



Four hundred metres of flame and glory

Four-time Olympian and Monash University PhD student Mr Simon Baker lived the glory of the Games recently when he carried the Olympic flame 400 metres along a crowd-lined Springvale Road in Forest Hill, in Melbourne's east. Mr Baker, an earth sciences student, was a competitor in the 20 kilometre and 50 kilometre racewalk events in the 1984, 1988, 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games, winning sixth place in the 1998 Seoul Games. Carrying the torch was "a privilege and a very special honour," said Mr Baker, who has also been a coach at the Australian Institute of Sport. Photo by Greg Ford.

Australia – right at home in America

By COREY NASSAU

If you've ever been to America and immediately felt at home, it could be partly due to the fact that you were standing on very familiar soil.

Structural geologists at Monash University have applied modern theories of tectonics to determine that large chunks of western North America once belonged to Australia.

According to Dr David Giles and Dr Peter Betts of the Australian Crustal Research Centre, Australia had numerous interactions with North America more than one billion years ago – interactions which altered the shape of our continent forever.

"By applying modern tectonic ideas to ancient terrain, we have been able to piece together a large part of the Australian jigsaw during the Proterozoic period," Dr Betts said.

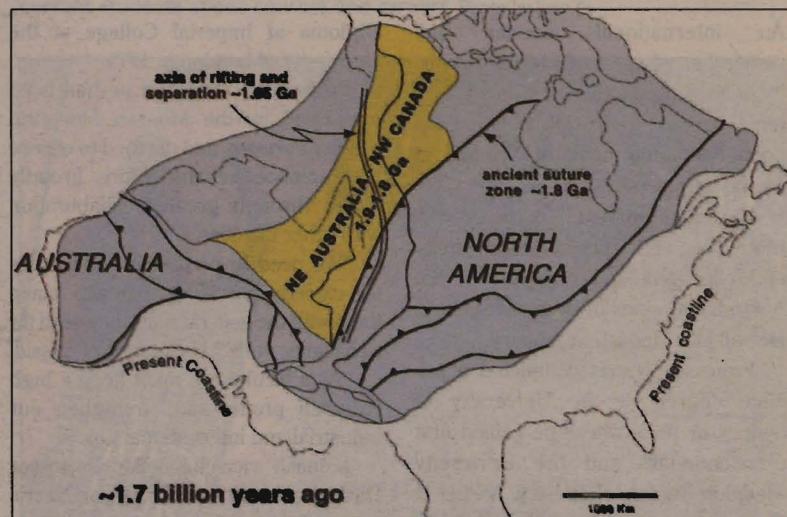
"We have discovered that a very complex link existed between the two continents and that large parts of Australia may have actually become part of Canada and the United States."

Over the past 10 years there has been growing support among the geological community for an ancient link which once existed between eastern Australia and western North America as part of the supercontinent, Rodinia.

This new research, conducted by Dr Giles and Dr Betts, presents the idea that the link was not a continuous one, but instead a series of complex interactions between the two continents that began about 1.8 billion years ago.

"Over a 700-million-year period, Australia and western North America were connected three times, during which there were extended periods of

Continued on Page 2



Australia and North America were connected three times more than one billion years ago, Monash geologists have found.

Law School gains judge

Victorian Supreme Court judge Justice George Hampel will leave the court this month after 17 years of service to join Monash's Law School as a full-time professor of advocacy and trial practice.

Law dean Professor Stephen Parker said he was delighted that Justice Hampel was joining the faculty.

"Justice Hampel's appointment will bring more than 25 years of experience

in advocacy training to Monash, which will enhance the Law School's new practical legal education program and further develop the school's training profile," he said.

Justice Hampel, who is chairman of the Australian Advocacy Institute and a member of the Victorian Council of Legal Education, said he was making

Continued on Page 2

Inside

www.monash.edu.au/news/

News

Young doctors down on the farm

An unlikely alliance between farmers and doctors is giving medical students first-hand experience of rural medicine.

Page 2

News

Reforms lack foundation

Recent economic reforms in countries such as China lack the infrastructure needed for long-term success, a Monash economist has found.

Page 3

Opinion

Privatisation: at what cost?

What does privatisation of government activities mean for consumer rights and public accountability, asks a Monash law lecturer.

Page 5

Arts

Tale displays heritage

A modest princess, a fierce warrior and a bug-eyed demon feature in an Indonesian morality tale at Monash this month.

Page 6

Doctors call on farmers to bridge urban and rural medical divide

By Karen Meehan

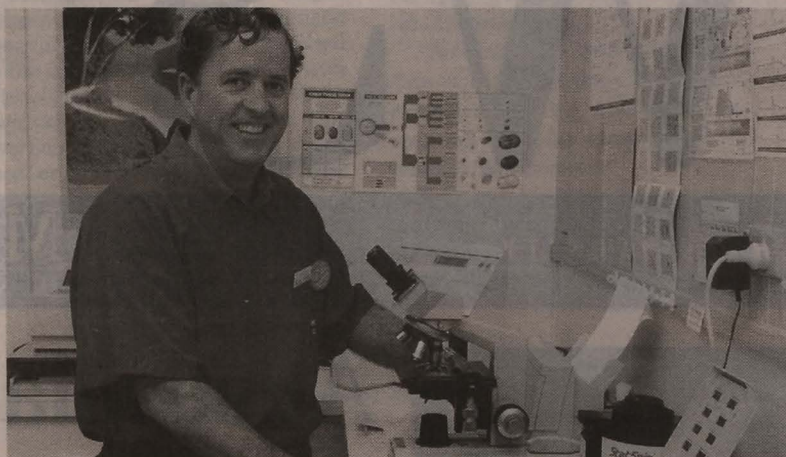
Encouraging young doctors to set up practice in rural areas is increasingly a challenge for both the medical profession and the regional communities concerned.

An innovative program, led by the Monash Centre for Rural Health, has formed an unlikely alliance between doctors and farmers to give an informed view of life outside the city to the next generation of medicos.

The centre's Dr David Birks began providing rural health experiences for urban students in 1989, and since then the Rural Hospital Undergraduate Rotation in Gippsland has evolved into a three-week compulsory component of Monash's medical course.

Final-year medical students spend time in and around hospitals in Sale, Warragul and the Latrobe Valley, working with specialists, ambulance staff and local GPs to gain an understanding of the different medical issues facing country people.

But the most innovative part of the program is a session crossing medical boundaries. Moe veterinarian Dr Bill Darmody and local farmer Mr Chris Griffin host undergraduate doctors for a practical information session focusing on farming and farm hazards. The tutorial begins with a walking tour of Mr Griffin's farm, highlighting health



Veterinarian Dr Bill Darmody educates student doctors on rural health issues. Photo by Delwyn Hewitt.

and safety issues involved in working with heavy machinery, large animals and farm chemicals.

Students then continue discussions with Dr Darmody at his Moe veterinary clinic, with a particular emphasis on animal diseases that jump the species barrier, such as leptospirosis and Q fever. "I share with students my professional experience of what it's like to work in a regional area, and this can be as valuable as the technical information," comments Dr Darmody.

The farm visits began more than seven years ago and are an Australian first.

Dr Darmody recently presented a paper on the visits, co-authored by Dr Birks and Dr Jane Grecen, at the 14th Congress of the International Association of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health, held in Hungary and attended by more than 300 health professionals from 33 countries.

For urbanised students, the farm sessions represent both an educational and a cultural experience. Says Dr Birks: "If we work on the hypothesis that the chances of getting doctors to rural areas are better if they know more about rural life, then this program is an important induction for students."

New dean to broaden Science faculty base and boost research

An international scholar and researcher whose study of the reactivity of nitro compounds in aromatic systems attracted worldwide attention has been appointed dean of Science at Monash University.

Professor Robert Norris is currently dean of Science at the University of Wollongong and president of the Australian Council of Deans of Science. He will join Monash in January.

