyn Naylor said there were no differences between the sexes when factors such as the defendant's record and the seriousness of the offence were taken into account.

Ms Naylor said her study of sentences handed down in 1301 cases in the Melbourne Magistrates Court last year indicated that women found guilty of minor crimes and misdemeanours tended to get off more lightly than men.

But gender per se has little influence on sentencing except in relation to the size of the fine, Ms Naylor said: "Gender ceased to have any relation to the likelihood of bonds and loss of licence [in traffic cases] and to bonds and custodial sentences [in traditional crime cases]." What was more important was that women seemed to be mainly motivated to offend by the need to get money.

According to Ms Naylor, most of the time women were treated more leniently than men only because of their different circumstances, such as family responsibilities.

The study found that women were usually first offenders and charged with a crime against property or public order, usually prostitution, or a traffic offence. The offences were unlikely to involve personal violence.

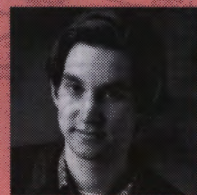
"Young men, by far the largest group, engaged in rebellious and aggressive public behaviour - speeding, drink driving, abusive language - and property offences such as burglary and theft," Ms Naylor said.

"There are clear connections between 'masculinity' and aggression that must be further examined and challenged," she said. "On the other hand, women's offences centred around theft and prostitution point to the growing economic difficulties facing women."

Excavating Egypt's desert tombs



Victorian cave yields extinct marsupial bones



Evolution – the view from the south

At the forefront of this year's dinosaur hype is Monash University's Dr Pat Vickers-Rich. Now, at the peak of Australian interest in these extinct creatures, Dr Vickers-Rich and her husband have released a new book, *Wildlife of Gondwana*. Science writer Graeme O'Neill reviews the book for Montage.

The northern hemisphere may hog the news headlines and television airwaves, but some of the most important milestones along life's 3.8 billion year journey, from genesis to present, are made of southern hemisphere rock.

The earliest evidence of life on earth, multicellular, soft-bodied life forms in the oceans, and even four-legged life, comes from the south. Gondwana, the great southland, has a history worth telling.

Monash palaeontologist Dr Patricia Vickers-Rich and her husband Dr Tom Rich, curator of palaeontology at the Museum of Victoria, have now told it in their new book *Wildlife of Gondwana* (Reed Books, Sydney, \$49.95) released on 3 September.

bearing strata spanning most of the period between the Carboniferous and the early Cretaceous.

Long before geologists and biologists came to accept the theory of continental drift, the similarity of fossil sequences in this province to those in other southern continents – Africa, Australia, Antarctica and South America – hinted that these land masses had formed a single supercontinent in pre-historic times.

The book explains how geologists deduced the movements of the various land masses from the apparent wandering path of the magnetic South Pole (detected as faint remnant magnetic signatures preserved in rocks) and worked out their original configuration from geological continuities.

Diagrams show the mechanisms that drive plate tectonics – continental drift – while maps show how Gondwana separated from its sister supercontinent, Laurasia, in the late Jurassic, 150 million years ago, then fragmented to form the modern land masses of the southern hemisphere, plus India.

The outstanding photography in the book is the work of Frank Coffa, of the Museum of Victoria, and Monash University's own Steve Morton, whose invention of a 360-degree camera was inspired by the Dinosaur Cove project. One of his panoramic photographs features in the book.

Frank Coffa's and Steve Morton's photographs of fossils – no easy subjects to capture on film – are outstanding. With Dr Vickers-Rich and Dr Rich, Coffa travelled overseas to shoot significant fossils. A dramatic image of the fossilised remains of a borhyaenid, an extinct predatory marsupial from South America and a shocking red tuft of hair from an extinct giant ground sloth were the fruits of a trip to Argentina.

Monash zoology graduate-turned-artist Peter Trusler provided several brilliant illustrations that complement the photographic skills of Coffa and Morton.

His depiction of an ancestral lungfish and an armoured placoderm fish, in deep blue light on the sea floor off Western Australia's Gogo Reef, more than 400 million years ago, could be a photograph. He achieves the same eye-deceiving realism with his evocative

picture of the frozen body of a small hypsilophodont dinosaur, *Leaellynasaura*, on the edge of an icy pool on a swampy floodplain in southern Victoria 105 million years ago.

Wildlife of Gondwana is not just about the treasures won from the rocks during more than a century of fossil-hunting in Australia, it is about the fossil hunters and their adventures as well. It also covers the evolutionary history of Australia's modern vertebrate life forms: birds and the three groups of mammals – pouched marsupials, egg-laying monotremes and eutherian late-comers like bats, rats and humans.

The picture that emerges, particularly in relation to Australia, is that the history of life has almost always been different in the south – the amphibians, whose era virtually ended in the northern hemisphere at the end of the Permian (245 million years ago), apparently hung on and flourished in southeastern Australia until the early Cretaceous, 115 million years ago.

The same seems true for some of the dinosaurs – the big meat-eating theropod dinosaur, *Allosaurus*, became extinct at the end of the Jurassic in the northern hemisphere, 135 million years ago, but bones from closely related species have turned up in the Strzelecki and in the Otway ranges, up to 20 million years later.

Conversely, two groups of dinosaurs that diversified in the northern hemi-

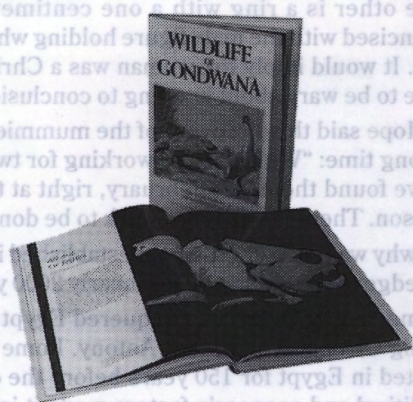
sphere in the late Cretaceous around 80 million years ago – horned ceratopsians and ostrich-like ornithomimosaurs – have turned up much earlier in the rocks of Dinosaur Cove and Cape Pater-son, and in more primitive guise. The inference is that at least some dinosaur groups may have originated in Gondwana and spread over land to reach the Laurasian land masses.

Life has almost always been different in the south

In *Wildlife of Gondwana*, the authors have produced a history of life – a palaeontological adventure seems a more appropriate description – that will be easily read by any high school student.

At the same time, they have succeeded in summarising a huge volume of information without compromising its scientific integrity.

In this year of *Jurassic Park* and dinosaur hype, they have produced a book that never succumbs to the temptation to over-dramatise or over-popularise. It is likely to prove just as durable as the Spielberg film, and with other fossil sites still awaiting discovery in Australia and the southern continents, the story may grow in future editions.



Previous articles in *Montage* have recorded the significant fossil discoveries made by Dr Vickers-Rich and Dr Rich at Dinosaur Cove in Victoria's Otway Ranges and the Strzelecki Ranges, east of Melbourne. Their own discoveries feature prominently in *Wildlife of Gondwana*, but their new book ranges much further afield, both in time and space. It summarises 1800 million years of evolution from a southern hemisphere perspective.

The new book is a companion to Reed Books' earlier comprehensive history of plant evolution in the southern continents, Mary White's *The greening of Gondwana*.

The authors in *Wildlife of Gondwana* set the scene by telling the history of the Gondwana concept. Gondwana is named after the Gond kingdoms of India's Narbada Valley south of the Himalayas, a rich province with fossil-



Ancient labyrinthodont left its tracks in the Grampians 400 million years ago. Photo by Steve Morton.

Sifting the



Left: The God of Tutu. "Ours is the first known shrine dedicated to Tutu, the master of demons who could ward off evil and was revered in the Nile valley," Dr Hope said.

Right: Egyptian supervisor Abdul Ghani, who first discovered the mummified bodies

An archaeological dig led by Monash University Egyptologist Dr Colin Hope has led to the discovery of 11 mummified bodies, possibly members of a local noble family.

The mummies, which include adults, children and infants, were found in a mausoleum buried 1700 years ago by shifting sand dunes in Egypt's Sahara desert.

DNA studies may throw light on the relationships between the mummies, and even how they died.

Dr Hope's dig is part of a huge international project at Dakhleh Oasis, which is located 800 kilometres southwest of Cairo and 300 kilometres into the Sahara. The oasis covers an area 60 x 40 kilometres. "There are traces of human occupation as far back as the early Palaeolithic, 200,000 years ago," Dr Hope said.

The excavation promises to reveal the geomorphological evolution of the oasis and the relationship between the settlement patterns and human impacts on the environment. "It's an ideal environment because the oasis is self-contained in the semi-arid zone on the edge of the Sahara, with a good water supply and fertile soil," he said.

"Between 1978 and 1982 we surveyed everything we could see on the surface. In 1986 I was asked to lead excavations at a particular large Roman period town site that had been occupied between the first and fourth centuries of the common period, although we have had tantalising glimpses of occupation a century earlier."

Dr Hope, who has visited the site every year since 1986, said that they didn't expect to find the mummies where they did. The discovery was made in the centre of the town, near a church. "There was a large area of bare stone, which turned out to be the superstructure of two stone tombs hidden in vaulted burial chambers underneath," he said.



The superstructure of one of the tombs.

Among the Egyptian workers employed on the dig was supervisor Abdul Ghani, who has had 40 years experience on archaeological digs. "He knows where to look, and how to excavate carefully," Dr Hope said.

"On this particular day, he came up to me and suggested I have a look at one of the areas I had directed him to work on. They were just removing sand from the tomb, and he wouldn't tell me what had been found, which wasn't unusual. I was lowered down a dark narrow shaft about two metres deep, and it took a while for my eyes to adjust. But when they did, I could see a whole array of bodies. If I had gone any further I would have been on top of them."

"It was such a shock. People ask if you get accustomed to such discoveries, but I don't. It's not an experience I relish. When you get a whiff of the mummified bodies, it stays with you. The first sight is always a shock, and it sets your heart pounding."

One tomb had been looted; the second had been disturbed, but not really vandalised. Dr Hope says the tomb appears to have been built in the second century, with mummies probably dating to the late third to fourth century. The tomb may have already been two centuries old when the bodies were placed there. "The tomb would not have been derelict, so these must have been important people," he said.

Dr Hope suspects it was a family tomb, because of the age distribution and disposition of the bodies. They were all wrapped in linen, but it has yet to be determined whether they were mummified in the Egyptian manner, which involved the removal and replacement of the organs after treatment with preservative materials.

