

MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS



What goes up must come down. And that's when it can hurt. According to a new Monash University report on in-line skating, speed, inexperience and poor protective equipment are a hazardous combination. The report recommends, among other things, more emphasis on equipment such as wrist guards and helmets to reduce the risk of injury. See the story on page 8.

Photo by Elizabeth Dias

Coroners' data goes on-line

By DAVID BRUCE

The task of reducing preventable deaths and injuries across Australia has been given a boost with the launch of a national project to establish an online database of coronial investigations.

The project, known as the National Coroners' Information System (NCIS), will be the most advanced and accessible repository of data on the causes of deaths in the world, providing a wealth of information to coroners and policy-makers as well as the health and law sectors.

The NCIS is an initiative of the newly established Monash University National Centre for Coronial Information – a consortium of the university's Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, Accident Research Centre and Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine.

According to Professor Stephen Cordner, who is professor of forensic medicine at Monash and director of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, coronial reports on sudden and unexpected deaths contain a wealth of information which can be utilised by the community to prevent similar deaths or injuries. But until now, he says, this potential has been restricted by the absence of a systematic collection of coronial information.

"Coroners' courts in Australia maintain data on single incidents such as a bus crash, a mine disaster or a plane crash, but if a tractor rolls over on farmers in Mildura, Bunbury and Tamworth in the space of one month, there is no systematic correlation of data to reveal that what appears to be a series of isolated incidents is really a diffuse disaster," Professor Cordner explained.

"Many people assume that this type of system is already in place, but there is no country in the world that has it. Victoria has a very good state database, but the challenge now is to create a national database. In some states, particularly in rural areas, there is still paper-based record keeping.

"Ultimately, the NCIS will allow all coroners across Australia to have up-to-date information on their computer screens on coroners' findings as well as autopsy, toxicology and related police and forensic reports."

According to Professor Cordner, such a system has been mooted for some time. In August 1987, when the then prime minister Bob Hawke announced the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, he cited 45 such deaths. By the time the Royal Commission began sitting the following year after a period of gathering of evidence, the number of deaths to be examined had increased to 103.

"If the prime minister of Australia was not able to state correctly the number of deaths to within 100 per cent, then this indicates just how appalling the situation was," said Professor Cordner.

"The situation has improved slightly since then, but it is still very difficult to find national data on most causes of death. We can gather the raw figures, but other relevant data – for example where the person died, when they died, and how they died – is very poor. Lack of this type of information complicates the formulation of public policy in areas that cover incidents such as workplace deaths, drug deaths, suicides or firearms deaths."

The establishment of the NCIS is a reflection of change in the role of the coroner, which was traditionally limited to investigating single cases of sudden and unexpected death, explained Professor Cordner. "Coroners are adopting the view that they can also contribute to the prevention of deaths and accidents. This is a real opening up of the coronial mind into the areas of epidemiology and injury prevention."

Monash University and the Victorian Department of Justice have each contributed \$165,000 towards the project, and the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care has contributed \$355,000 towards developing the system. A phased introduction of states has begun, with NSW expected to go online within a few months.

Season's greetings

The people and the achievements that have made the pages of *Monash News* in 1998 highlight our fundamental obligation as a university to participate in the life of the broader community.

Monash must communicate in a regular way – with schools, business, government and the communities around our seven campuses – about the work that we do.

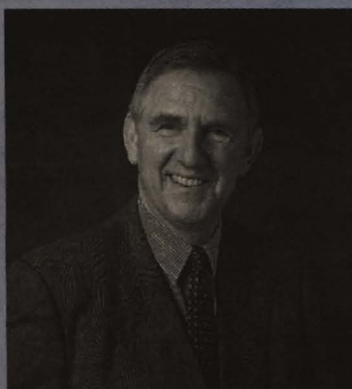
That is why *Monash News* was started at the beginning of this year.

This publication reports the achievements and views of Monash people. I hope you have enjoyed reading about some of what we do well.

It has been a challenging but ultimately rewarding 1998 for staff and students at Monash. I look to 1999 with much promise.

I wish you a very happy and relaxed break.

Professor David Robinson
Vice-Chancellor and President



Professor David Robinson.

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Social aspects vital in uni success

By KAY ANSELL

Sometimes sheer loneliness drives first-year students off campus, a Monash lecturer told a recent conference.

School-leavers who have trouble adjusting to tertiary study are unlikely to re-enrol for second year, said Ms Tanya Kantanis. Part of the high drop-out rate was due to the problems some school leavers had in making friends after leaving the security of secondary school.

Ms Kantanis has been investigating how a successful social transition from school can affect academic success at university. She presented the findings of her preliminary study to the Tackling the Transition Conference held at Monash from 8 to 9 December.

There were many ways to help school-leavers adapt successfully to university life, said Ms Kantanis, a Faculty of Education lecturer and transition researcher.

In her paper, 'School to University Transition: Living the Process', Ms Kantanis told the conference that first-year students required sophisticated social skills to make new friends – "those lacking such skills could be left out in the cold".

"As many university courses give students a great deal of unstructured time, the first-year experience can be very lonely. Sometimes students lose their confidence and self-esteem and this adversely affects their studies," she said.

Students from religious, single-sex or rural environments faced more problems, she said, and in some instances, students from such "sheltered backgrounds" had more to learn to be on a par with their peers.

"Tolerance, accommodation and acceptance of difference are fundamental to university life, yet not all first-year students possess such maturity. For example, students from single-sex schools may find it difficult at first to manage in a co-educational environment."

First-year students, most of whom are still adolescents, are expected to achieve a great deal in a very short space of time. Yet at the very time first-year students most need support and guidance, it is in short supply.

"School is a very small, safe, protected and comfortable environment for students. It's familiar. They've probably been there for the entire six years of their secondary education – when they come to university they are thrown in at the deep end and are expected to be instantaneously responsible, independent learners."

According to Ms Kantanis, it would help if secondary schools did not foster such misconceptions as "VCE will be the hardest thing students will ever tackle". "That's certainly not true – some students are daunted by the level and pace of first-year classes," she said.

Ms Kantanis said that while the move from school to university was different for each student, giving first-year students more realistic expectations would enable them to embrace university rather than feel intimidated by it.

"You need to spend time in a university to appreciate its life and culture – if you just 'drop in' for tutes and lectures and need to rush off immediately to your part-time job, you'll neither appreciate what it is all about nor get the most out of the experience."

She said it was important for students to know that when things were not going well, there were people on campus to help. "But it is up to the students themselves to seek out this help – university is not like school, where teachers are able to tell from the look on your face, because they know you so well, that something is wrong."

Although researchers come up with many strategies to assist first-year students, she said, it was important for university teaching staff to remember that a little care and attention – the human touch – goes a long way towards helping students adjust to their first year at university.

Dr Mark Peel, transition coordinator at Monash University, said the conference had built on the knowledge gained since the first transition conference at Monash in 1995. Current



Ms Tanya Kantanis.

research had confirmed that there was no single model or template that would help all students.

Universities needed to be free to experiment to find the best solutions, he said, and Monash University's approach was firmly based on listening to students, trialling new programs and responding in positive ways to the findings.

Marine focus in summer school

By JULIE RYAN

The marine diversity of Australia's southern shores will be the focus of an intensive two-week summer school at Monash's Peninsula campus in January.

Faculty of Education lecturer, marine educator and course presenter Mr Harry Breidahl said the summer school was aimed largely at primary and secondary school teachers who wished to develop an awareness and gain a better understanding of marine life in Victoria.

Mr Breidahl said it was also relevant for students who were undertaking a teaching qualification.

"The coastal areas in southern Australia, extending from Perth to Sydney and including Tasmania, contain some of the most fascinating, unique and diverse marine life in the world," he explained. "There are species in these waters that are not even found in other parts of Australia."

He believed the marine environment could be used in the classroom to explore any number of social, environmental, economical and biological issues.

"Not only is Australia's marine environment diverse, in educational terms it can be used to explore and explain issues including the effects of introduced species, pollution, conservation, basic biology and the economics of coastal development," he said.

And while Mr Breidahl would like to spend the whole two weeks of the program exploring the coastal waters, he said that in teaching terms it was just not practical.

"School teachers are lucky if they can get students down to a beach area for an excursion, so the program needs to focus around activities that translate well in the classroom," he said.

However, at least one day of the program will be dedicated to a field trip, and an aquarium will be set up for the program where local invertebrates like crabs, sea stars and spoon worms will reside for the duration.