Professor Norris completed a science degree at the University of Sydney in 1966, where he gained first class honours and the University Medal in organic chemistry. A PhD at Sydney in 1970 was followed by a

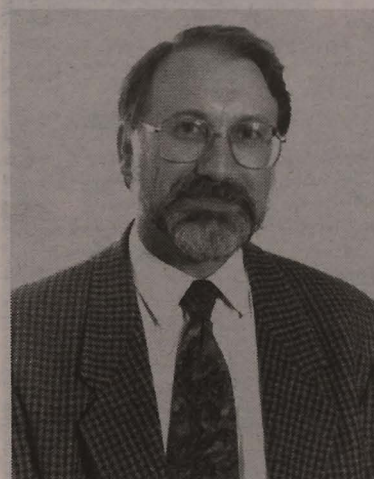
Diploma of Imperial College at the University of London in 1975.

Professor Norris said he had been impressed by the Monash blueprint, *Science Forward*, and planned to ensure that science became more broadly based through greater collaboration with other faculties.

"We need to prepare our graduates for careers in science, but also equip them with the generic skills they need for a changing world," Professor Norris said.

"As a faculty, we must keep a high research profile and strengthen our industrial and international ties."

Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson said Professor Norris was an "outstanding appointment".



Professor Robert Norris.

Doctor sees the funny side



Speaking to an enraptured audience at Monash Institute of Public Health last month, American doctor Patch Adams inspired all with his positive energy and zest for life. Describing himself as "a clown who also happens to be a doctor", Dr Adams spoke about his life's work providing free medical care and facilitating healing through humour to thousands of people through the Gesundheit Institute, the medical centre he founded 28 years ago. For more information on Dr Adams and his work, visit www.patchadams.org

Photo by Greg Ford.

BRIEFS

Monash receives road safety accolade

The Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) has received an international award in recognition of more than a decade's commitment to road safety research.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers Safety Council presented the Edmund R. Ricker Traffic Safety Award (Organisational) to MUARC early this month in Nashville, Tennessee.

The award recognises MUARC for its contribution to enhancing road safety in Victoria, around Australia and internationally.

The work of the centre has directly contributed to the exceptional improvements in road safety in Victoria, which has one of the lowest fatality rates in the world. Victoria recorded a 50 per cent reduction in road fatalities from 1989 to 1998.

Water team wins health award

A Monash University water quality study team has won the Victorian Department of Human Services 2000 Award for Excellence in Public Health Research.

The team, headed by Associate Professor Kit Fairley from Monash's Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, won the award for its "high-quality research to determine the contribution of microorganisms in drinking water to gastroenteritis".

Some 600 families in the eastern and south-eastern suburbs took part in the \$3 million, three-year study, which gave Melbourne's water a clean bill of health.

Law school to offer tribunal training

Monash's Law School has launched Australia's first university-based train-

ing program for members of administrative tribunals.

The new subject, 'Decision-making for tribunal members', is an introductory course on the legal requirements for administrative decision-making on boards and tribunals.

The one-semester graduate subject will be delivered nationwide via the internet to members of state and federal administrative tribunals who are planners, social workers, government administrators, lawyers and social policy experts.

Victorian Supreme Court judge and president of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Justice Murray Kellam congratulated Monash on the introduction of the subject, which he said was a "significant step forward in the delivery of a higher standard of tribunal justice to the community".

Celebrity joins Monash in fundraising effort

Olympic gold medallist Ms Debbie Flintoff-King has joined forces with the Monash University Student Union (MONSU) and Monash's Peninsula campus to support the Frankston Relay for Life event, which aims to raise funds for cancer research.

Ms Flintoff-King is patron of the Frankston event, which is being coordinated by MONSU and the Peninsula campus on behalf of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria.

For more information on the event, to be held on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 November, visit the website at www.monsu.org.au/relay4life or contact Mr Mark Mathieson at MONSU on (03) 9770 1405.

Australia - right at home in America

Continued from Page 1

up to 150 million years when they were separated. Every time they broke away from each other, Australia was missing a piece," Dr Giles said.

"There was an extension to Cape York Peninsula which today forms the northern chunk of Canada. Parts of Idaho also once belonged to us. So we've had some very generous geological interactions with them, some of

which were also economically significant in terms of mineral deposits."

Dr Giles said the research formed part of the Mountains and Metals initiative being coordinated by the Australian Crustal Research Centre in the quest to understand the link between mountain belts and metals.

"We are part of the way to creating some sort of predictive model about where certain types of ore deposits may be located today," he said.

Law School gains Supreme Court judge

Continued from Page 1

the transition to academic life because he believed there was a need to further develop education in advocacy and trial practice.

"The legal profession should continue to aim towards setting minimum standards for people who practise as advocates," he said.

"In my role at Monash, I will be developing and teaching the undergraduate advocacy semester, and developing postgraduate courses in advocacy and trial practice both within Australia and internationally."

Justice Hampel said he was also interested in pursuing judicial training and exploring human rights issues associated with trial practice and the concept of fair trials.



Justice George Hampel.

"I have had contact overseas with advocacy and judicial training and hope to pursue that for Monash."

"One of the reasons I am attracted to Monash is that it is, as I see it, the most progressive university in its development of overseas courses and programs."

**DO YOU
WANT TO
ADVERTISE?**

For details on
how to advertise
in *Monash News*,
call Duyen Vo on

(03) 9905 3087,
fax (03) 9905 2097

or email
duyen.vo@adm.monash.edu.au

The Age are proud supporters
of Monash University.

For home delivery phone 13 27 82

theage.com.au

THE
AGE
Seize the day

Economic reforms in China and Russia ignore the need for foundations

BY SANDRA BUCOVAZ

An investigation by economists from Monash and the US into the relationship between economic reforms and constitutional transition in China and Russia has attracted international interest.

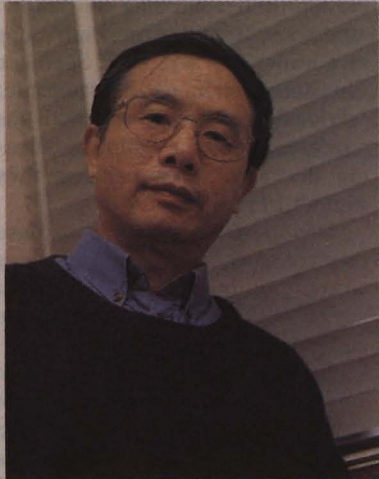
It has also prompted government officials from Jiangsu Province near Shanghai to seek more information from the authors, including Professor Xiaokai Yang from Monash's Department of Economics and Harvard University's Centre for International Development.

"In fact the findings have implications for Asia as a whole," said Professor Yang, noting that latecomer or emerging economies mimic economic reforms of other countries but may ignore the institutional and legal infrastructure necessary to provide a solid foundation.

The research is unique in that it is the first to look at constitutional reform from an economist's perspective, according to Professor Yang.

"Often economists focus on economic reforms, not constitutional transition. However, economic reforms are just a small part of constitutional reform," he stressed.

The research was presented recently at conferences in Shanghai in the People's Republic of China, Taiwan



Professor Xiaokai Yang.
Photo by Ken Chandler.

and Korea. Extracts appeared in various publications in those countries, and also in the US.

Professor Yang began the research while he was a resident fellow at Harvard in 1998/99, in collaboration with internationally respected economist and author Jeffrey Sachs, from the Centre for International Development and Department of Economics at Harvard, and Wing Thye Woo, from the Department of Economics, University of California at Davis.

Professor Yang said the authors were liberal-minded and acknowl-

edged the benefits, in certain situations, of "shock or big bang" reforms which are implemented quickly rather than gradually.

The focus countries were China because of its economic reforms in the absence of constitutional transition, and Russia due to its economic reforms associated with constitutional transition.

The most important characteristic of China's market-oriented reforms is the absence of constitutional order and rule of law. This implies institutionalised state opportunism, self-dealing of the ruling class, and rampant corruption, according to the research.

Professor Yang noted that rivalry and competition between states and between political forces within the countries studied were the driving force for constitutional transition. Under the political monopoly of the ruling party, economic transition would be hijacked by state opportunism.