The mummies are extremely fragile and have not yet been unwrapped for detailed study, so there may be jewellery or amulets inside the coverings.

The presence of infants is consistent with the high infant mortality rate at the time, but the presence of adolescents with the adults may attest to an epidemic overwhelming the family. The bodies of the adults were placed over those of the children, which may have been a protective gesture.

Some of the bodies on the northern side of the tomb were in poor condition, after being attacked by salt leaching up through the rock floor – perhaps because of a rising water table after irrigation ceased.

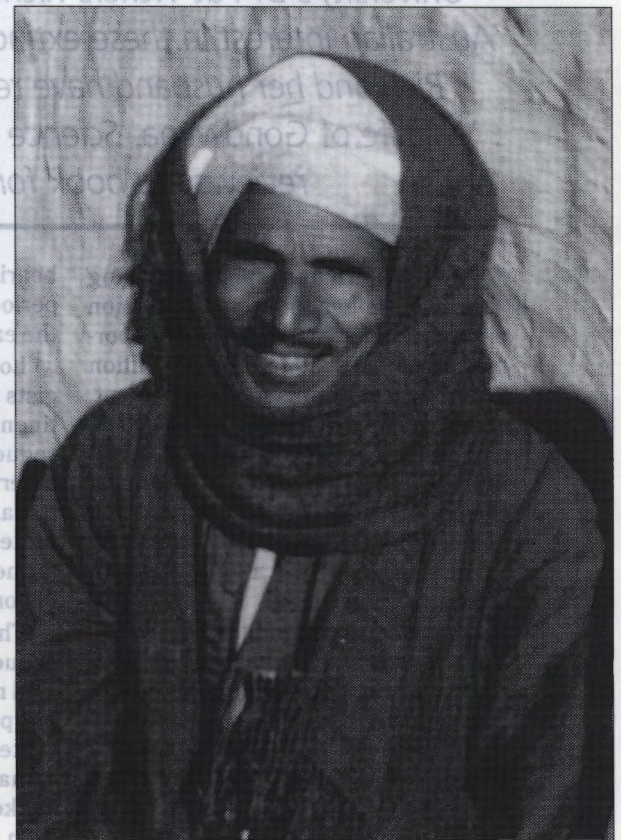
"There were some interesting objects around the mummies – a basket, several pottery vessels, glass objects, two pillows, and floral bouquets around the perimeter," Dr Hope said. "What appeared to be a remarkably modern-looking wooden bedhead turned out to be the remains of part of a winding mechanism for lowering the bodies into the tomb."

A lack of elaborate ornamentation on the bodies or in the tomb suggests to Dr Hope that they may have been members of an early Christian sect.

"We found four gold rings in the tomb, three of them associated with one female body, and one still on her finger," he said.

"The tomb had been disturbed because some of the bandages had been ripped off. One body was only half wrapped – the upper torso and head were exposed, and the jaw was gaping. Others had been turned over and were lying face down. This indicates that robbers were looking for objects on the bodies, but in the darkness the four rings escaped notice."

"Two are of special interest. One has a carnelian stone featuring an exquisite carving of a matron's head, with an elaborate bouffant hairstyle. We should be able to date it precisely from the hairstyle."



"The other is a ring with a one centimetre green stone, incised with the male figure holding what may be a cross. It would imply the woman was a Christian, but we have to be wary about jumping to conclusions."

Dr Hope said the discovery of the mummies came at the wrong time: "We had been working for two months when we found them last February, right at the end of the season. There is still more work to be done."

But why was such a settlement established in an oasis on the edge of the Sahara desert nearly 2000 years ago?

"Rome, led by Octavian, conquered Egypt in 30 BC, defeating Cleopatra and Mark Antony. Rome had been interested in Egypt for 150 years before the conquest, and political and economic factors made it inevitable," Dr Hope said. "Rome had grown so large as a city that it couldn't feed its own population, so it moved into North Africa, conquering Libya first, then Egypt."

"Egypt became the personal property of the Roman Emperor and was a very special province because of its incredible fertility. The Egyptians had to ship vast quantities of grain to Rome every year. Even as a province of Rome, Egypt was still incredibly wealthy in its own right. The city of Alexandria controlled all trade in the Mediterranean, with exotica coming up the Red Sea from as far away as India."

"Egypt was incorporated into the Roman administrative system, just as it had been incorporated into the Greek system more than 300 years earlier. Basically, the Romans just took over the Greek administrative system."

"Oases always had great agricultural potential, and under Roman rule every area that could grow crops was exploited. Sections of the Roman army were stationed in Egypt, so there was a population of Egyptians and Greeks under a Roman imperial administration. But it was essentially a continuation of Pharaonic Egypt, mixed with some Greek and a veneer of Roman influence. Greek remained the main language of the country."

sands of time

Dr Hope said that at the time shifting sand dunes constantly threatened to inundate the oasis. There was also a risk that the misuse of water for irrigating the fields could cause salination. There are signs that the artesian water supply began to dry out, perhaps because of a minor shift in climate. Wind patterns may have changed towards the end of the fourth century AD, and dunes finally overran the town.

"The citizens simply took what they needed and moved – we don't know where. The town was probably buried quite rapidly, so there was good preservation of the things left behind," Dr Hope said.

A well preserved site

"They took most of their possessions, particularly anything made of wood, because of its scarcity in the Sahara. But they left a remarkable amount behind – damaged furniture, shoes, beds, old books, clothing, jewellery and coins. We believe they came back several times to collect other possessions to take to their new homes, which may have been only 20 kilometres away. The material they left behind was probably superfluous. Some of the shoes had been heeled three or four times, and the pottery vessels could easily have been replaced," he said.

The site is important archaeologically, Dr Hope said, because it was not reoccupied after being abandoned, and most of it escaped vandalism and looting. Much of the site is still preserved to a depth of four to five metres. Apart from the temples, some walls of buildings still stand eight metres high. Most of the houses lack roofs, but this year the team found one with a roof still intact.

"We can study the architecture of the period, get a good idea of town planning, daily life and domestic activities," he said. "We are excavating a huge administrative residence with 200 rooms, almost like a modern city office tower, which may have stored the city's archives. It was a very grand building with elaborate wall paintings and a huge colonnaded hall.

"The hall was between 8 and 10 metres wide, 10 metres long, and easily 8 metres high. The paintings were to give it a formal Roman appearance. We think it was probably one of the main assembly points in the building.

"Several small villas and two temples dedicated to Egyptian gods have been found at the site. Ours is the first known shrine dedicated to Tutu, the master of demons who could ward off evil and was revered in the Nile valley.

"Within the temple complex, a series of shrines were built around a central stone temple. One was 12 x 5 metres wide and 5 metres high, barrel vaulted, and painted from floor to ceiling with a mix of traditional ancient Egyptian temple scenes, depicting gods making offerings to the main god. Below them are classic Roman wall paintings, probably executed in the first to second century AD.

"Although fragmented, they're of major significance. They feature the geometric and floral motifs of the period, with heads and faces set within the abstract compositions."

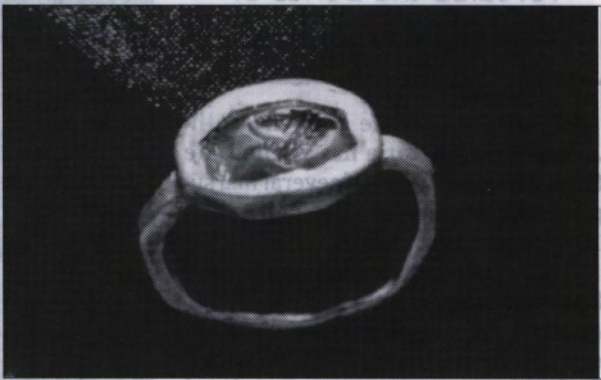
Elsewhere in the town, bathhouses and warehouses were uncovered. The settlement seems to have been something like an English market-garden town, perhaps a regional centre for distributing agricultural produce. It was one of three towns in the oasis, but not the capital, which lay towards the centre.

"The interesting thing is that when the town was founded in the first century, it had typical Egyptian and classic Roman elements, but by the time it was abandoned in the fourth century, it had been Christianised," Dr Hope said.

"There are three churches on the site that appear to have been important centres within the domestic quarter. The main Christian sect appears to have been the Manichaeans, who originated in Iraq in the third century and developed religious beliefs that incorporated elements of Christianity and gnosticism.

"Gnostics believed in secret wisdom and hidden truths that were revealed only to certain people. They were a mystic cult. Manichaeans became a missionary faith, who sent members far and wide to convert others to their beliefs. They spread right throughout the Roman Empire, even reaching China, where they survived until early this century.

"Our site is interesting in that we find a community of Manichaeans, flourishing just 50 years after the death of their founder."



Among the ornaments found in the tombs were a gold ring, which features a matron (above), and some glass vessels (below).



Dr Hope says the site provides a rare opportunity to study the interaction between "orthodox Christians" and the Manichaeans, who regarded themselves as Christians, but who were persecuted and ultimately driven out of the Christian community. "In the fourth century, it would have been very difficult to determine what 'orthodox' Christianity was, but clearly the concept of orthodoxy was emerging," he said.

"To our surprise, whenever we found religious texts, they were Manichaean. This aspect of our work is winning international acclaim, because we are producing new documents for the study of Manichaean beliefs that are near-contemporary with Mani, the founder of this faith. We have even found extracts of Mani's letters to his believers.