Mr Harry Breidahl.

Mr Breidahl said it was also important to develop an educational program that could be taken 'inland' to rural schools not located near coastal regions.

"The Marine Education Society of Australasia, which supports this program through its national Coast and Marine Studies Program, has recently run similar teacher education programs at Lorne and Wilson's Promontory," Mr Breidahl said. "And one of the biggest complaints is that the programs are focused around coastal areas."

Mr Breidahl said there were also plenty of opportunities to explore the unique and fascinating marine wildlife Australian coastal areas had to offer in a less structured environment.

"With school holidays approaching, many families head to coastal areas where there is the perfect opportunity to discover marine life."

Mr Breidahl would like to develop a holiday kit to help families visiting coastal areas explore and recognise some of the more common marine wildlife.

His recently published book, *Australia's Southern Shores*, is a good place to start, with pictures and explanations about the wildlife found in local coastal areas.

For further information about the summer school, which begins on 11 January, or *Australia's Southern Shores*, contact Mr Breidahl on (03) 9904 4324.

Rhodes honour for Monash student

By DAVID BRUCE

Monash science and law student Sanya Smith caught the attention of the Victorian Rhodes Scholarship selection committee with her ambition to undertake research into malaria in developing countries.

Sanya, 23, who is currently studying towards an honours degree in science and law, was named this year's Victorian Rhodes Scholar and will leave for a year of study at Oxford University in October.

"It's very exciting and it opens the way for others like me," she said, after hearing of her Rhodes success.

The prestigious annual prize is awarded to young scholars who demonstrate high intellectual academic ability as well as an interest and involvement in the community, leadership qualities and sporting achievement. In a highly competitive field, Sanya outshone five other candidates, all female, on the Victorian shortlist.

Her undergraduate honours work at Monash is being supervised by Dr Robert Pike and Dr Stephen Bottomley in the university's Department of Biochemistry and

Molecular Biology. At Oxford, Sanya aims to pursue postgraduate research in molecular biology, and after completing her PhD she would like to work on malaria and other diseases affecting the developing world.

Sanya's achievements in the academic, community and sporting arenas are considerable. She told the selection committee that, while striving for academic excellence had always been a high priority, "from an early age I was also taught to realise the importance of social justice and racial tolerance, with an added personal understanding from my own background of a mixed culture family".

Sanya co-founded Racial Respect in Melbourne, a group which spreads information on a wide range of racial issues. She was also involved in planning a campus-wide anti-racism campaign at Monash last year. She is proficient in Chinese, French, Japanese and Indonesian.

Her sporting interests include cycling, rock climbing, bushwalking, cross-country running, rowing and kung fu.



Rhodes scholar Sanya Smith with vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson.

Focus on industry strengths: report

BY JULIE RYAN

Melbourne needs to face the tough reality that it cannot compete on a global level with Sydney's core business activities, according to the author of an annual report on Melbourne's growth patterns.

'Monitoring Melbourne' author Associate Professor Kevin O'Connor, from Monash University's Department of Geography and Environmental Science, said Melbourne's core business interests should focus on industries not specific to Sydney.

"Old, well-established businesses like banking and finance and newer fast-growth areas like media, advertising and the computer industry are stronger in Sydney than in Melbourne," he said.

"Melbourne's strengths lie in industries like manufacturing, research and development, and warehousing - industries that require substantial space to operate and that locate in suburban areas."

Speaking to Mornington Peninsula business people at the Monash-Syme Business Associates breakfast held last month at Monash's Peninsula campus, Dr O'Connor said the Westernport region provided an ideal location for the types of industries at which Melbourne excelled.

"While the Westernport region's commercial activity is not as strong as that of some of its suburban neighbours, the area is showing signs of a more mature industrial and commercial structure," Dr O'Connor said.

"Four to five years ago, the region's economy was driven by housing construction and industries that revolved around housing, while other economic sectors were lagging.

"In the last two years, however, the region's infrastructure has developed to a point where it can support commercial sectors not directly related to the housing industry."

He added that there were some key indicators that suggested the region could dominate in some of Melbourne's key commercial growth areas.

"Seventeen per cent of metropolitan Melbourne's total population live in this area, which is getting close to the size of some of Australia's capital cities.

"This suggests that the population and skills base has reached a level where major organisations can begin to think about location and development in larger terms than just the commercial needs that go hand-in-hand with residential construction.

"For instance, Bosch in the suburb of Clayton supplies its worldwide network with services and products and has recently announced it will build a silicon chip factory there - the only silicon chip factory in Australia."

And while these types of industries may not yet have emerged in the Mornington Peninsula area, Dr O'Connor said, there was no reason why the intensification of activity in middle suburban sites could not flow through to the outer metropolitan regions.

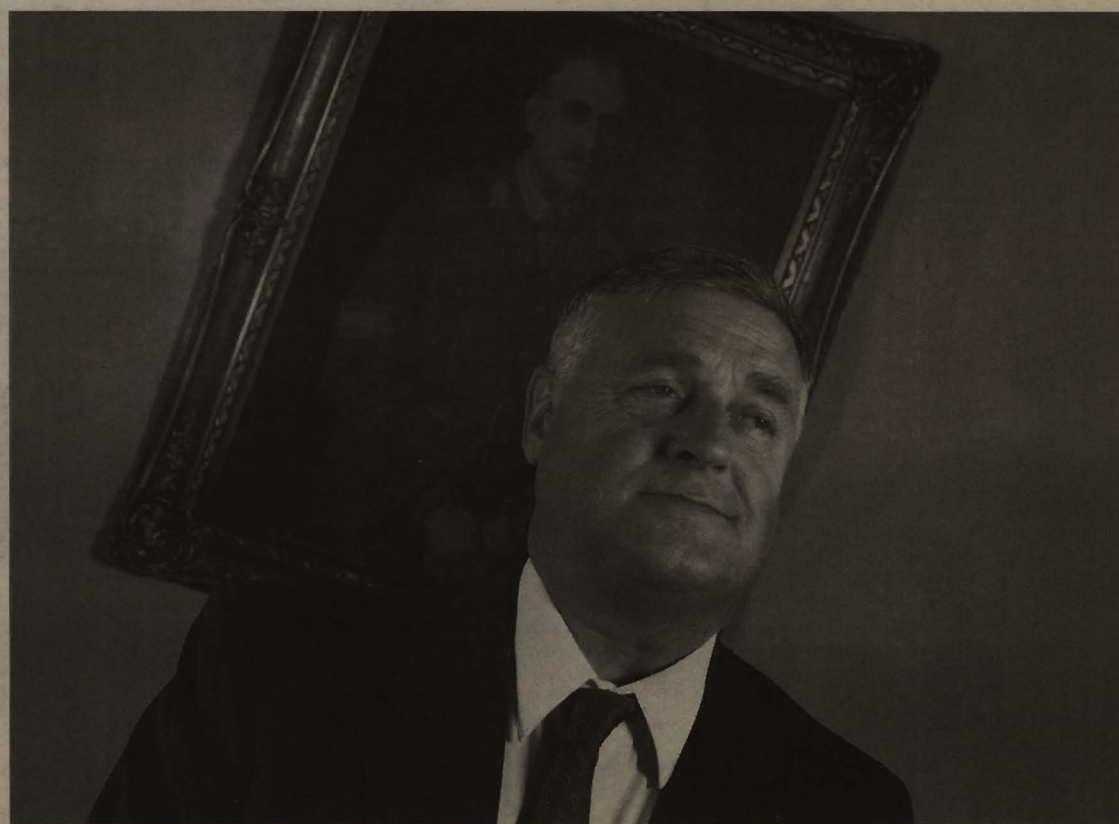


Photo by Christopher Alexander

Melbourne actor and satirist, Mr Max Gillies, AM, last month received a 1998 Monash Distinguished Alumni Award for inspirational leadership in his field. As well as mentoring young writers and performers, he has encouraged Australians to engage in serious reflection about rights and responsibilities in their community, exemplifying the values promoted by Monash's namesake, Sir John Monash. Awards have also been presented to Aboriginal community leader and lawyer, Mr Mick Dodson, and the vice-chancellor of Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia, Professor Ichlasul Amal.

Gaming law changes urged

BY JOSIE GIBSON

The Springvale Legal Service (SLS) has called for urgent changes to the laws regulating Victoria's casino and gaming industry in a bid to tackle problem gambling.