In the case of China, Professor Yang said there were many conflicts between Communist rule and market-oriented reform.

Despite this, there was a big push for privatisation in provinces like Jiangsu in order to bring China's institutions up to an internationally competitive standard.

Open Day goes off with a bang



The day the gods were smiling: A Chinese lion dance, traditionally performed to attract good luck, greeted visitors to the Peninsula campus at Monash Open Day last month. And judging by the clear and sunny skies that smiled down on the 39,000 visitors who flocked to all six campuses over the weekend, it worked. Held in early August at the Berwick, Gippsland, Caulfield, Clayton, Parkville and Peninsula campuses, the annual event gave prospective students and visitors the chance to explore uni life and the opportunity to talk to staff and current students about courses and careers. Photo by June Yu.

Researchers to investigate touchscreen learning

BY CHRIS GILES

Computers are as much a part of the modern-day classroom as inkwells were to past generations.

And while there is no doubt that computers present a new world for today's students, Monash University's Faculty of Education is hoping to develop those learning opportunities even further.

Commissioned by MicroTouch Australia to undertake a pilot research project, the faculty will investigate how touchscreen computer technology in classrooms impacts on the learning abilities of Melbourne kindergarten, prep and year one students.

Monash research team leader and senior learning technologies lecturer Dr Geoff Romeo says the scope of the pilot project is necessarily broad because of variations in students' educational abilities and teaching approaches.

But part of the research will test the theories that touchscreens encourage greater student team work and could also help some children who are reluctant to use a conventional mouse and keyboard.

"The company's belief is that for some children the mechanics and physicality of the keyboard and mouse are restrictive," he says.

"Some children might be reluctant to use them (mouse and keyboard) because they are not ready or they have not had the fine motor skills experience. But there might also be cognitive reasons, not just physical and mechanical reasons, why it's good to have a touchscreen.



Education researchers Dr Chris Ziguras, Dr Sue McNamara and Dr Geoff Romeo will investigate how touchscreens affect children's learning. Photo by Ken Chandler.

"Actually doing something - creating, drawing a box, using text or whatever - on the screen with your finger might be less abstract, for example, than using a mouse, and under those circumstances, the learning might be more effective.

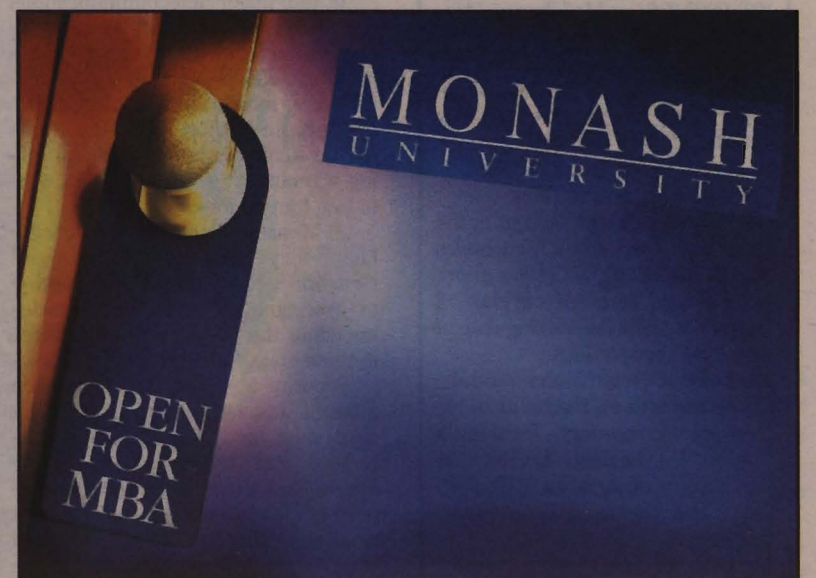
"It's a pilot project, so we're on a bit of a fishing expedition, and we're looking at a range of things that we're hoping will lead to more significant research."

Dr Romeo and fellow team members, senior lecturer in learning technologies Dr Sue McNamara and research fellow Dr Christopher

Ziguras, will seek approval for their research design from the university's ethics committee and the Department of Education, Employment and Training.

If approved, touchscreens and observational cameras will be placed in two or three selected Melbourne learning centres for eight weeks during term four.

Teachers and the research team are expected to compile findings for MicroTouch by 23 February, with publication in academic journals and presentation of findings at leading teaching and technology conferences to follow.



Monash Means Business

The new Monash MBA programs offer innovation, flexibility and choice.

Monash University has redesigned its MBA for 2001 in line with current needs in the global marketplace. The focus is on combining traditional management and financial disciplines with specialisations in the emerging field of electronic commerce. And with a choice of over 250 elective subjects, you can tailor this degree to your requirements.

For those who want an MBA with a technology focus, the unique new MBA.com program combines specialist subjects in the area of electronic commerce with subjects in the traditional business disciplines.

The MBA.com program is of real relevance for managers in the information age.

For further information, contact the Manager, MBA Programs, Faculty of Business and Economics, at the details below.

Ph (03) 9903 1166 Fax (03) 9903 1168
Email mba@buseco.monash.edu.au

MONASH

Schools



As the VTAC closing date for course applications is fast approaching, this is a reminder that students should have their applications in by Friday 30 September.

In addition to courses that are listed in the VTAC guide, there are other Monash University courses that students can apply for by direct entry to the relevant faculty.

Direct entry courses for 2001

Bachelor of Telecommunications Engineering – Clayton

Application forms may be obtained directly from the Faculty of Engineering office by telephoning (03) 9905 3404 or by emailing eng.info@eng.monash.edu.au. Applications close Tuesday 19 December.

Bachelor of Computer Science/Law – Clayton

Contact Ms Lorraine Pitman on (03) 9905 3300 or Ms Cathy Arnott on (03) 9905 8177 in the Faculty of Law by Friday 15 December.

Bachelor of Law/Diploma Psychology – Clayton

Contact Ms Lorraine Pitman on (03) 9905 3300 or Ms Cathy Arnott on (03) 9905 8177 in the Faculty of Law by Friday 15 December.

Bachelor of Business (Law) – Caulfield

Contact Mr Wayne Gumley on (03) 9903 2784 or Ms Lilyanne Price on (03) 9903 2230 in the Faculty of Business and Economics. The closing date is Friday 29 September, but applications will be taken directly until Tuesday 19 December.

Bachelor of Business (Risk Management) – Caulfield

Contact Mr Michael Vincent in the Faculty of Business and Economics on (03) 9903 2390. There is a priority closing date of Friday 8 December and a late closing date of Friday 2 February 2001.

Bachelor of Arts (International Communication)/Bachelor of Network Computing – Peninsula

Contact Ms Michelle Leighton in the Faculty of Arts on (03) 9905 2112. The closing date is Friday 5 January.

Bachelor of Arts (International Communication)/Bachelor of Business and Commerce – Peninsula

Contact the Faculty of Business and Economics on (03) 9904 4314 by Friday 15 December. Applications will be accepted from Monday 23 October.

Bachelor of Business and Commerce/Bachelor of Network Computing – Peninsula

Contact the Faculty of Business and Economics on (03) 9904 4314 by Friday 15 December. Applications will be accepted from Monday 23 October.

Bachelor of Communications – Berwick campus

Contact Ms Michelle Leighton in the Faculty of Arts on (03) 9905 2112. The closing date for applications is Friday 5 January.

Bachelor of Communications/Bachelor of Multimedia Computing – Berwick campus

Contact Ms Michelle Leighton in the Faculty of Arts on (03) 9905 2112. The closing date for applications is Friday 5 January.

Consultancy offers practical advice on ethical dilemmas

BY KAY ANSELL

A decade ago – in the grip of the 'greed is good' era – the idea that ethics would become a growth area would have been laughable.

But many corporations that rode high then have since been caught out over dubious practices and are now seeking guidance on how to be better corporate citizens.

Monash is meeting this increasing demand by becoming the first Australian university to offer a consultancy focusing purely on ethics.