Reconstructing a picture of town life

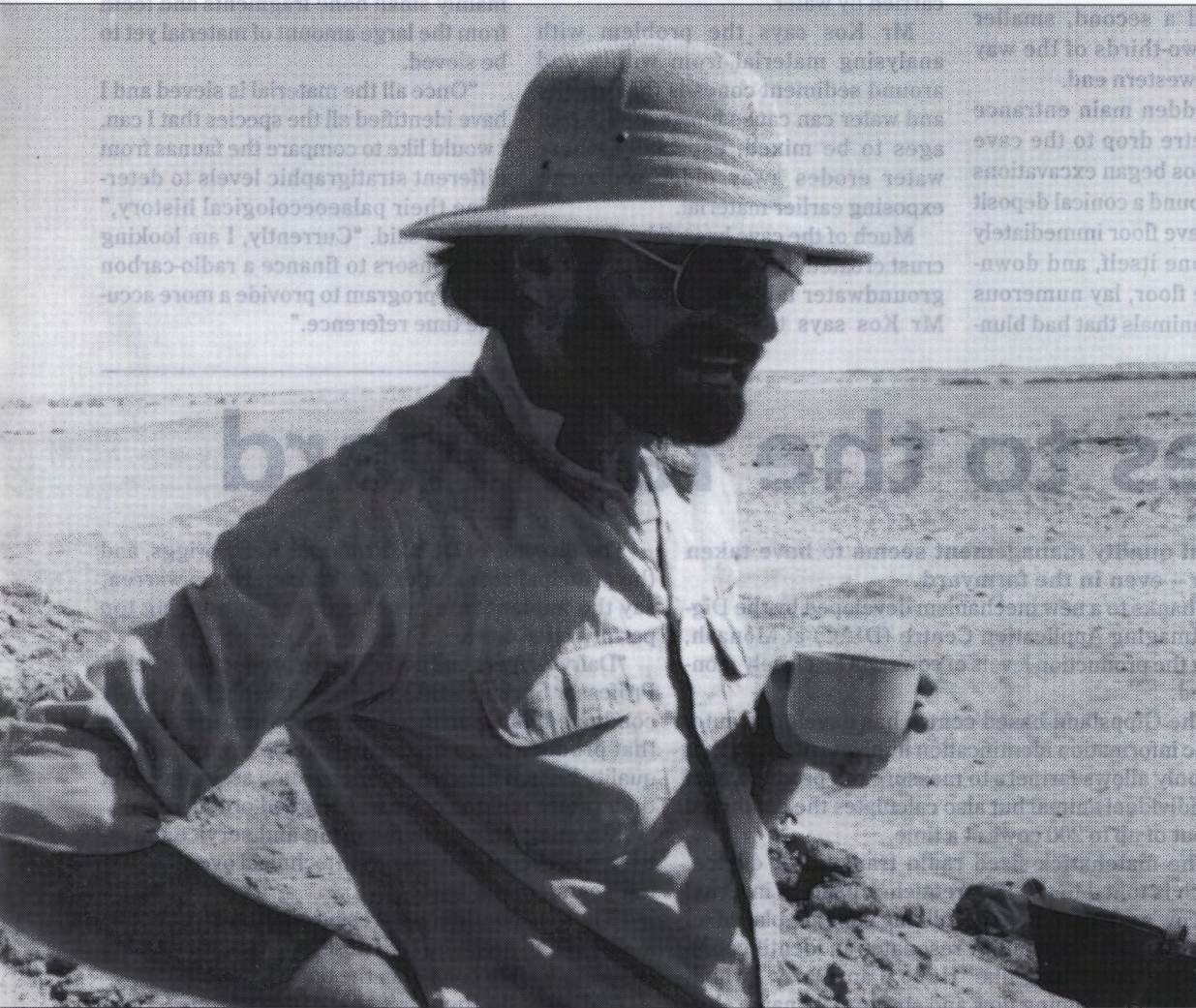
"Because of the amazing preservation conditions at the site, we have found thousands of fragments of papyrus, inscribed mainly in Greek, but sometimes in Coptic, the last stage of Ancient Egyptian. A few are in Latin. They enable us to determine the religious beliefs of a time when paganism was dying out."

Dr Hope says the papyrus documents and letters also reveal aspects of public and private economic activity. "We found private letters, covering everything from minor family transactions to major administrative documents," he said. "One such document is clearly the beginnings of a law case. It tells of how the governor's wife had been attacked with an axe by another governor from a different part of the oasis."

Dr Hope says that by combining the archaeological evidence with the texts found at the site, he and his team should be able to reconstruct an authentic picture of life in the oasis, and gradually work their way back to the first century.

"The nice thing is that the evidence is all in its original context. Elsewhere, most of the material has come from old rubbish dumps used by early towns and cities. Our site really exposes what we have lost from these other sites," he said. "It could take decades to finish. We're going to stop in about three years because it will take at least a decade to work through what has already been found. In any case, with excavation techniques constantly improving, we should never excavate more than small portions at a time."

Dr Hope's work has been supported by an Australian Research Council Grant since 1989. He has applied for a further grant to continue the work from next December.



Excavation site leader Dr Colin Hope of the Department of Greek, Roman and Egyptian Studies.

Cave yields ancient bones

An unnamed cave in Victoria's south-west has revealed the bones of many extinct marsupials.

A hidden limestone cave in south-western Victoria has yielded the fossil bones and teeth of several marsupials that became extinct more than 15,000 years ago.

In the course of excavating the cave last summer, masters student Mr Andrew Kos, of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, found the bones of an extinct giant short-faced kangaroo, an extinct giant wallaby, and the skull of a Tasmanian devil that no longer exists on Australia's mainland.

Mr Kos believes the cave may also hold a record of changes in the fauna of south-western Victoria during the past 30,000 years, a period spanning two ice ages.

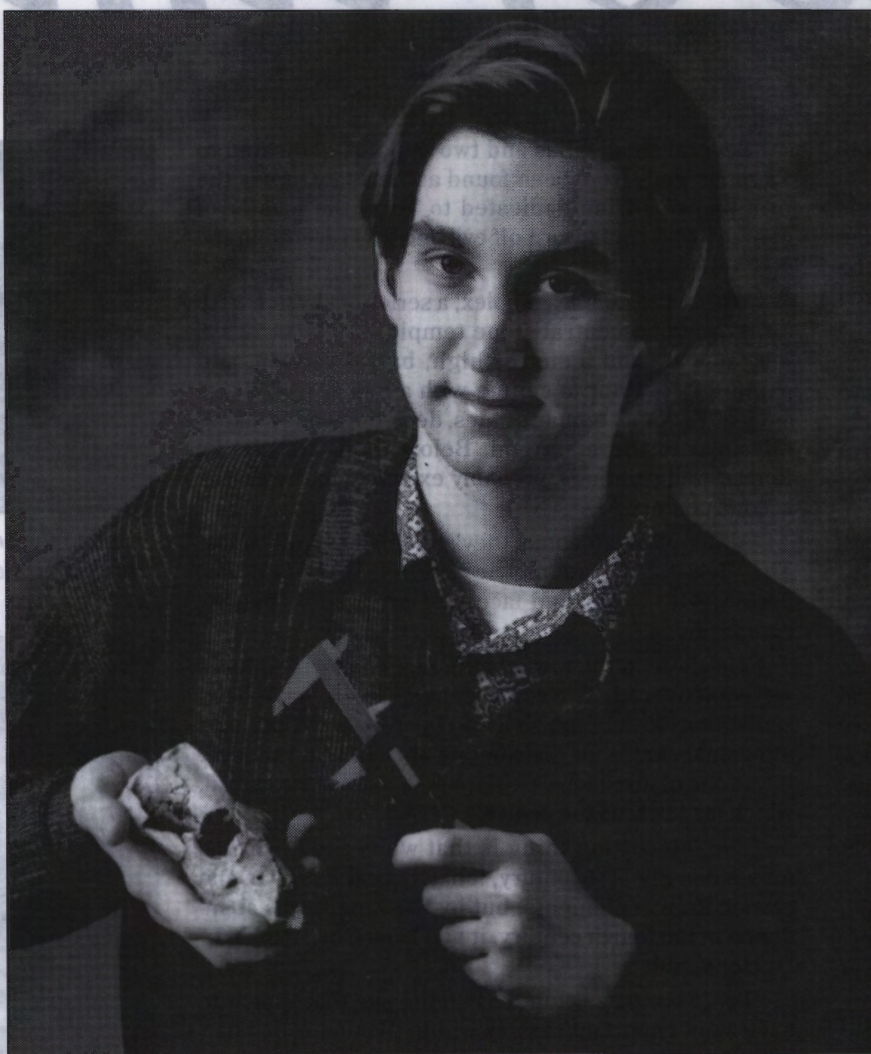
The cave has an interesting recent history, according to Mr Kos. It is part of an extensive system of about 60 limestone caves stretching from south-western Victoria near Nelson to Naracoorte, more than 100 kilometres to the north-west, over the South Australian border.

In the early 1960s, local pastoralist Mr Keith McEachern discovered several limestone caves on his property. One of these, McEachern's Cave, has proved to be a rich source of bones from extinct fauna, including the Tasmanian tiger or *Thylacine*, and *Thylacinus cynocephalus*, which ceased to exist on the mainland some 2000 years ago.

A cave rediscovered

Not far from the cave that bears his name, Mr McEachern found the entrance to another. This cave's entrance was less than two metres across and obscured by long grass, and because he kept no accurate records the cave's location remained a mystery for a quarter of a century. During this time, the area became part of the Lower Glenelg National Park.

Two park rangers, Mr David Ryan and Mr Andy Miller, rediscovered the entrance to the cave in 1987, but thought it was part of McEachern's Cave whose entrance lay some 300 metres away. Later, it was found to be a separate cave.



Mr Andrew Kos examines the skull of a *Sarcophilus laniarius* found in the limestone cave.

Most of the caves lie on roughly parallel lines which run through the limestone strata of the region (water percolating through the joints dissolves the limestone).

Mr Kos says the unnamed cave is about 120 metres long and averages about 1.5 metres wide, reaching a maximum width of about three metres. It runs north-west to south-east. There are two entrances – one at the south-eastern end, and a second, smaller entrance about two-thirds of the way towards its north-western end.

The almost hidden main entrance conceals a 15-metre drop to the cave floor. When Mr Kos began excavations late last year, he found a conical deposit of debris on the cave floor immediately below. On the cone itself, and down-slope on the cave floor, lay numerous bones of unwary animals that had blun-

dered across the hidden entrance and been killed by the fall.

"Sometimes water washes in and the bone works its way downslope. In the process it gets sorted so you get concentrations of certain types of bone – femurs, humeri, pelvic bones, long, solid bones, and occasionally skulls," Mr Kos said. "The long bones are usually aligned in the same direction, which shows that they may have been carried by water."

Mr Kos says the problem with analysing material from within and around sediment cones is that gravity and water can cause bones of different ages to be mixed, especially where water erodes away older sediment, exposing earlier material.

Much of the cave has a false floor – a crust created during a period when the groundwater table was much higher. Mr Kos says that while there were

abundant bones of species that still occur in the area – echidna, small dasyurid insectivores and swamp wallaby – he was puzzled that he was unable to find any bones from the Pleistocene (the geological period preceding the Holocene or Recent, which began 12,000 years ago).