The community legal centre, which is run in conjunction with Monash University's Law faculty, has also urged changes to gaming venues themselves, including tighter monitoring of gamblers' identities, the installation of windows, and the prominent display of the odds of winning on all big jackpot electronic gaming machines.

In a submission to the Victorian Casino and Gambling Authority, SLS is appealing to the authority to seek to have its own powers broadened to allow it to address community concerns about problem gamblers, said to number at least 3 per cent of all those who gamble.

"The current prudential focus of the authority - for which there are understandable historical reasons - is now patently inadequate to protect the community from irresponsible gambling," the paper says.

Victoria's casino and gaming industry is regulated by laws that include the Casino Control Act 1991 (Vic) and the Gaming Machine Control Act 1991 (Vic).

SLS argues that while such laws may generally have regulated the industry sufficiently, growing community unease about gambling means they should now be reviewed.

Among its recommendations, SLS calls for a study into the effectiveness of the 'self-exclusion' process, whereby problem gamblers can apply for an order to exclude themselves from Melbourne's Crown Casino. SLS says such a study could show whether existing laws needed to be changed to reduce breaches and increase the effectiveness of the process.

The group urges tighter policing of entry to venues to deter problem gamblers, saying the extent and nature of venues' liability should be clearly set out in law. It also suggests introducing UK electronic gaming machine technology, which scans players' faces and refuses access to those excluded.

As well, the submission calls for alternatives to fines, such as community-based orders. "A common reason cited for gambling is to escape financial constraints," the paper says. "A fine is very likely to be counterproductive, even to the extent that it may cause the person to gamble more to pay it off."

Like other concerned groups, SLS has also called for an increase in the number of education and awareness campaigns and more responsible advertising about gambling.

For copies of the submission or a 'self-exclusion' kit, contact Mr Adrian Evans at Springvale Legal Service on (03) 9562 3144.

New university chancellor

Monash University has enlisted the services of one of Australia's most notable corporate and community leaders to guide it into the next millennium.

Mr Jerry Ellis, the current chairman of BHP, will start his three-year term as university chancellor on 15 February.

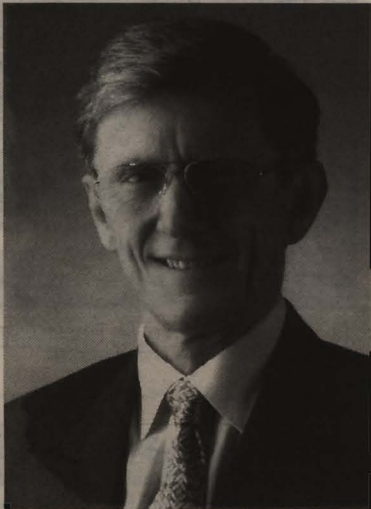
The University Council announcement follows the impending retirement of Mr Bill Rogers, Monash's chancellor since 1991.

Vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson said Mr Ellis was a distinguished Australian who exceeded the criteria required for the role of chancellor.

"Mr Ellis has a clear understanding of the university environment and the core values of a university. To that he adds a capacity to represent Monash at the highest levels in dealings with corporate and government organisations. Like that of Monash University, his perspective is international as well as national," Professor Robinson said.

"His work will continue on from that of Mr Bill Rogers, who has made an invaluable contribution to Monash over the past seven years."

A Rhodes Scholar, Mr Ellis was elected chairman of BHP in May 1997 after a 30-year career with the company. He recently announced his



Mr Jerry Ellis.

intention to resign as chairman in the first half of next year.

Trained in engineering science, he joined BHP in 1967 and worked his way to the pinnacle of Australian corporate life. He has also been involved with several boards, including as chairman of Sandvik Australia and as director of the ANZ Bank and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Mr Ellis said he was delighted to be invited to join a university renowned for its innovation and global outlook at a time when the demand for higher education was so strong.

Award thrill for our top teacher

For Monash lecturer Ms Angela Carbone, winning the Prime Minister's Award for the 1998 University Teacher of the Year was something of a shock.

Ms Carbone recalls that she was in two minds about even applying for the award, announced on 23 November by the Federal Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Dr David Kemp.

An assistant lecturer in the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, she also took out the award for computing and information services, the two awards netting her \$75,000 in grants.

Confronted with a heavy work and study load and believing she would be up against highly qualified rivals, Ms Carbone had initially put her nomination on the back-burner.

"I didn't want to waste time preparing another teaching dossier," she explained. "I had to work on my PhD and I was preparing for a promotion interview."

As the deadline approached, however, she changed her mind. "It hit me that it could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," she said.

When her name was read out as the winner, she was stunned. "After what seemed like five minutes, I managed to collect what few thoughts I had and walked up onto the stage to accept the award."

Dr Kemp praised Ms Carbone for her fresh teaching approaches, saying her novel use of multimedia teaching methods singled her out from a highly competitive field.

Two other Monash staff members were award finalists: lecturer Dr John Loughran for education and senior lecturer Mr Adrian Evans for law and legal studies.



Ms Angela Carbone with her awards.

Dating tests reveal new tectonic tales



Dr Gray's research extended beyond Australia to regions like the Sultanate of Oman (above) and Otago in New Zealand.

BY TIM THWAITES

In a pioneering study of the structure of a continent, a group led by a Monash geologist has found evidence that forces similar to those responsible for continental drift can work on a smaller scale and over shorter time periods.

And it is these regional movements of the earth's crust which formed the ore bodies that are the basis of Australia's mineral wealth, says Dr David Gray, a reader in the Department of Earth Sciences and a project leader within the Australian Geodynamics Cooperative Research Centre (AGCRC).

"The AGCRC is putting together the story of the geodynamic evolution of Australia - how Broken Hill, Mt Isa, Roxborough Downs and Kalgoorlie were formed. It should help us to spot other likely sites."

Dr Gray's work on these movements in the earth's crust (tectonics) at a regional scale has been widely acclaimed and has won him a string of awards. They include this year's Carey Medal of the Geological Society of Australia, awarded only every two or three years for contributions to the field of tectonics. Last year, the Victorian Division of the Society conferred its Selwyn Medal on Dr Gray for contributions to Victorian geology. And Dr Gray and two colleagues from La Trobe University also won the Stillwell Award for the best paper published in the *Australian Journal of Earth Sciences* in 1997.

For the past 15 years, Dr Gray has been working on the geology of southeastern Australia, particularly the region known as the Lachlan Fold Belt, which takes in Victoria and central New South Wales. Eastern Australia is geologically much younger than the centre and west. The rocks in the Lachlan Fold Belt are mainly mudstones and sandstones - they were formed on the sea floor from sediments washed down the rivers of the pre-existing continent to the west. The fold belt is divided by major fault lines into three distinct sub-regions. The direction of the grain of the sedimentary rock in these sub-regions is different.

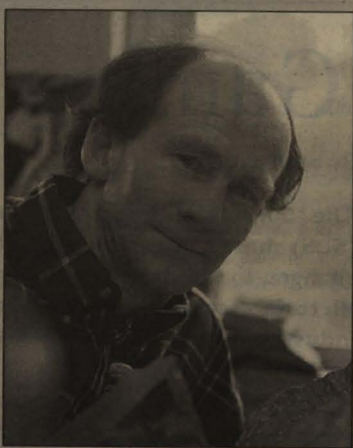
The date when the original sediments were deposited has long been known because of the presence of small jellyfish-like animals, known as graptolites, which were trapped and preserved in the mudstones. These animals lived predominantly in the Ordovician Age, between 490 and 410 million years ago. But, says Dr Gray, it is clear that since the sediments were first laid down, they have been pushed and pulled and subjected to vast pressure. The forces responsible for such deformation also caused some of the clays to crystallise into mica.

Using a sensitive dating method, argon-argon geochronology, Dr David Foster - a CRC colleague of Dr Gray's from the La Trobe University School of Earth Sciences - has been able to date precisely when the micas formed, and hence the time when the sediments were deformed.

It is these regional movements which formed the ore bodies that are the basis of Australia's mineral wealth.

As the mica crystallises, argon gas and potassium become trapped in its structure. One form of the potassium (40K) is radioactive and over time decays spontaneously to argon (40Ar). The amount of 40Ar in the mineral is related to the time since the mineral crystallised and the original amount of potassium trapped. Both these can be measured very accurately using a mass spectrometer. The results reveal the age at which the mica formed.