According to the executive director of Monash Ethics Consultancies, Associate Professor David Muschamp, fresh fields of dilemma are emerging in areas such as new technologies, while at the same time people genuinely want to improve their behaviour. "We don't see the world, including history, as value-free very often anymore," he says.



Associate Professor David Muschamp.

Evidence of the decline of moral relativism is apparent in the number of companies that now take an ethical approach in devising policies and strategies. He cites The Body Shop as a leader and says BHP, Shell and Rio Tinto are among the companies "seriously concerned with both the appearance and the reality of behaving decently, when perhaps they weren't 10 years ago".

Why now? "Maybe it's because they are nicer, finer people," he says wryly, "or maybe they see that goodness pays and that wickedness is costly."

"Talk of the triple bottom line is in everyone's minds – that we are not concerned solely with profit but with environmental and social values. This aspect is new in the last 10 years or so."

Also new are some of the areas presenting ethical challenges for which the consultancy can offer guid-

ance, for example in the area of computers. Potential ethical dilemmas here range from the straight (legal headaches of the internet) to the saucy (is cybersex wrong?).

Then there are organisational ethics, governmental ethics, military ethics, accounting ethics and journalistic ethics, among others.

Monash has long recognised the need for fostering debate about real-life dilemmas, having been a world leader 20 years ago when it established its Centre for Human Bioethics.

Monash Ethics Consultancies, based in the School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Bioethics, will link clients with experts from across Monash's vast range of resources, for a fee.

For more information, contact Associate Professor David Muschamp on (03) 5983 9598.

'Signcryption' sets the scene for mobile e-commerce

BY STUART HEATHER

The mobile telecommunications business is booming. Increasingly, Australians are relying on their personal mobile devices for work and play.

Mobiles are also the 'next big thing' on the internet.

If the major telecommunications companies are correct in their predictions, within four to five years half the internet traffic in Australia will be generated by mobile devices. An increasing purpose of those communications will be e-commerce – buying and selling without paper documents or face-to-face transactions.

At Monash's Peninsula campus, the Laboratory for Information and Network Security (LINKS) is working to overcome some of the obstacles impeding the success of e-commerce in the mobile digital realm.

Security is a key problem when financial transactions such as credit card sales are involved. Both customers and vendors need to be assured that the other is who they purport to be, and that financial details remain confidential and not tampered with, regardless of distance or the means of transmission.

A new technology being developed at LINKS is called 'signcryption', which combines the need to send an electronic signature (analogous to signing a credit card voucher) and to encrypt the signature and message into a transmission able to be 'opened' only by the intended recipient.

The founding director of LINKS, Dr Yuliang Zheng, is an international authority in online security technologies. "Signcryption cuts by half the amount of computing needed to send a secure message," Dr Zheng says. "It wraps the signature and the encryption simultaneously, instead of signature-then-encryption, as happens with the usual systems now."

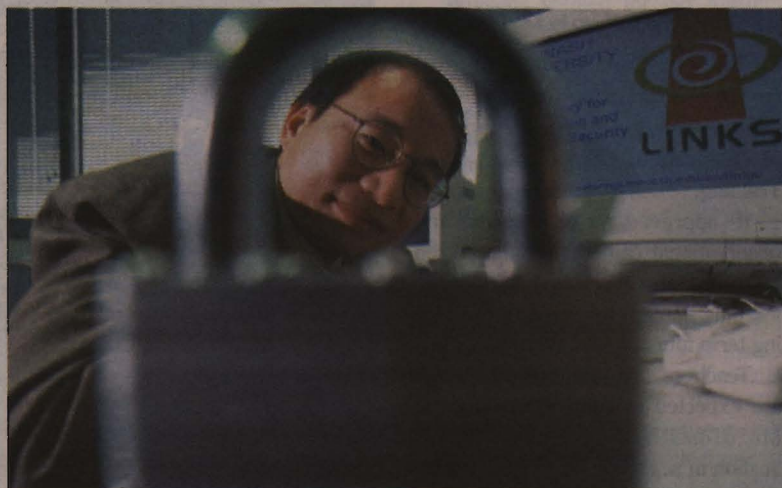
"Signcryption provides both transaction confidentiality and integrity in a single computational step, so the necessary security is there but in a radically new, smaller package."

Cutting the size of digital messages is crucial for mobile devices where processing power and memory are much smaller than in fully-fledged computers.

"Communications bandwidth is also an issue," says Dr Zheng. "Signcryption significantly cuts message size for each transaction and over millions of transactions, so this adds up to a lot of communications and storage capacity saved."

The mathematics involved in Signcryption is complex and the university has a patent pending on the technology. While graduate students at LINKS put the finishing touches on a prototype, discussions are under way with potential partners about commercial applications.

For more information about Signcryption or other LINKS e-commerce technologies, contact Dr Zheng on (03) 9904 4196 or email yuliang.zheng@infotech.monash.edu.au



Dr Yuliang Zheng. Photo by Greg Ford.

Conference Centre

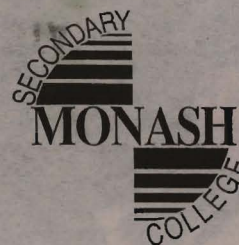
Bayview Conference Centre

Accommodation – 160
20 meeting rooms
Lecture theatre
Function rooms – 300
Parking
Catering
Open fire
Main dining room – 180
Private dining room – 36

10 minutes walking distance from Monash Campus Centre

Christmas functions – book now

Bayview Avenue, Clayton 9544 5933



MONASH SECONDARY COLLEGE

DUERDIN STREET, NOTTING HILL 3168

Telephone: (03) 9560 9477

Facsimile: (03) 9561 1476

E-mail: monash.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

A school that:

- ◆ caters for a multinational student population
- ◆ is close to Monash University
- ◆ has an academic focus and excellent VCE results
- ◆ has an active extra-curricular program

Which is:

- ◆ small enough that each student is known as an individual
- ◆ large enough to offer curriculum choice

Contact Principal Bob Hogendoorn on 9560 9477 for an interview.

Privatisation: have we sold off public accountability?

OPINION



The last decade has seen a massive global reassessment of the role of the state, and the increasing involvement of the private sector and market philosophies in what had been traditionally government activities.

This shift is, of course, highly controversial in political and philosophical terms. It also raises crucial questions about the continuing public accountability of the private providers, and about the protection of the interests of consumers and service recipients.

The shift to privatisation has been driven by a belief that both competition and the market will provide more efficient and responsive services, and more generally that the role of the state should be more circumscribed.

Change has taken place particularly rapidly in Australia, with major divestment over the 1990s of services previously provided by the public sector, and with the added impetus of the adoption in 1995 of National Competition Policy by state and federal governments.

When government activities are privatised, the public law mechanisms which formerly provided redress to individuals may no longer operate ...