The Pleistocene began two million years ago, and the late Pleistocene is of great interest because it saw the arrival of human beings in Australia's landscapes and the extinction of giant marsupials like browsing, short-faced kangaroos, rhino-sized diprotodons and the puma-sized marsupial "lion", *Thylacoleo carnifex*.

When Mr Kos cracked through the false floor, he found the tooth of a short-faced sthenurine kangaroo, indicating the stratum was of Pleistocene age. He then found an incisor tooth of a Tasmanian devil, *Sarcophilus*, and then, at a depth of 15 centimetres, the skull of a predator. Initially, he thought it might be a *Thylacine*, but closer analysis back in the laboratory confirmed it was from a *Sarcophilus laniarius*.

Mr Kos says there are problems with obtaining reliable radio-carbon dates for the bones. He can be sure the Tasmanian devil skull is at least 15,000 years old because of its association with the tooth from the sthenurine kangaroo, which was extinct by this time. He has also found a tooth from a giant wallaby, *Protemnodon*.

Interesting bone patterns

The bones recovered so far show an interesting pattern. Most are from young or old animals, which is consistent with the idea that mainly inexperienced or aged animals fell into natural traps.

Mr Kos says there is still another 2.5 metres of sediment to be excavated from the first pit that his team sank in the cave floor. He expects to yield mainly small bone fragments and teeth from the large amount of material yet to be sieved.

"Once all the material is sieved and I have identified all the species that I can, I would like to compare the faunas from different stratigraphic levels to determine their palaeoecological history," Mr Kos said. "Currently, I am looking for sponsors to finance a radio-carbon dating program to provide a more accurate time reference."

TQM takes to the farmyard



Total quality management seems to have taken over – even in the farmyard.

Thanks to a new mechanism developed by the Digital Imaging Application Centre (DIAC) at Monash, even the production levels of cows will be closely monitored.

The Gippsland-based centre has developed automatic information identification implants for cows that not only allows farmers to measure the production of an individual animal but also calculates the combined output of up to 200 cows at a time.

The matchstick-sized radio transmitter device, which is tuned to the FM frequency band, is inserted in a cow's udder. When the milking cups are placed on the udder, the transmitter resonates an identification message, something like "Hullo, I am Daisy", which logs the forthcoming flow and appropriate name electronically.

The director of DIAC, Professor Ken Spriggs, and the principal researcher, Mr Warren Nageswarren, say the implants are beneficial for reproducing top performance cows.

"Dairy farmers cull according to production levels," Professor Spriggs said. "Because breeding is usually conducted using artificial insemination, those cows that produce large quantities can be bred with top-quality bulls. This gives farmers some assurance that their future milking cows will be good producers."

"Farming, like manufacturing and service industries, has become increasingly technical over the past few years," he said.

"There is continuous pressure for more effective methods and procedures. These implants are a first in ensuring quality control in the dairy industry."

And what do the cows think of these new TQM measures? Udder nonsense.

Counting the cost of child abuse

Women exposed to childhood sexual abuse are more prone to depressive disorders, difficulty with relationships, and sexual problems as adults, according to a Monash professor of forensic psychiatry.

Professor Paul Mullen, whose study was carried out among 2500 women in New Zealand, emphasised that most victims of child sexual abuse, though distressed at the time, do not develop long-term problems.

The study found that the most severely sexually abused children were six times more likely than those not abused to have an eating disorder, three times more likely to have an anxiety disorder, five times more likely to have a depressive disorder, and 74 times more likely to act in a suicidal or self-destructive manner.

They were also seven times more likely to have personal difficulties with their own sexuality, 12 times more likely to be unhappy with their sex life, five times more likely to have premarital pregnancy (eight times more likely before 19 years), and four times more likely to be separated or divorced.

In their relationships with others, especially males, these women in later life were three times more likely to have a low-care or high-control partner, four times more likely to drop in socioeconomic status and five times more likely to have low self-esteem.

"The lowering socioeconomic status was an interesting observation," Professor Mullen said. "We found that social effectiveness in women was not related to their educational background. Those abused might have similar educational qualifications but still end up at a lower socioeconomic

level than their parents, due to their failure to realise their potential.

"Abused women get caught in a cycle in which they negatively evaluate intimate relationships and tend to find themselves in uncaring relationships with abusive males. We found that child sexual abuse can disrupt development as a person.

"There was not, in most cases, a post-traumatic stress disorder syndrome. Women did not suffer a continuity of psychological difficulties but were more prone and more vulnerable to events around them in later life.

"Many of those abused were less interested in punitive measures for offenders than in educational and social initiatives."

"The model we developed from the study indicates that the child's developing sexuality, self-esteem, agency, security and socialisation could in some cases be disrupted by sexual abuse. This increases the vulnerability of the victim to later developmental difficulties and can lead to sexual problems, damaged self-esteem, hopeless and restricted roles, suspicion and insecurity, and difficulties in intimacy."

These problems were found to be less obvious if the victim had positive experiences in later life such as success at sport or in school, living with a partner, full-time employment, or having a confidante.

But the symptoms became worse if the woman had an uncaring parent, financial problems, further sexual victimisation, teenage pregnancy, divorce or separation.

The study also looked at a model for secondary intervention. "While primary intervention might sound easy, saying that sexual abuse should not happen, though entirely correct, does not of itself either reduce the risks to children or assist those already abused," Professor Mullen said.

"While attempting to change the attitudes that lead to abuse, we also need to try to reduce the impact on those who do fall victim. Secondary prevention looks at modifications in the environment that might help recipients of the abuse later on."

The reason the study was successful was due to the cooperation of the women involved, Professor Mullen said. "They gave interesting suggestions on how to intervene and how to provide possible preventive measures such as education and treatment.

"It was interesting to see that many of those abused were less interested in punitive measures for offenders than in educational and social initiatives and the treatment of paedophiles."

Professor Mullen has recently been appointed head of the forensic psychiatry unit at Monash. His work involves developing academic forensic psychiatry and services to the mentally abused offender.

Professor Mullen trained at the Mandsley and Bettlea Royal hospitals in London and at Johns Hopkins University in the US. He spent six years as a consultant at Mandsley before taking up the Chair of psychological medicine in Otago, New Zealand.

"STEP INTO MY OFFICE..."

Margaret James

Equal opportunity manager Dr Margaret James is both a historian and a pioneer.

An academic historian with a masters degree from the University of Melbourne and a PhD from La Trobe University, Dr James was among the first generation of mothers to return to work.

She describes her career as "typical for a woman at that time - a series of short-term appointments that involved starting from the bottom three times".

It is little wonder that she is committed to encouraging the development of career paths for women employed in secretarial or middle-level management functions.

Dr James joined Monash University in 1987 after working for two and a half years at La Trobe University as a research fellow for the Status of Women. Even in the brief period since her appointment, Dr James says she has seen a marked swing in attitude towards acceptance of equal opportunity issues.

"Initially, there was considerable opposition," she recalls. "The development of non-sexist language guidelines, for example, roused passions on both sides of the fence."

However, there were also triumphs, such as the appointment of a full-time child-care coordinator and the establishment of a school holiday program on campus, which now caters for about 90 children and makes life easier for their working parents.

According to Dr James, important issues for the 1990s include developing career paths for academic and general staff wishing to reach senior levels, and introducing a policy of gender representation on decision-making committees.

She shares with Ms Susan Harrison, director of Personnel Services (see *Montage*, May 1993), a commitment to staff training and mentor programs.

Dr James would also like to see the introduction of an employment policy acknowledging that all staff, at some time, have family responsibilities that may require their time and attention.



Equal opportunity manager, Dr Margaret James.

"Everyone faces a family crisis at some time," she says. "Employers need to be able to cope and have policies in place that will assist staff by relieving stress levels at crucial times."

Such policies would include job sharing, leave provisions and flexible working hours.

Then there is the issue of improving the representation of disadvantaged groups within the student population. These include people from rural and isolated areas, those with disabilities, others from disadvantaged socioeconomic groups, and students from non-English-speaking backgrounds.

It is not surprising that Dr James says there is more to do than time allows.

Her average day is divided between one-to-one counselling sessions, attending committee meetings and preparing policy documents. She also manages six staff - three covering equal opportunity and three dealing with disability liaison. Their offices are in the Gallery building on Clayton campus.

The Equal Opportunity Committee, chaired by Professor Ian Chubb, is a standing committee of the Academic Council.

Enviro encore

An Australian invention that automatically sorts aluminium cans from glass bottles for recycling has attracted the attention of international soft drink manufacturer Coca-Cola.

The Envirobin, developed by Monash master of environmental science graduate Ms Elvyn Hogan and engineer Mr Neville Roberts, has been tested on university campuses and is now being considered by Coca-Cola.

Ms Hogan says economic viability is one of the biggest hurdles for recycling activities, and one of the most prohibitive costs is sorting the material to be recycled.

"The aim of the Envirobin is to sort glass from aluminium automatically and avoid double-handling," Ms Hogan explained. "By separating the products at the source, we can make recycling more cost-effective."

Like all good ideas, the Envirobin is remarkably simple in design. It does not require a power source, but differentiates between glass and aluminium by weight. A simple flap with a counterweight deposits the empty container into the appropriate waste collection bin.

Envirobins have been installed on all Victorian university campuses, and according to Monash recycling officer Mr Chris Jarvis, the eye-catching bins have encouraged recycling efforts. "The bins advertise themselves because they are so visible and unique," he said. "By attracting interest, the Envirobins encourage students to take part in recycling programs."

International marketing and management consultant Pan Pacific Management Resources Pty Ltd is now marketing the

Envirobin, which, according to managing director Mr Joe Maier, "has global applications".

"Recycling is an international issue," Mr Maier said. "We usually only take on established companies as clients. We made an exception with the Envirobin because of its obvious potential."

Mr Maier believes the Envirobin is ideal for public areas such as shopping centres, cinema and theatre complexes, sports venues, airports, and of course universities where it has already proved a success.

"Most of these venues do not provide any facilities for recycling at the moment," Mr Maier said. "The Envirobin is a simple and inexpensive way to establish a recycling program, possibly in conjunction with a community group that can be responsible for organising final disposal of the sorted cans and bottles."