From his long background and knowledge of the geology of the Lachlan Fold Belt, Dr Gray was able to provide Dr Foster with rock samples from key points relevant to the geological evolution of the region. The argon-argon dating of the micas in these samples showed dates which varied between 540 million and 360 million years ago. So the deformation process occurred almost as soon as the sediments were deposited. And there is a clear pattern - the older the date, the further from the fault lines in the direction in which the sediment was laid down. The most logical explanation



Dr David Gray.

tion for this is that the fault lines are remnants of small mobile zones of subduction (where one section of ocean crust had been sucked down under another, deforming the sediments in the process).

These results allowed the researchers to put together a picture of how today's significant geological features of southeastern Australia formed. From about 550 million years ago, there was a large subduction zone out from what is now the east coast of Australia where the Australian continental plate was attached to Antarctica, South America and India as part of a larger continental mass known as Gondwanaland.

Between about 500 and 380 million years ago, this part of the Gondwana margin changed to look something like today's Philippine Sea. Several smaller, shorter-lived mobile zones of subduction formed on the ocean floor. The sea floor was covered with a thick blanket of sediment deposited off Gondwanaland by ancient river systems. Gradually, the zones of subduction moved towards one another and, as they did so, this sediment and the ocean crust beneath it was pushed together. So the crust thickened and popped up to form the eastern Australia we see today.

This model gives new insight into the conditions which existed when the region's mineral deposits were laid down - particularly gold, which is a conspicuous and distinctive mineral in Victoria. The work should help geologists to locate likely areas to explore for further deposits of gold.

New dean of law at Monash

Monash University has appointed Professor Stephen Parker as new dean of the Faculty of Law.

Professor Parker, currently professor of law at Griffith University, will take up his role at Monash in late February.

A former dean of Griffith's law faculty, he has a national reputation as a researcher in and public commentator on legal ethics, legal aid and family law, as well as matters concerning the judiciary.

Professor Parker's commitment to the public accountability of the legal and academic communities is evident in his involvement with the Committee of Australian Law Deans and the Judicial Conference of Australia, a body representing judges and magistrates.

"The Monash law school prepares people for a changing world, and I am very excited about my



Professor Stephen Parker.

appointment," he said. "Its curriculum is modern and innovative. It recognises that while there are multiple careers in law, all graduates must have a strong sense of social and professional responsibility."

Greater debate urged

Australia should promote wider public debate about major social goals to ensure social cohesion is maintained, according to former Labor Government minister Mr John Button.

Mr Button, a special adviser to Monash University's vice-chancellor, urged action to arrest the decline of traditional institutions and the loss of a sense of community.

"We could strive to address some of the ideas languishing in the too-hard basket," he said in the recent inaugural Monash Berwick Public Lecture.

Speaking on the topic, 'An excursion into public life', Mr Button expressed concern about the quality of contemporary public policy-making and the limited participation in a lot of public debate.

He also criticised the emphasis on ideology and the "prevailing economic orthodoxy".

"People are increasingly sceptical about globalism accompanied by political promises of better things to come," he said.

"The tragic thing for Australia is that it is precisely this degree of uncertainty and disillusionment, this sense of inequality of opportunity and the unease which arises from ideological manipulation, which produces the divisive search for alibis and scapegoats."

Mr Button said there should be more emphasis on good government - citizen well-being - in terms of things like job security, care of the aged and disabled, and access to education.

"Two of our greatest prime ministers, Menzies and Chifley, lived in a much simpler world. But they would not have tolerated current disregard for the criteria of good government," he said.

Healthy travel promoted



Tim Wong and Ming-Lee Lin pass on their healthy travel tips to Kate Scholtens, from STA Travel on Monash's Clayton campus.

BY DAVID BRUCE

A group of third-year medical students from Monash University has set out to remind would-be tourists of the health hazards involved in overseas travel.

The five students took on the task of helping travel agents promote good health practices to intending travellers, and for their efforts were recently awarded the VicHealth Victorian Health Prize in health promotion.

Monash is the only medical school in Australia which offers health promotion as part of the medicine course. Students work in groups to promote a particular health issue to the community. This year there were 39 such projects.

Ming-Lee Lin, Tim Wong, Jessica Greenall, Michelle Thong and Helena Ng spent six months surveying

and working with local travel agents to produce a poster and pamphlets promoting awareness of travellers' health.

The students worked closely with the Travellers' Medical and Vaccination Centre and found that 94 per cent of travel agents viewed travellers' health as an important issue but were uncertain how to address it.

Ms Lin said the group suggested that travel agents needed to be more active in their promotion of travellers' health, and that travellers needed to visit a doctor before departure to avoid what in many cases were preventable illnesses.

"Different travel agents had different needs," Ms Lin said. "So our conclusion was that people promoting travel health should come up with continent-specific pamphlets relevant to all travellers going to that place."

The humanities in hard times

There can be no doubt that the humanities are in for hard times. The retreat of governments from the funding of institutions functioning for the public good – hospitals, libraries, universities – is a world-wide phenomenon which shows no sign of abating, writes Marian Quartly.

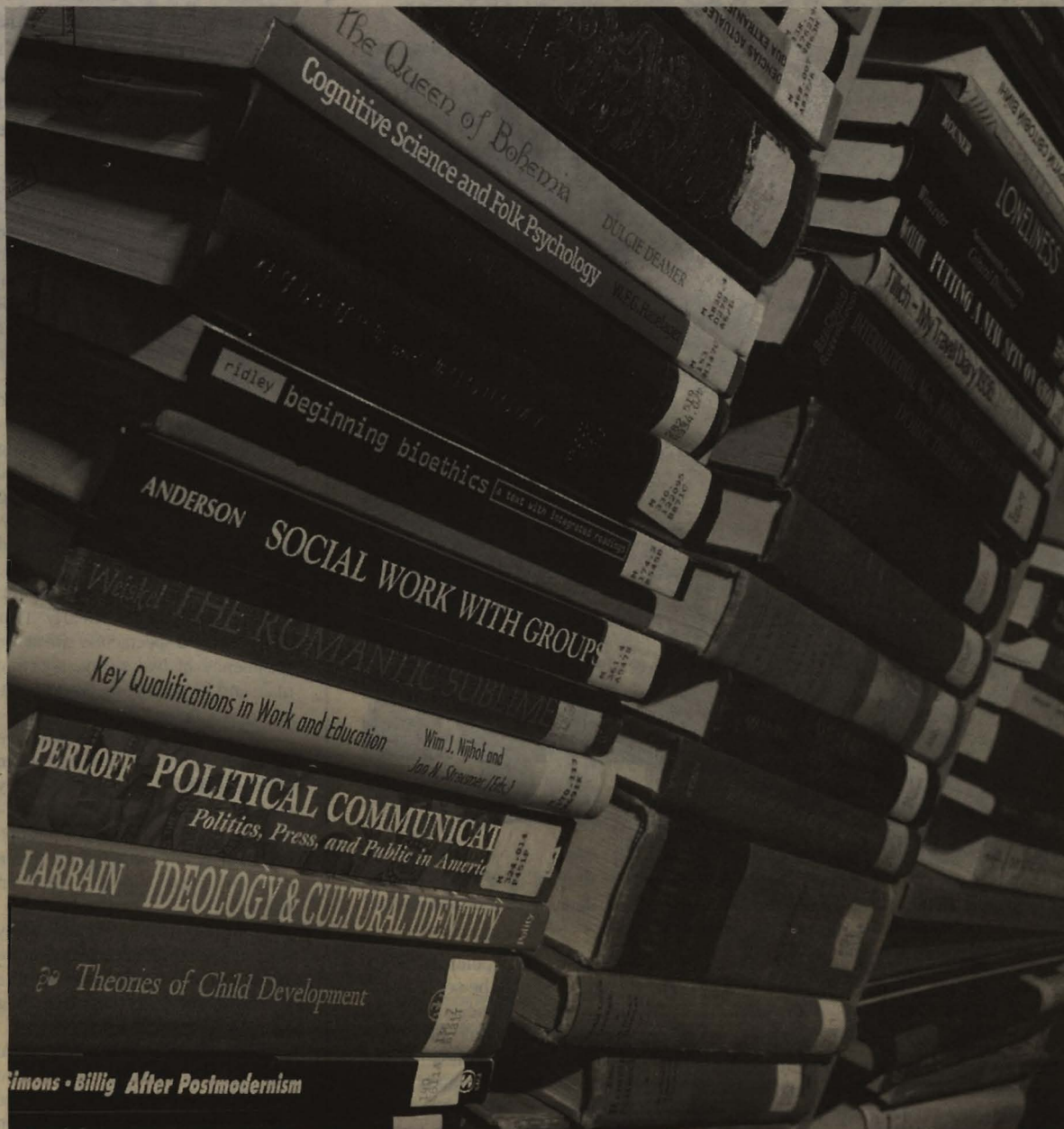
OPINION

In Australia, government outlays on higher education represented about 1.7 per cent of gross domestic product in 1975, compared with about 1 per cent today, and the rate of decline is increasing rapidly. Within universities, faculties teaching the humanities have been the first to feel the pain.