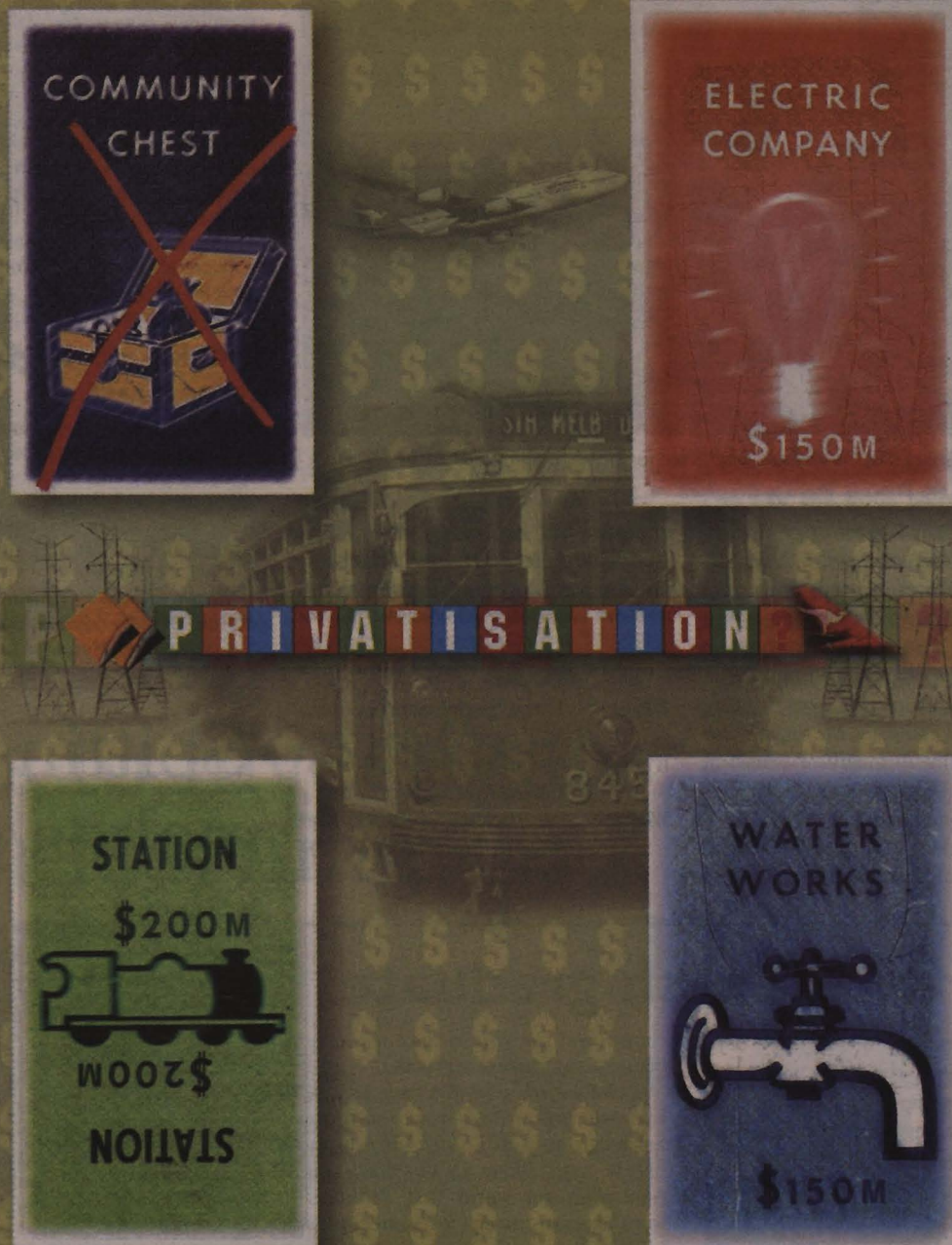
The move to privatisation began with Australian Airlines, the Commonwealth Bank, Qantas, the state-owned banks and insurance companies and, more recently, the partial sell-off of Telstra.

Privatisation of state-owned utilities occurred most rapidly in Victoria, beginning in the mid-1990s. The privatisation of a substantial proportion of Victoria's prisons (housing 45 per cent of the state's prisoners) also occurred in this period.

The implications of privatisation continue to dominate public debate in Victoria. The secrecy of government contracts has been under attack, both in the media and in the courts, and the incoming Bracks government promised to make contracts more transparent and accountable.

Reports of disorder in Victoria's private prisons, and of inmate deaths, have focused debate both on correctional policy and on monitoring and enforcing compliance with private prison contracts.

Over recent years, politicians have 'sold' privatisation to the Australian public as a way of making services traditionally provided by the government cheaper, more efficient and more responsive to demand. But what are the implications for consumer rights and the public accountability of private providers, asks Monash law lecturer Dr Bronwyn Naylor.



Artwork by Elizabeth Dias.

The management and operation of the private prisons is currently the subject of a public inquiry called by the Minister for Corrections.

The government is also reviewing the regulation of essential services – electricity, gas, water and public transport – and mechanisms for dealing with consumer complaints in these industries.

When government activities are privatised, the public law mechanisms which formerly provided redress to individuals may no longer operate, and mechanisms that ensured the accountability of government to the community as a whole may become less effective.

For example, the terms of contracts with private service providers often cease to be accessible under freedom of information legislation, privacy laws may not apply, and service recipients may lose the right to complain to the Ombudsman or to seek administrative or judicial review of decisions which affect them.

Privatisation also raises challenging questions about the most effective means of ensuring the accountability of private sector providers to government and of government to the community as a whole.

Governments have developed new forms of regulation both to facilitate competition and protect the public interest in privatised industries.

Regulation can entail anything from high to minimal levels of government intervention. At one end of the spectrum will be specific, prescriptive legislative rules.

Along the spectrum will be encouragement to formulate industry codes, and at the other end will be forms of self-regulation in which industries and corporations may choose to develop their own codes of practice.

The regulatory model used in Victoria includes an independent economic regulator established by statute, the Office of the Regulator-General (ORG). The Regulator-General is

responsible for the electricity, gas, water, ports, rail and grain export industries, with primary responsibility to facilitate the operation of competition.

The objectives of the Regulator-General, as stated in the ORG's 1998/9 Annual Report, are "to promote competitive market conduct; to prevent misuse of monopoly or market powers; to facilitate entry into the relevant markets; to facilitate efficiency in regulated industries; to ensure that users and consumers benefit from competition and efficiency".

An illustration of this form of regulation is the utility sector, in which providers must comply with specific industry legislation.

In addition, the Regulator-General licences providers and develops codes and guidelines with which licensees are required to comply, which themselves oblige licensees to develop appropriate practices addressing, for example, consumer complaints han-

dling and the protection of privacy. The industry-funded Energy Industry Ombudsman (Vic) was established in 1996 to handle consumer complaints.

Governments also assert control over private sector providers through private law mechanisms such as contracts.

Private prison contractors have obligations set out in their contracts, which are then monitored by the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner in the Department of Justice. Failure to meet specified performance criteria can lead to financial penalties.

The Auditor-General and other commentators have voiced reservations about the practical operation of aspects of these contractual mechanisms, and have emphasised the importance of ensuring fully independent monitoring in this area.

Public law mechanisms may also be extended to cover some activities undertaken by private sector bodies, for example the extension in Victoria of the Ombudsman's jurisdiction and freedom of information legislation to cover private prisons.

The goals of accountability and redress are not necessarily inconsistent with other objectives of privatisation...

Private sector institutions such as the industry Ombudsman and private complaint handling schemes – as in utilities, and at the federal level, banking and telecommunications – are also taking on greater prominence.

While claims are made for the regulatory effects of competition, the range of regulatory techniques indicates that exposure to competitive forces is considered insufficient to ensure accountability and individual redress.

The goals of accountability and redress are not necessarily inconsistent with other objectives of privatisation, but they depend for their achievement on measures additional to those putting privatisation in place. Demonstrating mechanisms for public accountability and redress is, however, crucial for the legitimacy of a regulatory scheme.

Dr Bronwyn Naylor is a senior lecturer in Monash University's Law faculty and a member of Monash's new Centre for the Study of Privatisation and Public Accountability. Members of the centre are undertaking research on areas such as labour relations in corporatised government agencies, complaints handling in the utility sector, and regulation of private prisons. For more information about the centre, contact Dr Naylor on (03) 9905 3319 or at bronwyn.naylor@law.monash.edu.au

The eyes have it in magical Indonesian morality tale

By KAY ANSELL

A long time ago, a beautiful young princess was in line to become queen. When her father died, her wicked older sister did everything she could to stand in her way ...

After this, the plot of *The Black Monkey and the Princess* takes some really curly twists – and it's all set to music. The performance on 14 September continues the Monash tradition set by Professor Margaret Kartomi way back in 1971.

Every year since then, bar one, Professor Kartomi has maintained a bridge between Monash and Indonesia by hosting Indonesian musicians and showcasing the country's richly textured culture.

An elaborately costumed drama, the morality tale pits good against bad, and features a fallen angel who becomes a monkey and a princess whose meditative powers give her strength to do good.

Professor Kartomi, head of Monash's School of Music, says meditation – communing with ancestral and natural spirits – is one of the animist beliefs which has survived despite the strength of the Muslim religion.