According to Ms Hogan, the Envirobin also has a positive impact on public attitudes towards recycling. "It is very motivating to be able to take part in a recycling project that obviously works."

"People are immediately rewarded for making the effort to place their bottle or can into an Envirobin because they can see that the product is sorted," she said.

"Kids find it fascinating and will collect empty cans and bottles to roll down the chute and see the mechanism operate."



► SEC-Monash centre opens

The State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) and Monash University officially joined forces last month with the launch of the Centre for Electrical Power Engineering.

The joint project, which has been part of the university's Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering for two years, is designed to improve the education and research resources available to electrical engineering students.

Speaking at the launch, SECV chairman Mr George Bates said it was important for the power industry to encourage the recruitment and education of talented engineers who would ensure the future of this essential industry.

"Without proper education in this area for young engineering students, there could be serious consequences for the future," he said.

"There is a need for innovative research to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the electricity supply industry."

The SECV provides substantial support for the centre, including funding for several teaching and research positions.



Launching the centre: (from left) Professor Bill Bonwick, Professor Mal Logan and Mr George Bates.

It also endows the Sir John Monash Chair of Electrical Power Engineering, which is held by the centre's director, Professor Bill Bonwick.

"The relevant and high level research being carried out at the centre helps develop strong links between industry and the university," Professor Bonwick said.

■ Winning ways with wood

Playing around has led to international acclaim for a senior lecturer at Monash University's Frankston campus.

Mr Bob Greaves' expertise in children's play material has been recognised by the International Association for the Child's Right to Play.

His *Working With Wood* exhibit – which has entertained thousands of children at the Royal Melbourne Show for the past eight years – won a certificate for meeting United Nations' standards on child rights.

Mr Greaves works at the Arts Education department and describes himself as a "compulsive teacher", with experience at primary and tertiary levels. He has also worked as a hospital play therapist and is an experienced potter, painter, printmaker and sculptor.

His Melbourne Show exhibit was acclaimed for meeting the requirements of the United Nations' Article 31, which "recognises the rights of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child".

Mr Greaves' play activity will be presented at the International Play Conference in Edinburgh next year and looks set to return to this year's Melbourne Show.



Children take part in Mr Bob Greaves' *Working With Wood* exhibit at the Royal Melbourne Show.

► Vive les livres de France

French books dating back as far as 1610 are on show at Monash University's Main Library on Clayton campus.

About 90 historic books are on display, including works by a wide variety of French writers and several English translations.

Translated works include a controversial group of books from the 1880s that resulted in a jail term for obscenity by English publisher Henry Vizetelly.

The exhibition will be open on the first floor of the library every day until 11 October. Entrance is free and a detailed catalogue is available at no charge.

Pictured at the exhibition's launch last month are (from left) Associate Professor Wallace Kirsop, Department of Romance Languages (French); Madame Isabelle Costa de Beauregard, Victorian Consul General; Professor Brian Nelson, head of the French Section, Romance Languages department; and Rare Books librarian, Mr Richard Overell.



A dancer performs at the multinational dinner dance during the close of the World in Our Eyes festival.

◀ Festival opens eyes to the wider world

Monash University's largest cultural festival was held on Caulfield campus last month.

Organised by Overseas Student Services in conjunction with embassies, consulates and overseas tourism authorities, the World in Our Eyes festival included cultural dances, musical performances, a food fair, and a forum honouring Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop's contribution to multiracial friendliness.

The five-day festival culminated with a multinational dinner dance in South Yarra, where guests were treated to a feast of international dishes and an array of multicultural performers. The festival received recognition and well-wishes from Malaysia's Prime Minister, the President of France and the Governor of Victoria.

Festival organiser Mr Terence Kok said the event had been extremely successful and its magnitude reflected the changing face of Australia. "Ever since its foundation in 1968, Monash has welcomed students from all corners of the globe. The university now has 3385 international students from more than 60 countries," he said.

▼ Medal winner named

Monash science student Mr Miles Smith has won accolades for excellence in physics.

The 22-year-old Mr Smith (pictured below at right) was recently awarded the inaugural Laby Medal, sharing the honour with Melbourne University student Mr Yuri Levin.

Judges could not choose between the high-achieving students, who both finished bachelor of science degrees with honours in physics.

The Minister for Tertiary Education and Training, Mr Haddon Storey, presented the awards at a special function last month.

The medal was named for Professor Thomas Laby, a member of Melbourne University's Physics department from 1915 until his retirement in 1944.

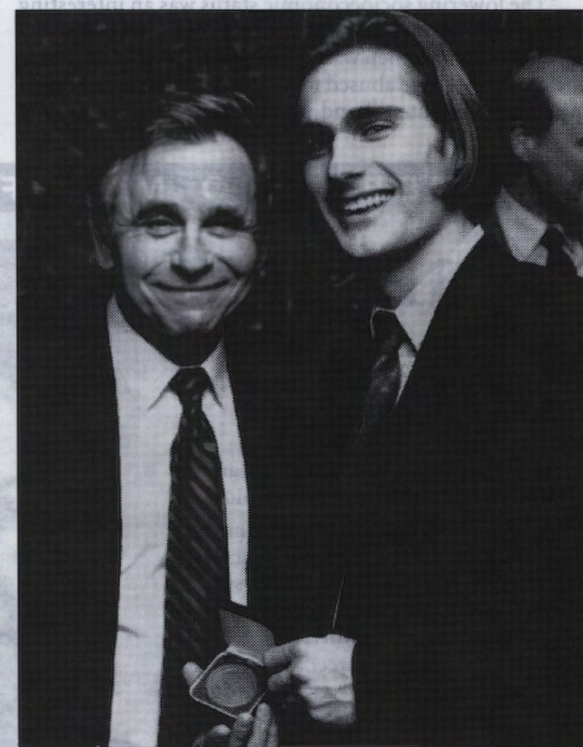
Professor Laby was well known for his world-class research projects in physics and their application to new industries and medicine.

In winning the award, Mr Smith won recognition for his thesis, 'An analysis of Rosen and Tauber's unified field theory and a search for its equations of motion'.

Since enrolling at Monash in 1989, Mr Smith has won several awards, including the Science Faculty Scholar and the J. J. McNeill Prize for being the top physics honours student at Monash.

He was recently accepted by Cambridge University's Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, where he will start postgraduate study in October.

Mr Smith told *Montage* that his ultimate dream was to work as an astronaut at NASA.



■ Aussie expertise in China

One of China's leading universities has appointed a Monash University academic to advise its new International College of Chinese Culture.

East China Normal University has selected Professor Bruce Jacobs, head of Monash University's Asian Languages and Studies department, to provide expertise in Chinese studies.

The university will also seek advice from Dr Anne McLaren, of La Trobe University's Asian Languages Division, and four academic advisers from Canada, Germany, South Korea and the US.

■ Australia scores a lucky 13

A Monash academic picked a winning combination when he chose Australia's best secondary mathematics students recently.

Mathematics reader Associate Professor Hans Lausch selected a team that finished ahead of all other Commonwealth countries at this year's International Mathematical Olympiad in Istanbul.

The young scholars tabled Australia's highest-ever medal count at the event: one gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

Dr Lausch, who was the team's selection chairman, said he was extremely happy with the team's performance.

He said the team competed against 412 students from 72 countries, finishing thirteenth overall.

Students from across the nation were competing in the team. Victoria's representative, Mr Frank Calgarry of Melbourne's Church of England Grammar School, won a silver medal.

Love poetry, the Australian way

Love is not the first word that springs to mind when we think of Australian poetry.

The somewhat laconic attitude to love, intimacy and romance in the Australian culture has led to an underestimation of the thousands of Australian love poems from the early 19th century to the present.

Associate Professor Jenny Strauss of the Department of English has compiled hundreds of these poems in a collection entitled *Love poems*, published recently by Oxford University Press.

Dr Strauss had just finished a book on the poetry of Australian Gwen Harwood when she was approached with the proposal of publishing an anthology of love poems.

"I was interested from the start, mostly from my own personal and professional interest in poetry," she said. "I was seduced by the fact that I wanted to see what kind of love poetry there was around in Australia, how it had developed over the years, and

the sentiments expressed about love through poetry.

"The poems I found surprised me. There were a lot more than I had imagined – almost 3000 books to pore through – and they were direct, open, sometimes explicit, and all emotionally stimulating.

"The early works by settlers described Australian girls as country lovers, wild-flowers – nothing like the English rose. Later poems also displayed a franker expression of love of the new society. They moved away from the conventions and class-ridden styles derivative of their European counterparts."

Dr Strauss says the topics changed over time: "Nineteenth century works talked about fallen women, jilted girls and the English damsels men went home to marry. Poets of the 20th century explored explicit physical love, divorce, separation, old married love, homosexual and heterosexual love, word games, individual autonomy,

and merging and losing oneself in love and rejection."

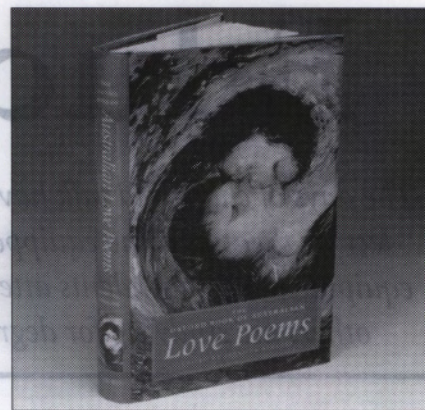
More recently, women tend to be rewriting myths from the female side, such as the Greek story of Eros and Psyche.

Dr Strauss says love poems are a literary form of expressing direct feelings through sound and sense. She questions whether the link is between the feeling and the text, or whether the text generates the emotion.

She says that although everyone is interested in love, this is the first Australian anthology of its kind and is aimed at people who like reading poetry. The collection includes tribal poetry by Aboriginal people translated from their original languages.

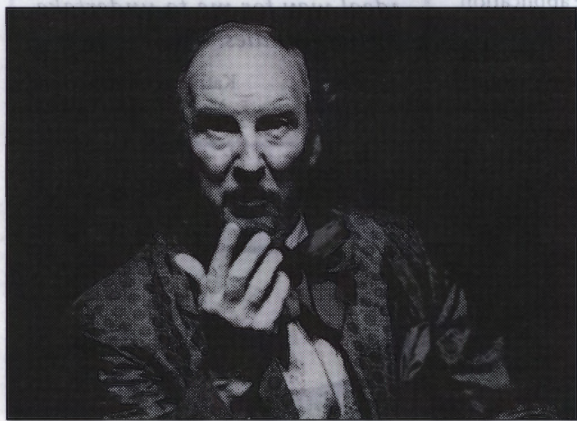
The research was funded by an Australian Research Council grant. Dr Strauss worked with an assistant who searched through journals, periodicals, old books and little- and well-known collections.