In Australia, this is partly due to the way in which faculties have been funded. Unlike faculties of science, medicine and engineering, arts faculties spend most of their income – 90 to 95 per cent – on the salaries of permanent staff. When funds are cut, they have no equipment budgets and short-term staffing to lose, and the burden falls immediately upon teaching programs.

The results have been disastrous. The recent Discipline Surveys carried out by the academies of the Humanities and of the Social Sciences present statistics demonstrating that staff-student ratios have shot up again between 1990 and 1996; from about 16.5 to 18.5 students per staff member in the humanities, and from 18 to 20 in the social sciences. Faculties all over the country are losing staff members, as well as the programs which they teach. Well-publicised local examples include Greek at Deakin, music at La Trobe and classics at Monash. Language programs are also disappearing from institutions, from cities, and in a few cases – like that of Hindi – from the country.

Clearly, this is not just a question of how the funds fall. Planning decisions by university administrators are not kind to the humanities. Some universities have embraced the option of student fees to supplement dwindling government funds; invariably arts faculties cannot compete with business and computing in the race for fee-paying students. The language of corporatism – students as clients, teaching



programs as product, universities as international exporters – brings with it an administrative culture which seems inherently hostile to the humanities project.

Planning decisions by university administrators are not kind to the humanities.

Education in a discipline is said to offer two things of great value. Students discover that knowledge is contingent, continually remade by research. And learning the method of a discipline gives students the power to see themselves differently. This transformational quality of disciplinary learning is claimed by practitioners to

distinguish the humanities project from other forms of learning that are more professionally or vocationally directed, such as criminology and journalism. There is truth in this claim, but there is also a degree of intellectual and social arrogance.

The most enduring – or constantly reinvented – characteristic of universities is their double function as the creators of knowledge, and as the creators – and creatures – of social elites. Universities exist to create, preserve and disseminate knowledge – but not all knowledge. Universities are concerned with abstract, reflexive, disciplinary knowledge; knowledge not of the plough or the plumb line, but of the pen and the book – elite knowledge. Universities exist, and have always existed, to educate the children of the social elite, to allow professional groups to reproduce themselves and new professions to form.

Great changes have taken place in the university system and in the wider society over the last two decades. The period saw what has been called the 'massification' of secondary education – a huge expansion in the numbers of students completing year 12. At the same time, new universities were created, or transformed and enlarged, with a corresponding rise in places at tertiary level.

Many of the new tertiary students come from homes unacquainted with universities. Their parents know nothing of history and philosophy. They want their sons and daughters to study something useful, something that will get them a job, like a Bachelor of Communications or a Bachelor of Journalism. So the humanities at the new universities, and increasingly at the old ones, are offered in the form of professionally directed degrees with disciplinary components alongside vocational ones.

This it seems to me is the future of humanities programs, at least in the next decade. The BA will survive and prosper on the major campuses of major universities. Even on those campuses, students will generally take a second professional degree alongside their BA, or after completing it. Elsewhere, the disciplines will be taught as majors or in interdisciplinary streams in degrees with clear vocational outcomes. That future seems horrific to many academics. But it is not so very different from the past.

Humanities in universities have always changed as society has changed – as an agent of that change, and as its subject. The object of study – social humanity, cultural humanity – is always changing. The aim of the study is often

That future seems horrific to many academics. But it is not so very different from the past.

to control that change, to hasten it, or to prevent it.

The programs taught by faculties of humanities have always reflected these tensions, as scholars struggled to conserve cultural knowledge while meeting the professional needs of their students. In the 19th century, the study of the classics remained the essential discipline within the humanities, the vehicle of transformation. Modern history was created as a professional, applied study – to train bureaucrats for the modern state.

The changes presently demanded of the humanities differ from earlier change in degree, and not in kind. Shortfalls in funding have been met before. New elites have demanded different skills and knowledges.

The humanities faculties will prosper in the 21st century if they can achieve what the best of them currently achieve. They must educate their students in disciplinary knowledge, transform them, and give them the self-knowledge to change themselves and the world. And they must remain open to that changing world, ready to respond vocationally to the shifting demands of the market place.

The more difficult challenge would be to achieve what none of them currently achieves – to open the disciplines to the whole community, to make an education in the disciplines available to everyone who would benefit, and – the impossible dream – to persuade the whole community to value that education.

Professor Marian Quartly is dean of Arts at Monash University. This is an edited extract of the Marion Adams memorial lecture she gave last month.

Finding the gems amongst the pebbles

BY JOSIE GIBSON

A new book and CD package developed by a Monash language expert is aimed at helping teachers and students navigate their way through a wealth of potential resources on the Internet.

Virtual Language Learning: Finding the Gems Amongst the Pebbles was launched in early December but was selling well even before publication, according to its author and director of Monash's Language Centre Associate Professor Uschi Felix.

"The web is a treasure trove of resources, but it's also bewilderingly complex," Dr Felix said. "If its potential is to be tapped, some guidance is required – not only about what is there but also how it can be used."

Virtual Language Learning follows six months of intensive research in which Dr Felix and her team combed hundreds of Internet sites for those which could be of use in learning and teaching languages.

The result is a unique resource which offers a combination of useful examples and jargon-free technical information for language teachers, formal and informal students, and people

simply interested in the delivery of language courses on the Net.

Besides the sheer bulk of sites to sift through, one of the more challenging tasks in developing *Virtual Language Learning* was keeping abreast of constantly changing URLs, or web site addresses.

According to Dr Felix, some languages required less research than others. Many European languages, for example, were already well established on the Internet so it was not necessary to "reinvent the wheel". Digging out useful sites for less popular languages sometimes proved more difficult.

"The book includes references to literature as well as to technology," Dr Felix said. "Readers will be able to look up the applied linguistic literature, try out a site in several languages, and read about how it works technically."

A practising language teacher who has overseen the development of a number of language-specific Internet sites, Dr Felix knows how confusing and time-consuming the technology can prove.

"I would have killed for this book three years ago when we started developing sites on the web," she said.

Virtual Language Learning: Finding the Gems Amongst the Pebbles is



Associate Professor Uschi Felix.

available from Language Australia Ltd, GPO Box 372F, Melbourne, Victoria 3001 (fax (03) 9629 4708). The cost is \$35, plus postage and handling.

Indonesia's new drama: beyond the crisis



BY BRENDA HARKNESS

As the world media spotlight remains fixed on civil unrest in strife-torn Indonesia, another drama is unfolding away from the hotspots of violence and public disorder.

The director of Monash University's Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Dr Barbara Hatley, said Indonesia's deepening economic and political crisis had revived its critical contemporary theatre scene.

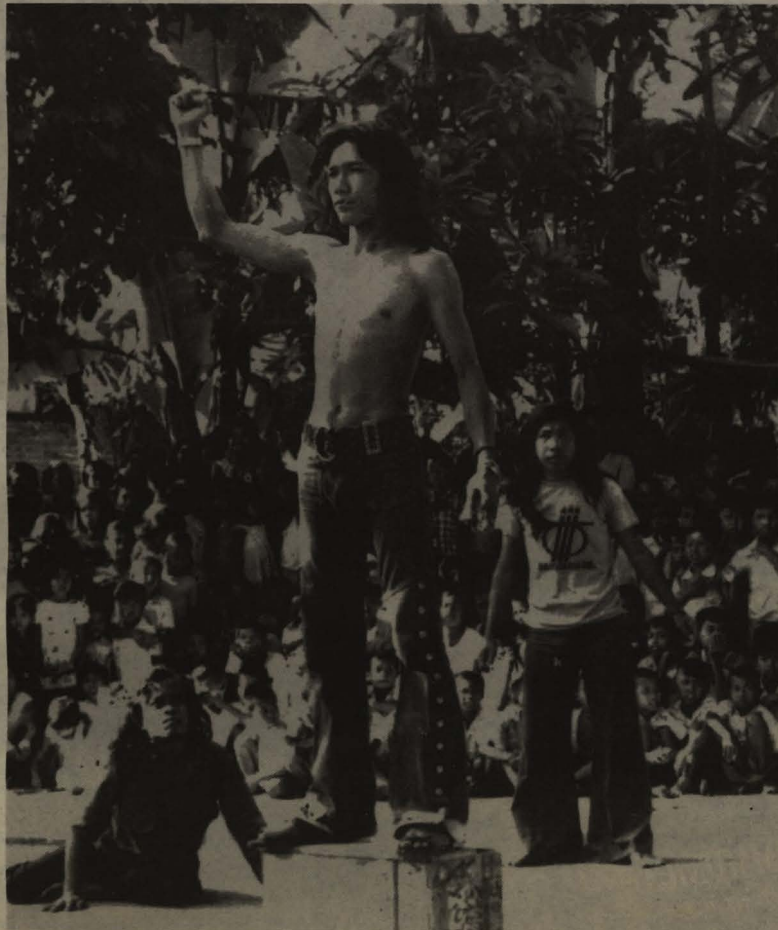
She said these critical forms of theatre – much weakened under the Soeharto regime – were re-emerging, giving Indonesians an important new voice for political and cultural expression.