The spirits are everywhere – even in the great gong onstage, which beautifies the sound of the orchestra, she says. "The spirits have to be placated with offerings before the performance, and the audience will see the director perform an incense-burning ceremony."

The story will be narrated in English, but even without narration, the goodies and baddies will be obvious. It's all in the eyes: the princess modestly looks downward, demons are bug-eyed and warriors glare. Movements also betray character, with elegant, refined gestures for the heroes and big steps and sweeping arms for the evil ones.



Monash students join Sundanese artists to perform a traditional tale in *The Black Monkey and the Princess*. Photo by Greg Ford.

The company is made up of Monash School of Music students, with visiting Sundanese artists and musicians from West Java; they will be directed by visiting artist Lili Suparli, a second-generation musician, dancer and puppeteer. As well as having his own wayang golek puppet company, Mr Suparli also teaches at the Academy of Music at Bandung, in the province's capital.

The annual performances give Monash students the chance to play in the orchestra, learn stage craft, write

critiques and experience Indonesian culture first hand. The performances are also suitable for students as young as those of primary school age.

What: *The Black Monkey and the Princess*
When: Three performances only, on Thursday 14 September
Where: Alexander Theatre, Monash University, Clayton
Who: For tickets, contact the Monash Box Office on (03) 9905 1111.

ARTS SCENE

Artist-in-residence shows works

Paintings by Monash artist-in-residence Maurizio Bottarelli are on show in the Faculty Gallery at the Caulfield campus until 6 October.

The exhibition is the culmination of the Italian artist's three-month residency in the Faculty of Art and Design.

Known for his rich, oxidised colours and unusual textures, Bottarelli is based in Bologna and teaches in the Academy of Fine Arts in Milan.

Achiever nomination for young artist

Monash student Rena Rennie (Mulliangah) was among 15 young people nominated for the 2000 Aboriginal Young Achiever Awards run recently by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

The third-year fine arts student has mounted two solo exhibitions of her work and has been commissioned for various pieces by private collectors. She completed an artist-in-residence term as a printmaker with Red Planet and was commissioned to paint a large environmental mural at CERES in the Melbourne suburb of Brunswick.

Rena also recently won a young women's encouragement award from Koorie Women Mean Business Inc.

Evoking nostalgia for games past

Who'd have thought we could become wistful about games like Space Invaders?

That's the central theme of a fascinating new exhibition of interactive media works at the Mezzanine Gallery at Monash University's Caulfield campus until 6 October.

Mostly the work of third-year digital and multimedia students, *Emulation* puts a new spin on obsolete media,

including a fresh look at video-type games such as Space Invaders. The exhibition is sponsored by icorp.

Free concerts for music-lovers

The Rigg Estate Free Concert Series will be staged at Monash University's Clayton campus in September.

The four concerts, beginning on 1 September, feature a selection of chamber music and concertos by composers ranging from Messiaen and Mozart to Rodrigo, Evans, Beethoven and Walton.

Presented by the Monash Music department in conjunction with the Performing Arts Precinct, the concerts will showcase performances by the New Monash Orchestra conducted by Andre de Quadros, the Team of Pianists, the Viva Voce choir and individual performers.

For inquiries and bookings, call the Monash Box Office on (03) 9905 1111.

Monash lecturer in Romanian link

Monash lecturer Dr Joel Crotty recently returned to Australia after representing Monash at an arts festival in Romania.

Dr Crotty, from the School of Music – Conservatorium, addressed delegates about new music theatre in Australia. Among the Australian composers examined was Peter Tahourdin, Monash's composer of honour in 1998.

Dr Crotty said the Romanians were keen to connect with Australia. "They are desperate to establish links with the rest of Europe after such a harrowing time under the Communists," he said. "In a way, Romania and Australia are countries looking for links, a sense of location – Romania with Europe and Australia with Asia."

'Spitting and Biting' makes good viewing

By SARA KELLY

A tantalisingly-named exhibition at the Monash University Gallery this month explores unusual collaborations between artist and printmaker.

Spitting and Biting draws its name from the printmaking term 'spit bite', an etching process where nitric acid is dropped onto spit, or mixed with water or saliva and painted on a copper plate prepared with a rosin ground.

The mixture of acid and saliva or water 'bites' the plate around each rosin particle, creating delicate translucent effects when inked and printed.

This is just one of many processes explored in *Spitting and Biting*.

The artists who, except for Kim Wescott, are not printmakers have used a variety of processes – lithography, drypoint, open bite, foul bite, lift ground etching, hard and soft ground etching and woodcut – to realise different ways of making images.

The activity of working with a printer has also changed the flow of their usual work patterns and concentrations.

Imants Tiller, for example, provides the printer with a photocopy of an image, from which the printer produces a plate and then a print. Through this reproduction method, the concept of appropriation is extended, and the idea of artist as 'hero and author' is challenged.

The use of the drypoint needle and its new possibilities are also important for Aida Tomescu and her drawing. Drawing is fundamental to Tomescu's work, and this action on copper is completely new each time. Sometimes her prints are used as a foundation for paintings where the print can become completely obliterated.

Mike Parr continues to engage in printmaking on a large scale in a bid to redefine the self-portrait and the



'Sky birth' by Mike Parr (1995).

search for self. The reversal of the image and the use of the copper plate as a mirror is exciting. The resistance of the drypoint needle creates a dynamic that allows the drawing to take on different forms.

Spitting and Biting will challenge people's ideas about the process of making images.

What: *Spitting and Biting*
When: 19 September to 28 October
Where: Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus
Who: For opening times, contact the gallery on (03) 9905 4217.

Prestigious grant for Monash graduate

A Monash graduate has been awarded a prestigious international award to support her work in sculpture.

Anthea Williams, a recent Master of Arts (research) graduate in the Faculty of Art and Design, is one of only a handful of Australian artists to have received the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant.

The New York-based foundation was established in 1985 to provide

financial assistance to working artists of established ability. It operates through the generosity of the late Lee Krasner, a leading abstract expressionist painter and the widow of Jackson Pollock, creator of 'Blue Poles'.

According to Victorian sculptor Clive Murray-White, Williams is among a "very few" Australian artists who have

chosen and stuck to an uncompromising and artistically lonely path.

"The awarding of this most significant international grant will not only financially support her for some time, but is most likely to convince the Australian art world that Anthea's work deserves much closer attention," he said.

Murray-White said Williams' work had developed from one of last century's most influential sculptural inventions: the welded steel open form sculpture.

"When this movement started, it was characterised by hard, ready-made industrial rusty or spray-painted steel sections, ponderously stabbing into space," he said. "It took sculptors on a path of trying to paint in space. Anthea succeeds where most have failed."

Williams studied for her masters degree through Monash's Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, under senior lecturer Dr Dan Wollmering. Her thesis/project, Dr Wollmering said, concerned "abstract formalism and its relationship towards a sculptural development and practice".

"Her project focused on studio research and documentation which argued for a more personal engagement with steel sculpture that allowed for content that is often autobiographical, with recurrent themes of instability, vulnerability, balance and sensuality," he said.

Williams' work is represented in galleries and private collections in regional Victoria, and she has exhibited widely, including at the Australian Contemporary Art Fair.



'S3' by Anthea Williams (1999).

Book explores boom industry of ecotourism

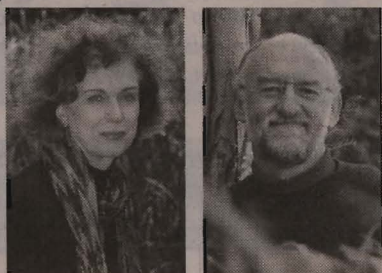
By Chris Giles

Holidays to relatively untouched destinations are becoming increasingly popular as people try to escape the demands of city life.

But how do we continue to enjoy these natural areas – and how do tour operators and communities continue to profit from them – without killing off the very attractions that people are so eager to experience?

The ways in which Australia's rapidly expanding ecotourism industry is trying to strike a balance between preservation and public enjoyment is explored, along with the principles and practices of responsible ecotourism, in *Australian Ecotourism: Contributing to Ecological and Community Sustainability*, a Monash publication from the School of Geography and Environmental Science.