Dr Strauss has been teaching medieval literature and poetry at Monash since 1964.



She is also interested in women's studies, women's writing and all kinds of Australian literature.

"I can certainly say that one need not quote Shakespeare's *Thou art more temperate than a summer's day* to sound romantic," she said. "In fact, it would not even suit the culture or environment here in Australia. There are many 'home-grown' examples that equal the best of overseas. This collection provides a love poem for everyone."



Expectations fulfilled

Storytelling is generally a bedtime tradition for children before they sleep.

It is not often as adults that we get the chance to have the luxury of being told a story, of letting our eyes rest and our imaginations wander.

The Alexander Theatre provided that opportunity in August with a traditional Sunday afternoon reading of the Dickens classic *Great Expectations*.

The revival of traditional storytelling in the manner of Dickens has become popular worldwide. Storyteller Professor George Curry has visited Germany, France, the US, Canada and Britain with his adaptations of Dickens. Professor Curry is at present on a five-week tour of Australia.

He says his interest in the readings were prompted by noted Welsh actor Emlyn Williams, a personal friend.

"Before his recent death, I spoke to Williams about performing *Great Expectations*, which had never been done before," Professor Curry said. "With his approval, I set about devising a script and cutting down the 400-page book to a 60-page script for a two-hour performance."

"*Great Expectations* is a perfect novel for this kind of storytelling. Written in the first person, the actor does not get into trouble with recounting the story. In my performance, I tell the story as if I were in my middle age and looking back on the events."

"*Great Expectations* also has many themes and stories that can be explored on their own. In the adaptation I gave here, I concentrated on the relationship between Pip and the convict as the real, but unlikely, hero."

Professor Curry says he first became interested in Dickens through his academic research into Victorian society. "I have always researched and concerned myself with Victorian studies. As you can't study society and culture without literature, I was destined to be inextricably linked with Dickens," he said.

Professor Curry has also played Higgins from *My Fair Lady* and Malvolio from *Romeo and Juliet*. "I like one-person shows. The demands of developing an intimate interaction between the player and the audience, setting the scene, using the variety of voice, movements and expression, mean that while I have to do all the entertaining, it makes it all the more rewarding," he said. "I also get all the laughs."

Somehow with modern means of travel, the image of the wandering storyteller does not seem to be the same. But in the theatre, with eyes closed, the misty mysterious marshes of England, the yellowed whites of the Haversham household and a life in Victorian England before the imagination, the power of the storyteller seems very real.

Koorie studies centre at Gippsland

A curious melange of Koorie and Australian cultures blend naturally in paintings by Monash Gippsland Koorie studies students.

The paintings, which hang in the main hall at the Gippsland campus, are products of the subject 'Koorie art: theory and practice', part of the unique two-year Associate Diploma in Koorie studies.

The course is part of the newly established Koorie Studies Centre at Gippsland. The associate diploma was initiated by members of the Koorie community, who believed a specialised course at university could help them obtain the skills required by employers.

Subjects include an introduction to Koorie culture, language and social organisation; Koorie literature; Koorie art theory and practice; Gippsland history and customs; dominant minority cultures such as Maoris, Kanaks, South Africa; contemporary issues; traditional Aboriginal British law; archaeology and colonialism; and land rights.

In the six years since the course began, students have found employment as teachers, cultural officers and community leaders. Some have gone on to further study.



Mural painted by Koorie studies staff and students - 1990.

The rigid structure of the university system is often an alien environment for most Koorie students, but the Koorie Studies Centre aims to provide supportive Koorie and non-Koorie staff who understand the difficulties.

The head of the centre, Ms Marlene Drysdale, said: "If Koories don't know where they are coming from, they cannot know where they are headed. We aim to build a sense of identity, self-esteem, and all the skills of a university degree."

To help Koories integrate successfully into the workforce, the course covers public speaking, understanding issues in the community, and working in the wider community. It also involves them in community activi-

ties such as teaching Aboriginal studies in schools.

"Our long-term strategy is to upgrade the associate diploma to a bachelor of arts degree. This will involve extra units, and eventually postgraduate courses and distance education.

Ms Drysdale is well qualified to head the centre. She has worked in Koorie studies for the past six years at Monash Gippsland, and in Aboriginal education curriculum development for 10 years in Tasmania. She also has experience in Aboriginal legal aid.

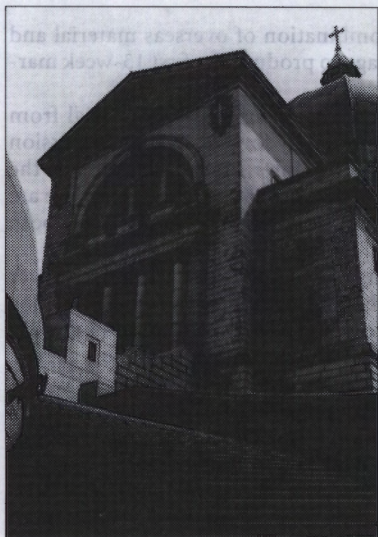
Academically, she has completed a Bachelor of Arts in Aboriginal studies, a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in politics and public administration, a Diploma in Welfare. She is currently completing her masters.

Ms Drysdale says many things can be learned from the past and from the Koorie culture. "Sometimes we have to look back to solve the current problems. Koories don't have homeless children," she said. "They don't have old people's homes, yet there is an ageing population. Koories look after the environment, their streams and rivers are not polluted, and they only take what they need."

Camera clique on show

A dozen Monash University photographers have produced an exhibition of their favourite after-work shots.

About 150 people attended last month's launch of *It Ain't Art But It Ain't Wrong* in the Monash University Club on Clayton campus.



The exhibition, which continues until mid-October, highlights the artistic and technical abilities of Monash photographers outside their normal university work.

It was organised by Mr Brian Carr and Ms Rhonda Joyce, of the Department of Geography and Environmental Science, with assistance from the University Club.

Mr Carr and Ms Joyce are featured in the exhibition alongside Mr David Humfrey (Anatomy), Ms Jennifer McKervey (Alfred Hospital), Ms Michelle Mulholland (Physiology), Mr Arthur Wall (Anatomy), Ms Meaghan Ward (Anatomy), Mr Steve Morton (Science), Mr Richard Crompton (Teaching Services), Mr Adrian Dyer (Science), Mr Simon Olding (Alfred Hospital) and Mr David Fardon (Anatomy).

Most of the photographs on exhibition are for sale.

Left: St Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Canada, photograph by Simon Olding (1992).



A Xeroxography portrait by Ms Jennifer McKervey.

Education 2001

The days of chalk and talk have long since passed. Nowadays, lecture theatres come equipped with the latest audiovisual equipment, some students attend tutorials via computer, and others are studying for degrees from their lounge room.

Monash is taking a leading role in the development of innovative educational programs to meet the changing needs of Australians in the 20th century.

Last year, a Monash-led consortium, with the financial support of the Federal Government, launched the TV Open Learning Pilot Project to test the effectiveness of television as a tool in Australian higher education.



Ms Jill McLachlan: "Universities ... must provide degree pathways that meet a variety of requirements."

The aim of the project was to improve access to university study by developing a system of open learning that is fully integrated into the higher education system.

During 1992, the project, which involved five universities, offered seven first-year university units using television, print and other study materials.

More than 50,000 Australians expressed interest in the TV Open Learning Pilot Project, and 5000 went on to study via this method.

This year the number of units offered by Open Learning has more than tripled. It now includes disciplines such as humanities, social science, business, professional studies, science and technology.

In addition, Monash has introduced two new degrees: the Bachelor of General Studies and the Bachelor of Business Studies. Students can accumulate credits for these courses using a variety of sources, including Open Learning, distance education and TAFE subjects.

Flexible study programs

Executive officer for Academic Projects Ms Jill McLachlan explains that formal study is not suitable for, or is unavailable to, a large number of potential students.

"There are students who cannot obtain an on-campus or distance education place to study for a degree, students who would like to combine subjects from a variety of sources to make up a degree, and others who prefer to study in a more independent way than on-campus study allows," she said.

"Universities must be sensitive to these changing needs and should provide degree pathways that meet a variety of requirements."

The Federal Government recently announced a pilot project aimed at helping school leavers who are unable to gain university places. The government has provided \$1.4 million to Monash University for the establishment of a Year 13 pilot program that allows selected secondary schools to introduce tertiary-level study options.

Ms McLachlan says many secondary schools would like to provide educational pathways for students who are unable to move into university study because of the dramatic rise in retention rates and cut-off scores. "The recent introduction of the VCE has made repeating Year 12—always a soul-destroying enterprise—even more difficult given the nature of the VCE assessment and study design," she said.

"There has also been a view in some schools that certain students, having completed Year 12, are not really equipped to move immediately into the independent mode of study usually associated with universities. Some students could benefit from a year which gives a more reasonable transition from the school context to a university one."

The solution was Open Learning studies combined with tutorial support provided by secondary schools. One Queensland, two South Australian and more than 24 Victorian schools are participating in the pilot program, which attracted 300 students in the first study period.

Ms McLachlan says the program is popular with both school leavers and mature-age students. Enrolments in the pilot program are evenly divided between these two groups.

Monash is providing information and advice to school teachers on the application of Open Learning materials in a classroom environment. The government has provided funding for one-off grants to schools requiring specialist equipment such as video players, CD-ROMs and library resources.

"I wanted to stimulate my brain again, but there is no way I could attend regular university working the hours I do."

John Burke, state manager
Kwika Airfreight, Melbourne, Victoria

"As a mother with two small children, the flexibility of Open Learning was the only way I could have returned to tertiary study."

Jamieanne Albrecht, artist and writer
Wudinna, South Australia

"I find Open Learning is more flexible and less formal than undertaking a degree course to improve my qualifications."

Paul Spencer, student
Dromana, Victoria

"After being transferred to the country, Open Learning was the ideal way for me to undertake tertiary studies."