"In an ironic way, the extraordinary difficulties occurring in Indonesia in its struggle for democracy have given the arts a renewed focus and importance," said Dr Hatley.

"It (the arts) is now speaking of social needs, of survival and of hope, as the nation is thinking about enormous social change, how to construct its values, and how to build itself into a democratic society."

Dr Hatley said the new focus on the arts was important because it offered an alternative to the violence and frustration currently being played out on Indonesia's streets by rioters demanding political reform.

"It is another outlet for Indonesian people to vent their anger. As an alternative to throwing rocks at the police or attacking other community groups,



In the early 1970s, critical theatre artists were part of a significant social and cultural movement in Indonesia, according to Dr Barbara Hatley (above left).

theatre activists are hoping that the arts can operate like a safety valve."

Dr Hatley said performers were exploring issues as diverse as human rights, the law, government and corruption – issues which could only be addressed obliquely under the repressive Soeharto regime.

The arts have also provided a creative avenue for addressing major questions now confronting Indonesians, such as how their society should change and how they will define their identity. For example, the issue of violence against women and the need for changes in gender relations is a focus of performance events around Indonesia this month.

For performers, explicit concerns of their work include issues such as what sort of language should be spoken, how people should relate to authority

figures and what sort of political/democratic structures should be set in place.

Dr Hatley said Indonesia's critical contemporary theatre could be generally classed in two categories: humorous/satirical and dark, and dark, abstract, absurd.

Prior to the post-Soeharto revival, she said, this type of theatre was largely non-mainstream and had been at its most innovative, critical and politically daring in the 1970s.

"In the early 1970s, at the beginning of the New Order period, critical theatre artists were part of a significant social and cultural movement," she said. "But by the 1990s, their creativity was largely frustrated by political and economic conditions."

Dr Hatley has been tracking the progress of several theatrical groups

Continued on page 8

Sculpture symposium

BY JOSIE GIBSON

Creating a work of art in the courtyard of a count's castle might sound like a fairytale, but for Gippsland sculptor Eva Volny, the fairytale became a reality.

A visual arts graduate from Monash Gippsland, Volny (right) was one of only six international sculptors invited to the seventh annual Wood Sculpture Symposium, joining a small team of sculptors in the Czech town of Zdar to create a permanent exhibition for the town's historic arts centre.

The sculptors were provided with a small stipend as well as accommodation, wood and working space in the environs of a local count's castle, where their whining chainsaws and industrious creativity drew streams of interested onlookers each day.

Volny's piece, 'Bajka' (fable), (below right) rises nearly four metres from a spectacular site at the confluence of two rivers, sporting male and female symbols and painted in eye-catching desert colours.

"There's a postmodern primitive streak in my work," the Czech-born artist explained. "I've modelled my work on African carvers for years – not taking their shapes but adopting their philosophy. I concentrate on bridging gaps between cultures."

A former schoolteacher, Volny turned full-time sculptor some years ago and now has works in a number of art collections, including Monash Gippsland's collection.

For Volny, the Zdar symposium has left a lasting impression in artistic terms as well as in the camaraderie created between fellow artists.



Banksia artworks touring Victoria

BY ZARA STANHOPE

A selection of original banksia watercolours by Monash University artist Celia Rosser has gone on tour in regional Victoria.

The watercolours, part of the Monash University Collection, are being shown at four regional art galleries over the next year.

The works are from the first two volumes of Rosser's botanical illustrations of the complete species. She is due to complete volume three and the entire 76 varieties of banksia by mid-1999.

The life-sized watercolours are drawn from specimens the artist has collected from native habitats around Australia and are the basis for the printed reproductions, *The Banksias*.

Rosser's work has attracted much acclaim, the watercolours having been exhibited at botanical gardens in Australia and at London's famous Kew Gardens. Rosser has been awarded the Jill Smythies Award for Botanical Illustration from the Linnean Society of London and the Medal of the Order of Australia for her work.

The exhibition will demonstrate the artistic process, from studio pencil rough to scientifically verified painting, and also introduce the history of the banksia genus. The plant was named after Sir Joseph Banks, the first recorded scientific collector of the



One of the Rosser works on tour.

species, on his visit to Botany Bay on Lieutenant James Cook's *Endeavour* in 1770.

The Banksias, Watercolours by Celia Rosser opened at the La Trobe Regional Gallery on 11 December. Other venues will be the Benalla Art Gallery in May 1999, Hamilton Art Gallery from 19 July to 22 August 1999, and Gippsland Art Gallery from 4 September to 3 October 1999.

For further information, contact the Monash University Gallery on (03) 9905 4217.

Art for impact's sake

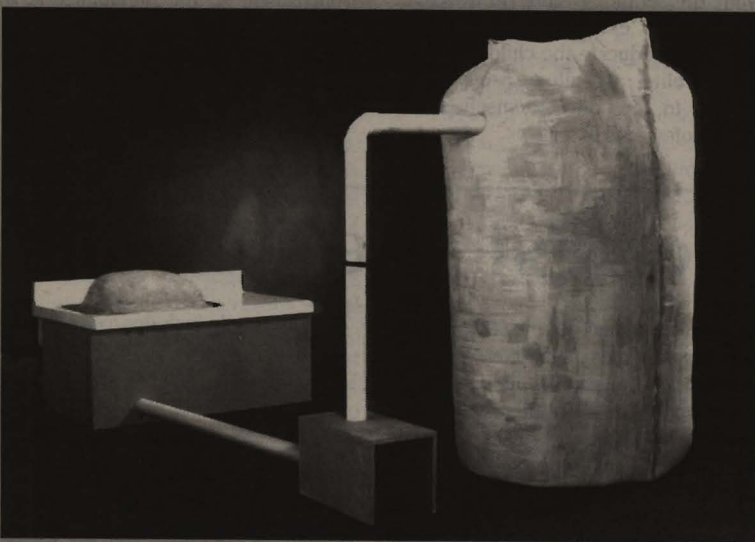
A new exhibition by Monash art students is aimed at highlighting the diversity of artistic expression in the university community.

Impact: Art for a World Identity showcases the work of 25 undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Faculty of Art and Design.

According to exhibition curator Malcolm Bywaters, *Impact* reflects the beliefs, aspirations and issues that are relevant to a new generation of artists.

"It is an exhibition of diversity and serious intellectual intent – one which demonstrates the talent, dedication and commitment of Monash art students and staff to the development of visual culture," he said.

Bywaters, who is also a lecturer in professional practice in the Fine Arts department, said the exhibitors were chosen from more than 100 applicants from across the university's visual arts spectrum, with works ranging from painting and



'Bathtubs and Vanities', 1998, by Cameron Bishop, one of the works on show in *Impact*.

sculpture to ceramics, video, metals and jewellery.

Impact was officially opened on 4 December by the Federal Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation, Mr Peter McGauran.

What: *Impact: Art for a World Identity*

Where: Monash University Gallery

When: 5–18 December

Who: Contact the Monash University Gallery on (03) 9905 4217.

Building Monash bridges

By JOSIE GIBSON

A new book by Monash researchers documents the bridge-building legacy of the university's namesake, Sir John Monash.