Co-authors and Monash academics Dr Peter Cock and Dr Sharron Pfueller spent four years researching and producing the text, initially written to fill a



Australian Ecotourism authors Dr Sharron Pfueller and Dr Peter Cock.

void in study material for graduate students of environmental science or tourism.

They hope it will become a valuable reference for a wider audience both in Australia and overseas, including tour operators, local government, tourists and rural land owners who might be considering ecotourism as a viable alternative to more exploitative land uses.

The text is presented in three parts: an exploration of the challenges and attractions of nature-based travel; critical appraisals of more than 15 ecotourism tours, places and communities

across Australia; and a discussion of foundations needed to establish a viable and responsible ecotourism business.

Case studies were chosen on the recommendation of the Ecotourism Association of Australia and specialist consultants and were assessed with operators' permission.

If current statistics are any indication, demand for this type of publication will only increase as this niche market continues to grow.

Figures from the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Resources show that there are about 600 ecotourism operators in Australia with a total annual turnover of about \$250 million.

Dr Cock and Dr Pfueller are senior lecturers in Monash University's Graduate School of Environmental Science. They bring a combined background in social science, environmental science and tourism to the text, which they claim is the only one available with an all-Australian focus.

Home: is it really where the heart is?

The terms 'home' and 'address' have been playfully kneaded and turned upside down in a new exhibition of sculpture by Monash students.

Judging by the work of second-year fine art and visual arts students, the words evoke memories and images that differ radically from individual to individual.

Address, on at Monash Caulfield's Concourse Gallery this month, is the culmination of months of thought and exploration of the concept of the domestic interior address.

The home can be the ultimate merging of physical, emotional and spiritual sustenance, and a house for the imagination.

'Home' exists not only on the level of shelter and cultural expression, but as a vessel for memories and dreams embraced and repressed. 'Home' can also be a remembered space.

Monash students interpreted the brief with flair and wry humour.

Rohan Singh returned to the comfort of the den with a life-size Chesterfield chair fashioned out of wire mesh, while Melanie Griffith concentrated on the ubiquitous bar stool – but a version three metres high. For Clare Parish, the focus was growth and the kitchen sink. Her work involves a sink, shelf, watering cans and, in an



Monash sculpture student Ms Clare Parish with her exhibit, 'Coalescence'.

interactive twist, real plants that visitors can water during the exhibition.

The varied mix of individual artworks creates a stunning installation unified by a slightly unreal sense of the domestic house interior.

According to sculpture studio coordinator and curator Malcom Bywater, the students were involved in all aspects of planning the exhibition, from discussion on the final design to the opening, invitations and artwork labelling.

"For these young artists, *Address* has been a valuable lesson in professional practice, working to deadlines and maintaining a work ethic," he said.

What: *Address*
When: Until 6 October
Where: Concourse Gallery, Faculty of Art and Design, Monash Caulfield
Who: For more details, contact gallery manager Malcom Bywater on (03) 9903 2882.

INPRINT

Henry Handel Richardson

The Letters – Volume 1: 1874–1915; Volume 2: 1917–1933

Edited by Clive Probyn and Bruce Steele
Melbourne University Press
RRP: \$88 per volume

Using letters that date from the turn of the century, Monash academics have delved into the intimate thoughts of one of Australia's best known writers, Henry Handel Richardson, to create a detailed

account of the writer's private life.

Henry Handel Richardson, author of *The Fortunes of Richard Mahony* and *The Getting of Wisdom*, was a prolific letter-writer. More than 1500 of her unpublished letters have been collated by the editors into volumes that shed new light on the woman behind the pseudonym. Two volumes have already been published, with a third to be released in November.

Professor Clive Probyn and Associate Professor Bruce Steele, of Monash University's English department, have set up the Henry Handel Richardson Project – the largest research project ever undertaken on an Australian author.

New Directions in Japanese Linguistics

Japanese Studies: Communities, Cultures, Critiques – Volume 4

Chief editors: Vera Mackie, Alina Skoutarides, Alison Tokita
Monash Asia Institute
RRP: \$27.50

Learning Japanese can prove difficult for many Australians, and students of the language often struggle with cultural differences that can impede successful language acquisition.

New Directions in Japanese Linguistics, recently released by the Monash Asia Institute, gives a detailed cross-section of research into the educational needs of non-native Japanese language students and how those needs can be met.

From discussions on the effectiveness of learning strategies for students of Japanese to essays looking at the difficulties of translating cultural nuances from a Japanese text into English, this book addresses a variety of topics within Japanese linguistics, Japanese language teaching and Japanese socio-linguistics.

Chief editor Dr Alison Tokita and editor Ms Robyn Spence-Brown are senior lecturers in the Japanese department at Monash University.

The Trespass of the Sign:

Deconstruction, Theology and Philosophy

Kevin Hart
Cambridge University Press
RRP: \$31.95

In philosophy, deconstruction has gained the reputation of being an agnostic doctrine that is largely sceptical of theology. *Trespass of the Sign*, a new book by

Kevin Hart, argues against this reading of deconstruction, claiming that rather than rejecting theology, deconstruction offers us a way to free theology from 'totalising' metaphysics.

By avoiding obscure jargon in favour of well-researched and carefully crafted arguments, Hart has created a challenging work that should interest philosophers and theologians alike.

Kevin Hart is a professor of English and comparative literature at Monash University.

POSTscript

A new paperback edition of *Lionel Murphy: A Political Biography* by Dr Jenny Hocking, from the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University, has been released. The new version includes a forward by Justice Michael Kirby, who reflects on Murphy's career at the High Court, and an epilogue from the author.

The School of Geography and Environmental Science at Monash University has recently published *An Historical Atlas of the Aborigines of Eastern Victoria and Far South-Eastern NSW*. The text, by Sue Wesson, is designed as a living history that connects historical figures to current Aboriginal families, populations and country.

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

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

• CITSU (Caulfield) (03) 9571 3277 • Clayton (03) 9905 3111
• Gippsland (03) 5122 1771 • Peninsula (03) 9783 6932
www.monash.edu.au

HARNESS YOUR AMBITION

Monash Postgraduate Information Evening

Wednesday, 27 September 2000, between 5 pm and 7.30 pm
Hotel Sofitel, Carillon Room, Level 1, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne

This special event is designed to provide graduates and professionals, with or without a degree, with information and advice about postgraduate research and professional programs in the areas of:

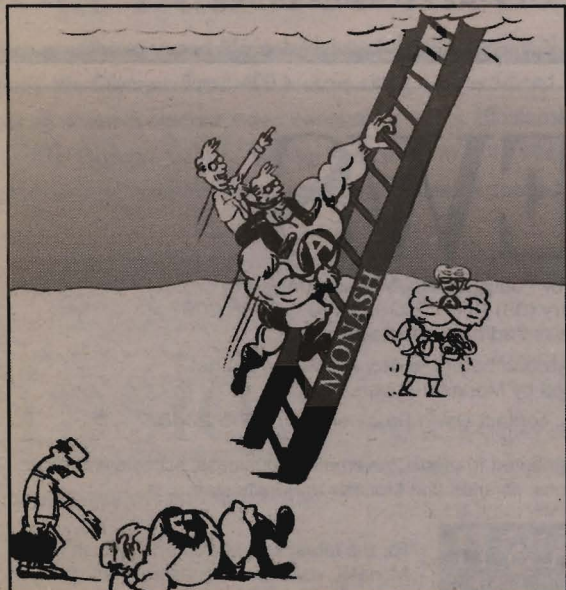
- Arts
- Education
- Law
- Pharmacy
- Business and commerce
- Information technology
- Medicine and nursing
- Science

Find out about courses offered at all Monash campuses, through on-campus study, flexible learning and distance education.

For further information: Call (03) 9905 3087

email: postgraduate@adm.monash.edu.au or visit www.monash.edu.au

MONASH
UNIVERSITY



Therapeutic cloning breakthrough

BY TRACY HOCKING

Embryonic stem cell experts at the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development have taken another important step in the quest to develop therapeutic cloning techniques for the treatment of diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes.