Kathleen Kerwin, Nun
Murgon, Queensland



The TV Open Learning Pilot Project's marketing team included (standing from left) Mr Bryan Grey, Mr Ian Mitchell, Mr Peter Young, (seated) Mr Gary Harris and Ms Mary Delahunty.

The making of an Open Learning unit

How does one convert a lecture series into a television series? Monash course leader Ms Sally Joy, who recently produced a 13-week television series, offers some tips for academics interested in lecturing to the masses via the latest teaching methods.

Creating an Open Learning unit is not just a matter of photocopying your class overheads and rewriting your lecture notes, warns Ms Joy.

Ms Joy, who has produced a 13-week television series for the popular Marketing Practices and Theory Open Learning unit, says that Open Learning students often have not completed any prerequisite subjects and have limited access to text books, libraries and databases.

"It is important to be detailed and specific in the presentation of any information," she explained. "You have to write material that is accessible to a range of target markets. For example, one of my Open Learning students might be the owner of a milk bar, another a Year 12 student with an interest in marketing, and another a product manager requiring a greater understanding of marketing."

"In addition, the material must reflect common accepted theory. There is no point pushing a personal viewpoint, because your Open Learning student may use credits from this unit to gain entrance to another participating university. If your material wanders from an acceptable standard, it will not meet the first requirement of an Open Learning unit, which is flexibility."

Ms Joy is quick to point out that much of the work in preparing an Open Learning unit involves preparing written material.

"You don't go anywhere near the ABC television studio until you have established your learning objectives, written your material, and determined which visual images represent the core concepts you wish to convey," she said.

"The television programs must be interesting and informative without the print material, while at the same time enhancing the information conveyed in the study notes."

Ms Joy used a combination of overseas material and new Australian footage to produce the first 13-week marketing series.

"In the first year we concentrated on material from North America, supported by four Australian discussion panels and television presenter Mary Delahunty as the front person. Now that we have more experience, we are going to create four new Australian programs using both archival and location footage."

Ms Joy also points out that the hard work is not over once the film is "in the can". Presenting an Open Learning unit also involves providing telephone tutorial support to students, marking assignments and examination papers, and briefing tutors for the Year 13 program.

Ms Joy estimates that preparing the original tender document for consideration by the Open Learning Agency of Australia (OLAA) can take up to 100 hours.

If a tender is accepted, the OLAA and the Federal Government provide seedling funding for the development of

the proposed unit. Income from student enrolments is distributed between the OLAA, the faculty or school providing the unit and the Distance Education Centre on the Gippsland campus, which prints study notes and provides administrative and student support.

Participating faculties or schools usually receive about \$125 per student. The money is used to provide additional student support and services.

Despite the long hours involved in preparing an Open Learning unit, Ms Joy believes that there are rewards for academics—and for Australia. "Preparing an Opening Learning unit improves your on-campus teaching, because you have to be very focused, polished and prepared in your presentation," she said.

"Unlike on-campus students, who will sit through a boring lecture, Open Learning students can switch you off. You have to make the important points in an interesting way. I believe an Open Learning unit has to be better than your best lecture."

Ms Joy believes Open Learning is important for Australia. "If this nation is to play a significant role in the global market, universities must play a role in making sure Australians are better educated. To do that, universities need to take into account changing lifestyles," she said.

"More and more people are taking on greater work and family commitments. Working hours are changing and many people just cannot attend on-campus classes. Either we run classes during different hours or we create a learning system independent of attending classes."

Battling for the university's commercial success

Developing commercial activities for the university is often a battle. Perhaps this is why former national serviceman Mr Peter Cunliffe is good at his job.

Mr Cunliffe, who heads the university's Commercial Development Office, has been associated with higher education ever since his tour of duty. He began as a mature-age student and later filled the position of planning officer in the TAFE division of Caulfield Institute of Technology.

After four years as the inaugural business manager for Holmesglen TAFE, he returned as development director at Chisholm in 1987. "My position at Chisholm involved managing and developing commercial activities, such as real estate and the Caulfield Shopping Plaza," he said.

"One of our most difficult but rewarding projects was the development, letting and management of the Chisholm Tower. This was a first in Australia as it involved a mix of education and commercial users."

The Chisholm-Monash merger also brought a name change. The new Business Development Office became responsible for commercial property, the Frank Tate House, insurance, Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) and the Monash Merchandising Company (MMC).

"I was fortunate to be part of a period of growth and quality activity following the merger," he said. "The very size of the new Monash resulted in growth in commercial activity and property management. At the same time, under the strategic directions of the general manager, Mr Peter

Wade, we have been involved in a significant property purchase program that will benefit Monash enormously."

The new administrative structure of the university resulted in the branch being renamed and divided in two operations. The commercial property office will now be known as the Estate Management Branch, under the responsibility of the Facilities and Information Services Division. The acting manager is Mr Wayne Brundell.

The second operation, the Commercial Development Office within the Financial Services Division, will now be headed by Mr Cunliffe, who will move from Caulfield to Clayton. "My role within the university will now largely be one of an internal consultant undertaking project-based commercial activities," he said. "I will also be responsible for the day-to-day operations of MUFY and MMC."

Mr Cunliffe said MMC had great opportunities to expand. With specialist shops now operating at Clayton, Caulfield and Frankston, and Gippsland campuses serviced through the bookshops, merchandising will generate more than \$500,000 worth of campus retail sales this year.

"The time is right to look beyond the university and outside sales through Myer to even wider retailing and exporting opportunities," he said.

MUFY, a joint venture between Monash and Taylors Institute of Advanced Studies, provides a one-year academic bridging course for international students before they begin undergraduate studies at Monash.

Mr Cunliffe said a newly formed strategic alliance with the University of NSW will assist overseas recruitment and the marketing of MUFY.

"Monash is joining forces with the University of NSW to tap into this large, relatively new market. If we get it right, we will increase our share of that market," he said.



Head of the Commercial Development Office, Mr Peter Cunliffe.

This game of ours

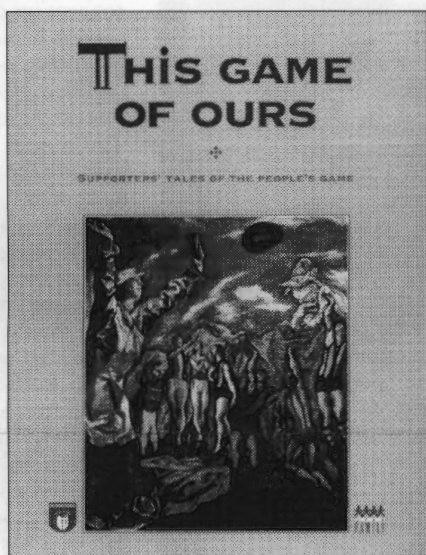
Never-before published tales of football heroics and behind-the-scenes events have been regaled by four Monash staff members in a new book called *This game of ours*.

Not unlike those tall stories of "the one that got away", *This game of ours* features an enlightening collection of mishaps, missed opportunities and mayhem on and off the field.

"The stories in *This game of ours* offer a glimpse at the true spirit of football and presents a unique perspective of the game," said co-editor of the book and Research Officer with the Caulfield Student Union, Mr Leo Grogan.

Contributions came from well-known football identities, such as Hawthorn premiership champion James Morrissey, radio and television stars, rampaging Roy Slavin and HG Nelson, the well-versed from the media, and the not so well known.

Fifty-five writers contributed to the book, including the four Monash staff. Dr Paul Rodan, assistant registrar of the Faculty of Science, recalls a humorous account about tribal conflict at the Junction Oval, while Dr Chris McConville, from the Department of History, dwells on those poor unfortunates who never receive recognition – the football losers.



Mr Peter Cunliffe, from the Commercial Office, writes about the chaotic rigours of coaching a junior football team – and surviving. Ms Lisa Cox, finance manager with the Caulfield Student Union, contributed a piece that described an embarrassing meeting with Darren Millane's mother during Collingwood's successful 1990 finals campaign.

This game of ours was compiled by Mr Grogan and Mr Peter Burke, who is also a member of the Caulfield Union Board.

The 180-page paperback includes photographs, illustrations and cartoons, and sells for \$12.95. All money raised from the sale of *This game of ours* will go to Open Family, a charity that helps homeless youths.

Student teachers head outback

Final-year primary teaching students from Frankston campus spent five weeks in central Australia earlier this year as part of their teaching practice rounds.

Fourteen students were placed in primary schools in Alice Springs, including the School of the Air and Aboriginal communities, to experience different teaching environments.

According to Dr Brian Parton, Academic Leader (primary) in the Monash School of Early Childhood and Primary Education, the field trip gave students valuable training and a wider appreciation of teaching in remote areas.

"The students learned many valuable lessons by being able to put theory into practice in vastly different circumstances to those they are used to," Dr Parton said.

The central Australia teaching practice is the second time Monash has offered students an opportunity to gain interstate teaching experience. Last year a group of students travelled to Alice Springs and worked in urban schools. The program was extended this year to provide experience in remote Aboriginal communities.

Students took part in a series of workshops, field trips and cross-cultural exchanges during the visit, which was

designed to broaden teaching experience and develop an understanding of Aboriginal culture.

During their stay in central Australia, the students also attended a two-day orientation program before leaving for their assigned schools.

"The orientation program looked at Aboriginal culture and provided an introduction to some cross-cultural factors related to the local schools," Dr Parton said.

"The students experienced a totally different teaching environment. In many cases, the students were in very remote, innovative teaching situations and they really enjoyed the challenge."

The teaching practice program, which will continue next year, is a Monash initiative in cooperation with the Northern Territory (NT) Department of Education.

"We have had good support from the NT Department of Education and we are keen to maintain the working relationship," Dr Parton said. "It is also expected that officers from the NT Department of Education and the Institute for Aboriginal Development will work with the Monash students on the Frankston campus prior to the 1994 teaching rounds."

Footloose and faculty-free

A band of Monash University students has successfully finished a world-famous 160-kilometre march through Holland.

The students – Mr Damien McLachlan, Mr Adrian Allen, Mr Robert Blackwood and Mr Luke Bendall – donned their boots for Monash University Regiment's army reserve team.

The local entrants finished with the second fastest time in the gruelling four-day march, ahead of about 8000 other soldiers and 20,000 civilian participants.

The Monash team was the first Australian Army group to enter the event.