Launched recently by Monash deputy vice-chancellor Professor Peter Darvall, *Monash Bridges* is a typology study of reinforced concrete bridges that Sir John Monash either built or was involved with between 1897 and 1917.

The book is part of a larger Monash research project documenting the early work of the accomplished engineer, entrepreneur and military man.

Monash Bridges is the culmination of two years' research by historian and principal author Ms Lesley Alves, structural engineers Dr Alan Holgate (now retired) and Mr Geoff Taplin from Monash's Engineering faculty, and architectural historian Mr Conrad Hamann. The project was funded by the Monash Research Fund and the Engineering and Arts faculties with help from the Australian Heritage Commission.

"The 45 bridges in the book shed light on Monash as a businessman selling the technology to the engineering profession and to local communities of the day, and as an engineer finding economical design solutions," Ms Alves explained. "They also shed light on the lives of the ordinary people involved, the shire engineers and the



Monash Bridges authors Ms Lesley Alves and Dr Alan Holgate.

workers. The bridges are built documents of how men worked at the time."

She said the book's other main focus was the engineering itself – especially reinforced concrete, now taken for granted but a new and radical construction medium around the turn of the century.

With his then partner, J. T. Noble Anderson, and New South Wales firm Carter Gummer and Company, Monash was instrumental in introducing the material into Victoria, leaving a solid legacy through structures such as buildings, water tanks and bridges.

"The first bridge is now 100 years old. Monash and his colleagues had to work very hard to convince people

about the technology at the time," Ms Alves said.

The project involved a great deal of historical detective work. The researchers' main sources were the University of Melbourne Archives, the Monash manuscript collection in the National Library in Canberra, a collection of original drawings, old newspapers, and local councils and government departments.

According to the authors, about half the bridges built by Monash are still standing today – of these, most are still in use, some are altered and some are under threat of demolition.

Copies of *Monash Bridges* are available from the Civil Engineering department on (03) 9905 3842.

Photo by Richard Crompton

INPRINT

Days of Violence: The 1923 Police Strike in Melbourne

by Gavin Brown and
Robert Haldane
(Hybrid – RRP \$19.95)

Australia's first and only police strike in 1923 sent shockwaves throughout the country. Published on the 75th anniversary of the strike, *Days of Violence* tells how a combination of avoidable factors led to possibly the worst case of breakdown of law and order in Melbourne's history, when police were so provoked by an inept administration that they went on strike.



The consequences were horrendous, with three people killed, mobs taking over the streets of Melbourne, and looting, vandalism and violence rife. About a third of all uniformed constables joined the strike – and every one of them was sacked, never to be re-employed by the force.

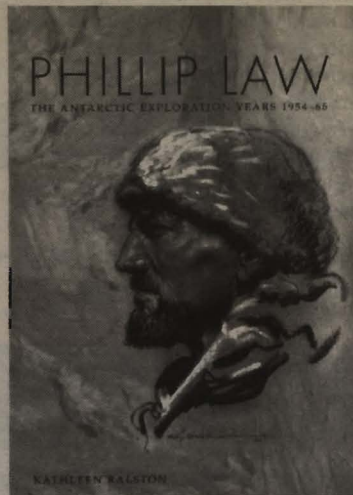
Gavin Brown, a retired assistant commissioner with Victoria Police who is now a consultant to Monash University's Centre for Police and Justice Studies, and Robert Haldane, a superintendent with Victoria Police, have produced an engrossing and detailed account of a turbulent time in Melbourne's history.

Phillip Law: The Antarctic Exploration Years 1954–66

by Kathleen Ralston
(AusInfo – RRP \$39.95)

Phillip Law's career in Antarctic exploration began in 1954, after he set up Australia's first Antarctic station, Mawson. Between 1954 and 1966, Law and members of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition returned to Antarctica each summer to explore and photograph more than 4000 nautical miles of its uncharted coastline.

Based on the diaries of Law and other expeditioners, this timely biography describes in fascinating detail the day-to-day events of Antarctic exploration. This is not only a story of



ultimate adventure in a remote terrain, it is the story of Phillip Law's vision, his outstanding administrative abilities and the great achievements he attained for Australia in Antarctica.

Monash graduate and former staff member Kathleen Ralston's previous book on Phillip Law, *A Man for Antarctica: The Early Life of Phillip Law*, covered the years between 1912 and 1954 and was based on her PhD thesis. Since meeting Law 10 years ago, her goal has been to complete the biographical work because it is, she says, "a story worth telling about a great Australian". This latest work was published with assistance from the Monash University Publication Committee.

All books featured in 'Inprint' are available, or can be ordered, at one of Monash University's four on-campus bookshops. Some on-line ordering facilities are available. Check with your nearest bookshop.

• CITSU (Caulfield), telephone (03) 9571 3277 or email orders@citsu.bookshop.com.au

• Clayton, telephone (03) 9905 3111 or email bookshop@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au
• Gippsland, telephone (03) 5122 1771 or email ros@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au
• Peninsula, telephone (03) 9783 6932 or email orders@citsu.bookshop.com.au

MONASH HIGHLIGHTS Summer '98

Art exhibitions

3–5 December

'Delicatessen' – 1998 Monash University Graphic Design Exhibition

Sixty final-year graphic design students display their skills in an event eagerly anticipated by the design, advertising and multimedia industries.

St Kilda Town Hall, cnr Carlisle Street and Brighton Road, St Kilda.

Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December, 9 am to 4 pm;
Saturday 5 December, 9 am to 12 noon.

Inquiries: Department of Design, Faculty of Art and Design, 9903 2165.

Till 4 December

'1998 Fire Show' – an exhibition by graduating students

An exhibition of works by ceramics, clay and metal students from the Department of Applied Arts, Faculty of Art and Design, Peninsula and Caulfield campuses. Studios, Department of Applied Arts, levels 6 and 7, B building, Caulfield campus. Mondays to Fridays, 10 am to 5 pm (Thursdays to 7 pm).

Change of Preference

'Change of Preference Survival Days for Year 12 students'

Year 12 students can make the most of the change of preference period by attending Monash's Change of Preference Survival Days. Students will find out everything they need to know about all courses at all Monash campuses.

Clayton campus: Wednesday 16 December, 10 am to 2 pm, South One Lecture Theatre

Gippsland campus: Tuesday 15 December, 4 pm to 7 pm, Crofton Hattell Room

Peninsula campus: Thursday 17 December, 10 am to 1 pm, George Jenkins Theatre

For more information or a free copy of Monash's Change of Preference Survival Kit, contact 9905 1320 or email mci@adm.monash.edu.au

Asia seminars

3 December

'Islam and Political Violence in Indonesia: Experiences from 1965/1996'

A free seminar presented by recent Monash PhD graduate Greg Fealy and hosted by the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies. Seminar room SG03, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus. Inquiries: 9905 5280.

11 and 12 December

'Democracy in Indonesia? The Crisis and Beyond'

Presented as a collaborative project of Melbourne University's Institute of Asian Language & Societies and Monash University's Centre of Southeast Asian Studies and Monash Asia Institute. Speakers include Barbara Hatley

(Monash); Chatib Basri, Harold Crouch and Marcus Mietzner (ANU); Arief Budiman and Tim Lindsey (Melbourne University); Ken Young (Swinburne); Ariel Heryanto (National University of Singapore); Gerry Van Klinken (Griffith University); Th Sumartono (Interfide – Muslim and Christian NGO).

Iwaki Auditorium, ABC Studios, Southbank Boulevard, Melbourne.

Registration details:

Anne Nichol, 9905 5280, or www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/indocris.html

Sport

Monash University Sports Centre, Clayton campus

Now offering membership to the public. The centre is open seven days a week. Contact 9905 4111 or <http://www.monash.edu.au/sra>

Anyone for French?

Commencing 19 January French for Travellers

A four-week course, conducted by experienced native speakers, for anyone intending to travel to France or French-speaking countries. Students will learn survival language skills as well as gain exposure to French culture. Limited number of

students per class.

Two two-hour classes for four weeks. Cost: \$190. Enrolments close 15 December.

Commencing 16 February French Language Courses

All levels, taught by experienced native speakers. Limited number of students per class. Learner-centred approach using multimedia material. Semi-private or individual tuition also available. One-and-a-half hours per week for 10 weeks. Enrolments close 20 January 1999.