The scientists have proved that embryonic stem cells – cells that have the potential to change into any tissue in the body – can withstand rejection when introduced into the human body.

Therapeutic cloning involves culturing stem cells in the laboratory that could become replacement nerves and organs, to overcome a range of devastating illnesses.

Earlier this year, the team at the institute announced that they were the first in the world to grow nerve cells in the laboratory. The next stage in the development of this therapy was to grow these cells using a patient's own DNA, so that when introduced to the body, the immune system will not reject them.

In another world first for the Monash team, the scientists have announced that they had proven that this was theoretically possible by using a mouse as a model. The scientists established cloned mouse stem cell lines with the potential to grow into any type of mouse cell.

The deputy director of the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development, Professor Alan Trounson, said it was an important development and proof of the principle of therapeutic cloning theory.

"Much research is still needed before we can take this treatment to the public, however this model is an important step that brings together the specialised skills of the team at Monash Institute," he said.

Monash PhD student Ms Megan Munsie has removed the genetic material or DNA from an unfertilised mouse egg. She has replaced it with the nucleus or DNA of another developed cell from a 'target mouse'. This insertion of a nucleus from a developed or differentiated cell 'fertilises'

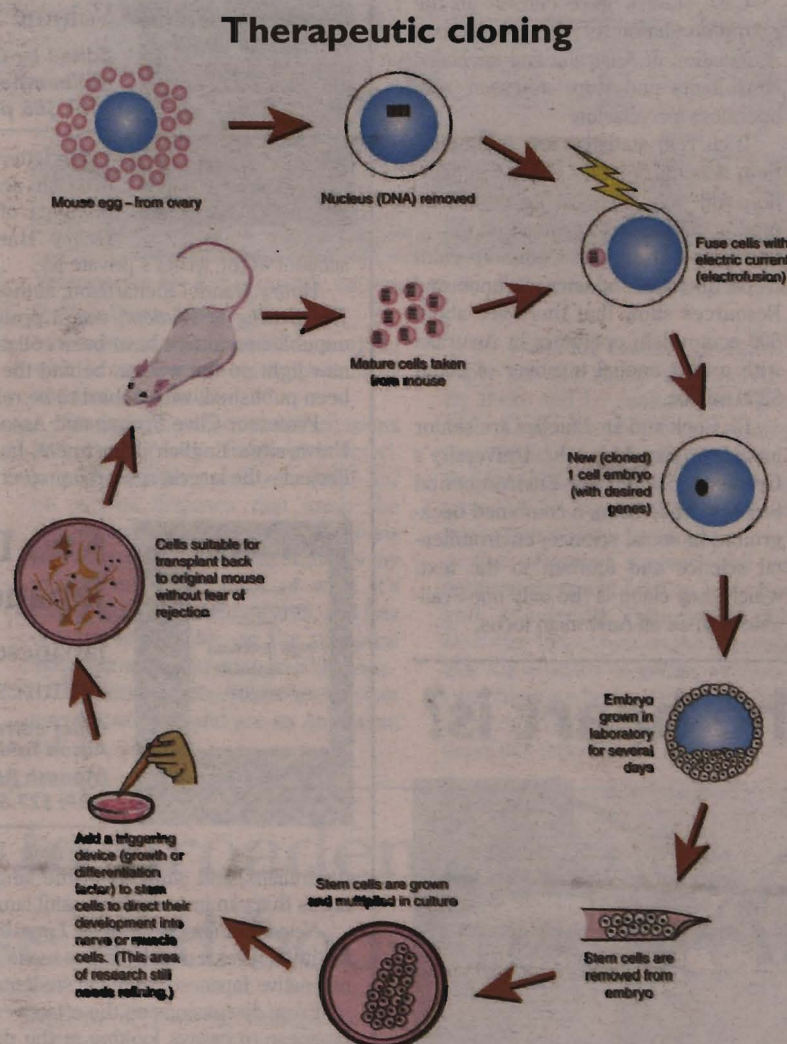
the egg by introducing two complete sets of chromosomes.

"An embryo is grown for several days to blastocyst stage," Ms Munsie explained. "Stem cells are then removed from the embryo and cultured in the laboratory."

"These stem cells have the same genetic make up as the original target mouse, and therefore if we were to program the cells to become a specific body type, theoretically they could be introduced to the target mouse to treat illnesses."

This study has been published in the August edition of *Current Biology*.

The commercial partner for this research is Australian biotechnology company Stem Cell Sciences, of which Monash Institute scientist Dr Peter Mountford is chief scientific officer.



Making sense of a medical, legal and ethical minefield

BY SUE MCALISTER

They're two of the thorniest and most emotive questions confronting law and health professionals today – whether or not to disclose a client's confidential communications in the public interest, and whether or not to make such disclosure mandatory.

Dr Bernadette McSherry of Monash's Law faculty is seeking answers to these questions, because, she says, they reflect "an enormous grey area".

"In Australia, we don't, for the most part, have legislation, or even firm guidelines, to help health professionals evaluate which is paramount – a

patient's right to confidentiality or the public's right to be warned."

In Australia, laws already exist requiring a health professional to breach confidentiality to report child abuse and certain infectious diseases. But, says Dr McSherry, physicians, and increasingly psychiatrists and psychologists also need guidance on a much broader range of situations in which their 'duty to protect' the patient and the public are in conflict.

After all, rigid adherence to confidentiality can have serious consequences. An extreme, though not infrequent, example is when a patient who is at risk of harming others remains at large because the health

professional they have confided in does not disclose the risk to anyone. This is an example of absolute confidentiality. However, Dr McSherry has found that a majority of health professionals favour relative confidentiality, which gives them the option of disclosure to protect the public.

Yet patients and their privacy need protecting too. Moreover, knowing that their communications might be disclosed could result in potentially dangerous patients not divulging critical information, or avoiding health professionals altogether – especially as Dr McSherry's research shows doctors are likely to err on the side of caution, making unnecessary disclosures.

To begin plotting a way across this medical, legal and ethical minefield, Dr McSherry looked at the routes taken by other countries. She found that Canada was "taking steps in the right direction". In a recent case (*Smith v Jones* 1999), the Supreme Court found that in order to weigh up breaching confidentiality, three factors should be considered. Is there a clear risk to an identifiable person or group of persons? Is there a risk of serious bodily harm or death? Is the danger imminent?

From her research so far, Dr McSherry thinks all-encompassing laws on disclosure will prove to be neither possible nor desirable in Australia. In particular, breaching confidentiality in the public interest should not be made mandatory. But, she says, "firm guidelines are needed urgently".



Dr Bernadette McSherry says firm guidelines on disclosure are needed urgently.
Photo by Greg Ford.

Ed Credit Education Credit Union

Looking for a competitive loan?

- ✓ An array of loans; Home, Home Equity, Residential Investment, Car, Personal and Overdraft
- ✓ NO application fee
- ✓ NO monthly fees
- ✓ NO early repayment fees
- ✓ Highly competitive rates
- ✓ FREE Life Insurance up to \$120,000 (for eligible borrowers)
- ✓ On-line – applications can be lodged at www.edcredit.com.au

* Interest rates on all loans are variable. Fees may be payable. Details, terms and conditions are available on request.

Need further information?
Visit the **Monash Service Centre** in the Union Building or phone (03) 9905 4130
www.edcredit.com.au

MONASH NEWS

Published monthly by Public Affairs, Monash University
Edited by Fiona Perry (03) 9905 2020, fax (03) 9905 2097
or email monashnews@adm.monash.edu.au

Views expressed by contributors in *Monash News* are not necessarily endorsed by Monash University.

For media inquiries, contact David Bruce on (03) 9905 2040.

Monash News is distributed to media, government, business, schools and other educational institutions, libraries and Monash University staff.

MONASH
UNIVERSITY

For the latest in research and opinion from Monash, visit: www.monash.edu.au/news/