But people from around the world have been gathering 100 kilometres south of Amsterdam to compete in the annual Nijmegen March since the early 1900s.

Foot sloggers tackling the march travel 40 kilometres per day, with each participant

carrying a pack weighing at least 10 kilograms.

The 14-strong Monash Regiment team trained for seven months in preparation for the march. Each team member covered a distance equivalent to Melbourne to Townsville in training alone.

Before taking off on the march, team members bivouacked on Salisbury Plain to restore a piece of Australian military history – a carving of the famous rising sun emblem.

The Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) emblem was carved into a chalky hillside by World War I soldiers stationed near the town of Tidworth.

The soldiers were part of the 3rd Division preparing for battles on the Western Front under the command of Monash University's namesake, General (Sir) John Monash.

But after many years of neglect, the emblem had become covered by plants and grass.

The Monash Regiment team hacked back the vegetation and restored the emblem to its original glory.

Easing the language load

Learning to write in a foreign language is no easy task, but a new computer program being designed at Monash promises to make the exercise easier.

The departments of Romance Languages and German Studies are working on the Language Assistant software project, which aims to enhance the peer group composition activities of intermediate students.

Modelled on a pilot program created by Dr Jack Burston of the French department, the new software has been designed for students of French, Italian, Spanish and German.

The Language Assistant consists of a text editor linked to on-line bilingual dictionaries, a grammar review, and verb conjugator.

The speeding up of information retrieval would allow more classroom time for composition and correction activities, according to Dr Burston. He said learning to write in a foreign language was difficult for

the student and a time-consuming and demanding activity for the instructor.

"The major advantage of the new software is that it provides students with much of the raw linguistic materials that they need to construct their compositions," he said.

"The Language Assistant software will allow language students a greater ability to work in groups, independently of their tutor. Instructors will have more time to dedicate to students."

The project team – comprising Dr Burston, Mr Raffaele Lampugnani (Italian), Dr Monty Wilkinson (German), and Mr Alun Kenwood and Ms Silvia Cuevas (Spanish) – will work during the summer break to develop a series of prototype text manipulation exercises for selected courses.

Students who will be involved in courses incorporating the new writing skills activities will have a one-hour computer-lab tutorial built into their syllabus.

Feminism, equality and difference

"Difference" is a term that has dominated a good deal of feminist theory since the early 1980s. Contrasts are common between the earlier egalitarian breed of feminist and a new group who accepts and even celebrates the differences between the sexes.

Equality is seen as suspect because it implies that women should have the goal to become the same as men. In particular, the liberal tradition has been criticised for assuming the existence of an abstract universal human being who turns out to be a thinly disguised male.

There are a number of different strands in current feminist thinking about "difference". Some of them are associated with the contemporary French philosopher, Jacques Derrida, who introduced the philosophical method of deconstruction and something he calls "différance". Others are grounded in empirical observation, and the recognition that often standards of humanity used in psychology or anthropology are implicitly masculine.

An influential example of the second strand is American psychologist Carol Gilligan, who recognised that the scale measuring the development of moral maturity, developed by her colleague Lawrence Kohlberg, was subtly biased against women.

Kohlberg described progress towards maturity in thinking about justice, fairness and competition over claims. But he left out an important perspective on ethical issues – matters of care. In other words, women were being ranked as less morally mature than men, when a more accurate description was that they were focused in their moral deliberation on issues of care rather than on issues of justice.

Different voices

Gilligan suggested that these two perspectives can be thought of as two different voices, one masculine and one feminine. The first is concerned with formulating abstract principles of justice, the second with care and responsibility for individuals. So what started off looking like inferiority, when women were measured against a masculine standard, came to be perceived as "difference".

Like a number of other writers, Gilligan surmises that this difference between masculine and feminine outlooks can be explained in terms of psychoanalysis and the differing psychosexual development characteristic of males and females.

It has been more generally suggested that the Western philosophical tradition is grounded in a structure of ways of thinking about the relationship of self to the world, and to others, which is the result of male psychosexuality.

This is particularly the case in so far as that tradition has involved the acceptance of a number of dichotomies, such as those between reason and emotion, form and matter, mind and body, culture and nature. These dichotomies are associated with the masculine/feminine distinction. Characteristically, the first of each pair is valorised, the second devalued.



This corresponds with the boy's need to repress the maternal feminine in order to take up the status of man. Women undergo a different psychosexual development, leading them to adopt a conception of their relationship to the world and to others that is less likely to be structured by these hierarchised dichotomies.

The rational masculine voice which valorises reason and universal principles of justice is grounded in male psychosexual development. The more emotional feminine voice, which involves a sense of self that is connected with the environment and concerned with the particularities of concrete moral situations, is grounded in a different psychosexual development.

But if we explain the differences in masculine and feminine voices by resorting to psychoanalysis, it looks as though the critique levelled against earlier liberal feminists may have been too hasty. The claim that such feminists have taken over philosophies grounded in the masculine standpoint becomes somewhat paradoxical.

If there are in fact different ways of relating to the world, which arise out of the different psychosexual development of men and women, we might expect to discover them reflected, in one way or another, in the writings of historical women thinkers. In so far as women thinkers have not adopted standpoints distinctively different from their male counterparts, the hypothesis that there are distinctive masculine and feminine ways of relating to the world, which are grounded in psychosexual development, should be undermined.

What makes a text masculine or feminine? Certain features of the content of texts have been identified as masculine, such as faith in reason and objectivity, concern with justice, fairness and equal rights. It has then been hypothesised that this content is masculine because it is generated by a certain social context and experience, common to men and mothered by women under patriarchy. When these same concerns are found in the texts of women writers they are taken to be evidence of women adopting a masculine standpoint. But this is at least problematic, for given that the psychosexuality of men is presumed to have remained constant for a number of centuries there is every reason to think that female psychosexuality might have been equally constant.

One could respond to this dilemma in a number of ways. One, in which I have been particularly interested, is to re-examine the texts of historical liberal feminists to see whether they do take over the masculine conception of what it is to be human, of whether there is, in fact, a different conception of the humanist ideal implicit in the writings of women. An examination of the texts of historical feminists does support the conclusion that there is, in some sense, a feminine standpoint and that it is already implicit in the tradition of feminist humanism.

Liberal feminism vs masculine tradition

Wollstonecraft's writing provides an interesting example. Although she is the archetypal liberal feminist, her conception of what it is to be a human, and the place of passion in our life, is quite different from that to be found in Hobbes or Kant, who are paradigms of the masculine tradition. Within the feminist humanist tradition, elements that can be identified as distinctively feminine are a particular interest in moral motivation, a fairly widespread distrust of male sexuality and a general emphasis on the importance of love and sympathy. The elements are rarely thought of as essentially opposed to reason and justice.

The recognition that many male philosophers have used men as the standard of humanity has given humanism a bad name among feminists. This has suggested that feminism should ally itself with other forms of antihumanism associated with postmodernism, poststructuralism and deconstruction. But, if the foregoing is right, this conclusion may be too hasty.

Liberal feminists seem not to have fallen for the dichotomies that are ubiquitous in masculine texts. Feminism may do better to see itself as a humanist philosophy, which is grounded in women's experience. As its justification, it has not merely the pedigree of feminine psychosexuality, but a reasonable and justifiable conception of human excellence and well-being that has been articulated by women and can provide the basis of a conception of a sustainable and satisfying political and social life. Feminist humanism need not be identified with masculine humanism.

Dr Karen Green is a lecturer in the Department of Philosophy.

DIOGENES



The following correspondence first appeared in the advice column of recent editions of *Creature Discomforts*. It is printed here entirely without permission.

Dear Doctor,

The tall city building in which I and several others at a loose end toil from time to time has become home to a large wedge-tailed eagle, on his way to or from we know not where.

Despite some friendly but firm persuasion on our part, it has become clear that,

like the rest of us, he is in danger of becoming a part of the furniture.

The guys and I are thinking, OK, we don't mind feathers in the lunchroom and another brooding presence in the office, so we might as well make his stay as enjoyable as possible.

Thing is, scraps are nothing but an entree to this overgrown mascot. Could you therefore suggest an appropriate diet for a bird with a wingspan approaching the breadth of a small hatchback?

*The Eagle Has Landed
(name and address supplied)*

Dear TEHL,
Quieten his rumblings by opening an account at a pet shop dealing in small furry animals.

Dear Doc,
Thanks for the good advice. Our wedgie is now thriving on a menu of fluffy four-legged creatures that usually appear in pet food commercials. It kind of gives you a new understanding of life before domestication.

Things have got a little out of hand, however, in the diet department, to the tune of one accounts clerk and the guy who comes in nights to clean.

We can all fiddle the books and handle a vacuum but only for so long. Is there any

way we can prevent further job losses in this manner?

Dear TEHL,

Obviously the animal is still to come to terms with humankind, or your kind of human. Off the top of my head I would suggest you give him an ultimatum: something like "the accounts department and no more".

Or have him transferred to another section, preferably customer complaints.

Dear Doc,

We pre-empted further staff losses by moving the bird, as suggested, to the front desk. Complaints from the public have halved and the rest of the staff have begun to get a real beady look in their eye. Productivity is soaring. Is there any way of making our eagle legal?

Dear TEHL,

Thanks for your most recent letter. Question is, are we talking adoption here? If so, there is a minor point you may have missed, to wit: the eagle is a bird. If the matter went to court, I don't think your feathered friend would have a perch to stand on. The beak, in other words, would be wise to the beak.

Stay with the present arrangement.

PS Love the letterhead. Hope that's not real blood.

Doc,

I'm afraid there's no stopping us now. Yesterday a general staff meeting in the eyrie voted our bird of prey the next chairman of the board. Seems many of us are confusing his hypnotic stare with wisdom.

Help.

TEHL,

Help? Help you, a member of the corporate sector rejecting the leadership of a certified killer and not someone who just pretends he is? Give us a break. Your credibility is stretched to the max.

Doc,

Take your point. But it's come down to the survival of the fittest – the fattest are all dead.

PS Max is missing, believed entree.

TEHL,

OK. For what it's worth, here's my advice.

During your next board meeting mutter something about a hidden clause in the bird's contract. When he hears the term he'll invariably think "talons" and drop his gaze – and guard.

About this juncture, net him. And as you wrestle him towards the window before shoving him on his way, remember that old adage: "a bird underhand is worth doing the push".