Classes held at Monash City Centre, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. Inquiries: Professor Brian Nelson, 9905 2213, or email brian.nelson@arts.monash.edu.au

Vacation Care Program

4–25 January 1999

Vacation care is available at Monash's Clayton campus for children aged 5 to 12 years. Excellent on-campus facilities and activities include swimming, roller-blading, cooking, Olympic games, art and craft, pottery, science and much more! Cost: \$23 per day (reduces for parents who qualify for Childcare Assistance). Enrol full-time or for single days. Inquiries: Family Advisory Service, 9905 3156.

Berwick campus:

Clyde Road, Berwick.

Caulfield campus:

900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East.

Clayton campus:

Wellington Road, Clayton.

Gippsland campus:

Switchback Road, Churchill.

Parkville campus:

381 Royal Parade, Parkville.

Peninsula campus:

McMahons Road, Frankston.



Blading caution urged

BY JOSIE GIBSON

Parents considering buying rollerblades for their children this Christmas should be aware of the risks associated with this popular pastime.

According to a new report by the Monash University Accident Research Centre, the rapidly increasing popularity of in-line skating, as it is officially known, has been accompanied by an increase in injuries.

In-line skating provides fun, exercise and even a means of transport for enthusiasts. Speed and inexperience, however, can prove a potentially dangerous mix.

The report, by researchers Ms Shauna Sherker and Ms Erin Cassell, is the latest in a series by MUARC looking at injury prevention in Australian sports.

The researchers reviewed formal research literature and also used informal sources such as discussions with in-line skating organisations to determine which injury prevention methods had proved effective and what areas required further research.

They have recommended more research in particular into the role of wrist guards, helmets, fall techniques and injury prevention education.

While in-line skating appeals to all ages, the researchers say most of the participants, and therefore most of those who sustain injuries, are aged between 10 and 14. "In-line skating injuries can be serious and disabling, with deaths having been reported both here and overseas," they caution.

In Australia, hospital admission rates for in-line skating injuries are high compared with other sports. And Ms Sherker and Ms Cassell say that given the sport's rapidly growing popularity, injury prevention research should be a priority.

More than three-quarters of injuries result from falls, with the wrist usually sustaining the worst damage.

"Improvements in skate and wheel technology have resulted in a very fast skate which requires a certain amount of skill to control," the researchers say. "Many novice skaters are overwhelmed by the speed of the in-line wheels and are unable to slow down or stop in time to avoid collisions and/or falling."



Photo by Elizabeth Dias

In-line skaters know how to find the highs – but it's the descent which often causes the damage.

The combination of an unsteady base of support, a changing terrain – for example, an unexpected crack in the pavement – and poor protective equipment means the risk of injury is ever-present.

The rapidly increasing popularity of in-line skating...has been accompanied by an increase in injuries.

According to the authors, even the most skilful skater will fall at some stage, so the best protection against injury is full protective equipment such as helmets, knee pads and wrist guards.

But according to the results of their research, only a small proportion of in-line skaters wear full protective gear, and more research is needed to iden-

tify the barriers to implementing this safety measure. "Safety equipment needs to be presented as 'cool' so that children will wear it."

Parents buying skates as gifts should include protective equipment and lessons as part of the present, they say.

As well, hire skating outlets, skate park operators and organisers of skating competitions should ensure all participants use full protective gear – and that they wear it properly, with helmets fastened at all times, for example.

The Monash team also recommends more emphasis on education and training for both experienced and novice skaters, and on enforcing a code of conduct towards pedestrians and on roads.

And they say local councils should work with local skaters' groups to develop effective skate management plans, including the provision of safe skating venues.

Copies of the report are available from MUARC on (03) 9905 4371.

Goalie in-line for glory

A Monash University staff member has been selected for the in-line hockey national squad for the world championships next year.

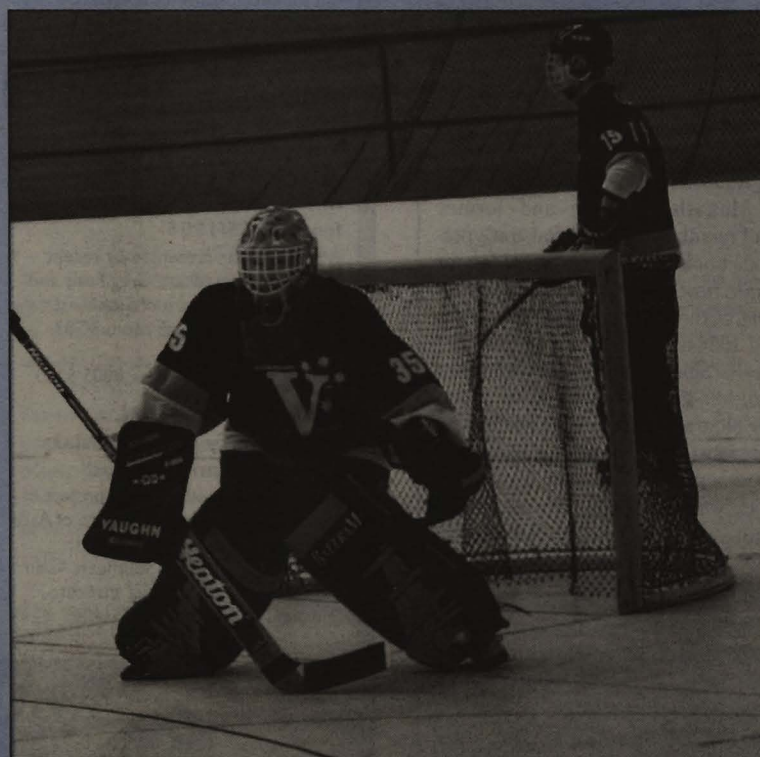
Adam Forsyth, a research fellow in the Chemical Engineering department, played in the national championships in Perth earlier this year.

He was also recently selected as goal-tender for the national squad to play in the Pan-Pacific championships early next year, and for the world championships in Switzerland in May.

In-line hockey is similar to ice hockey, with slightly different rules. Played on in-line skates on a roller-skating rink, it is ostensibly a non-contact sport.

The sticks and protective equipment are the same as those used in its fast and fierce cousin, ice hockey.

Forsyth also plays for the Monash Generals at club level and has won best goal-tender for the last two years at the intervarsity in-line hockey competition, which Monash won.



Adam Forsyth in action at the national championships in Perth.

Indonesia's new drama: beyond the crisis

Continued from page 6

and individual artists in her research, which she presented to an international conference in Melbourne this month.

The conference, 'Democracy and Indonesia: The Crisis and Beyond', hosted by the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Monash Asia Institute and the University of Melbourne, with support from ABC's Radio Australia, is believed to be the first major collaborative initiative of its type.

It brought together established scholars, researchers and activists from Indonesia and Australia to examine the reasons for and likely outcomes of Indonesia's political and economic crisis.

According to Dr Hatley, the decline in the critical arts was largely due to Indonesia's political climate under Soeharto, and to the effects of commercialisation and globalisation of the mass media.

"Artists had to go through a lengthy process to obtain permission from the authorities to perform, and thus faced being barred for staging works that were politically critical," she said.

"Many artists were left wondering what to do. And given the political

risks, the few who did remain in theatre had to be braver and were forced to disguise their social and political commentary in creative and humorous ways."

At the same time, Dr Hatley said, Indonesia's booming mass media created a cultural, intellectual and artistic drain on the local theatrical arts scene, as well as Indonesia's film industry.

"Actors were being repressed and at the same time were being offered lucrative opportunities as performers and directors in fairly shallow or politically neutral television shows."

However, she said that since the economic crisis, the mass media had been forced to cut back significantly on their production and offered fewer temptations to performers. Previously dormant theatre groups had begun to reactivate.

"At this uncertain point in Indonesian history, the arts may well have a key role to play in maintaining social cohesion," Dr Hatley said.

"The current crisis has provided a context of revival and renewed importance. And the arts – particularly the performing arts – will hopefully assist Indonesians to rediscover and implement local forms of democracy."



Photograph by Andrew Barclay

A work of art

Everything but the kitchen sink? Monash fine arts student Edwin Miocevic has used the university's Caulfield campus as a gallery space to display pieces from his Ce n'est pas un evier series. The series focuses on the process and context of art and artistic expression. As a result of bending, crushing, tearing and exploding, this kitchen sink (pictured above) is transformed into a work of art.

ADVERTISE IN 1999

From the February issue, *Monash News* will be accepting limited advertising.

For more details, contact

Josie Gibson on (03) 9905 2085,

fax (03) 9905 2097 or

email josie.gibson@adm.monash.edu.au

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