

# MONASH News

Research, news and opinion from Monash University

Volume 7 | Number 11 | December 2004

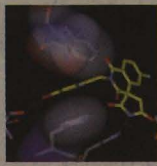


## 2004 NEWS ROUNDUP

The year's events  
at Monash **4 and 5**

## FACULTY FOCUS: Pharmacy

Each edition in 2004  
highlights the work of one  
of the 10 faculties



## NEWS

New light on  
diabetes **3**



## FEATURE

Champion of an  
unglamorous cause **7**

# Modern dressings would save millions

Pharmacy

Nursing homes could save millions of dollars a year simply by using modern wound dressings, a Monash University Victorian College of Pharmacy (VCP) study has found.

The research showed aged-care facilities could cut wound management costs by almost half, slash wastage by 75 per cent and reduce nursing time by one-fifth if the latest wound management practices were used.

The college's clinical study of 2600 beds in 66 nursing homes throughout Victoria is one of the largest studies of its kind ever undertaken in Australia.

VCP senior lecturer Mr Geoff Sussman said researchers identified healing outcomes of common wounds found in nursing homes including skin tears, pressure wounds and leg ulcers. "By comparing results from three separate groups we found modern, standardised moist wound management practices led to faster healing, less pain and lower costs," he said.

Using modern wound pharmaceutical products to treat wounds during the 40-week study, savings per nursing home bed equated to almost \$85, Mr Sussman said.

Modern products include foam, gels, films, alginates and hydro-colloids, which are often more expensive to buy per item but cheaper and more effective to use in the long term.

**Spend to save:**  
Mr Geoff Sussman says modern wound care products cost more but save overall.

"Across Australia there are 140,000 nursing home beds, so if we applied these cost savings it would equate to a total reduction of almost \$12 million," he said. "Our results clearly show it is far cheaper to use modern wound pharmaceutical products compared to old-fashioned and traditionally cheaper items like gauze and paraffin tulle."

"We found a one-third reduction of product cost per dressing and, by following standardised procedures, nurses spent one fifth of their usual time dealing with wound care. This proves cost-effective treatment can produce significant cost savings and improve patient outcomes."

Mr Sussman said until now there had been very little data on what it cost to manage wound care patients in Australian aged-care

facilities. "With our ageing population and the increasing demand on aged care facilities, this study shows there are better ways to use staff and provide better care for patients."

In light of these results, Mr Sussman has recommended changes to aged-care policy and produced a protocol template for wound assessment, documentation and treatment in aged-care facilities.

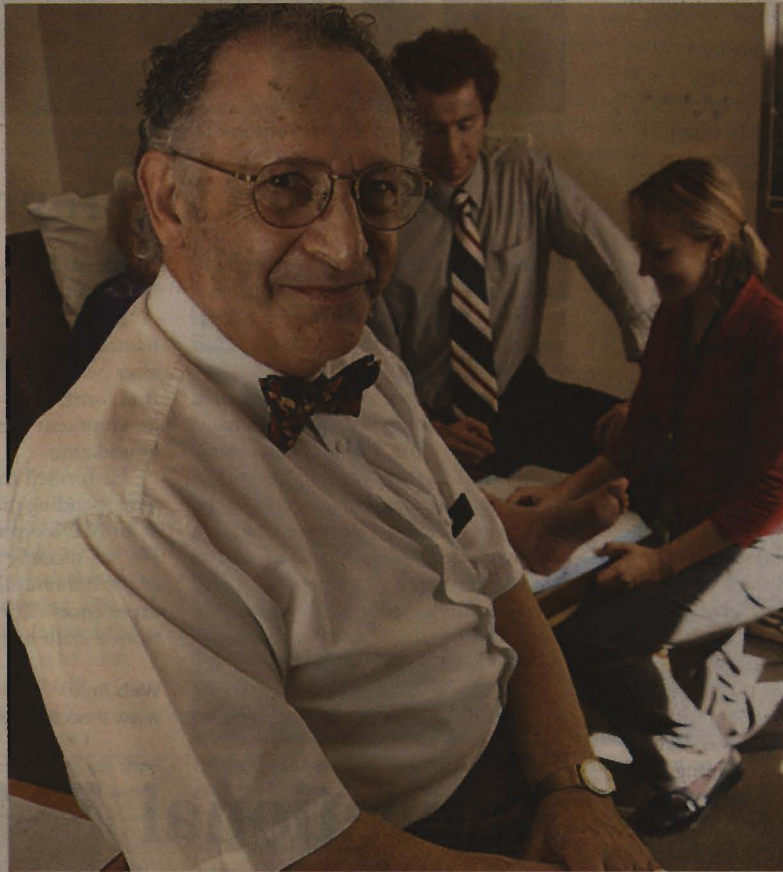
The study was funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing through the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

See wound care feature, page 7.

— Ingrid Sanders

## Contact:

geoff.sussman@vcp.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9903 9619



# Health model a first

Economic modelling

Monash University will use a multi-million dollar government grant to help form the first sophisticated economic model of Australia's health sector.

Funding worth \$3.5 million will be used over five years to build a model that will enable policy-makers to 'road-test' initiatives and plans on paper, not on patients.

Associate Professor Anthony Harris, deputy director of the Centre for Health Economics (CHE) in the Faculty of Business and Economics at Monash, predicted the model would improve efficiency and equity in a sector of the economy that costs billions of dollars a year.

Professor Harris and his team received the grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council. The CHE shares the funding with the Centre for Policy Studies (CoPS) in the Monash Faculty of Business and Economics and the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) at the University of Canberra.

Professor Harris said the model – the first of its kind in Australia – would help fill the apparent gap in sophisticated analysis of economics and finance in the Australian health care sector.

"We will include the component parts of the health system such as pharmaceuticals, hospitals and doctors in the community. We will bring them all together in one model, and that will be new, but also necessary. If you make a change in one sector, it creates changes in the others."

"This way, we are treating the health care system as an integrated sector and as an important part of the overall national economy. "Our health sector model will become part of the suite of existing economic models provided by CoPS and NATSEM. These are used by governments here and overseas to test various economic policy initiatives in other sectors of the economy."

"Our project is an ambitious one, but the vision has been recognised and rewarded through this grant," he said.

The funding is part of more than \$38 million in grants awarded to Monash by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council last month.

See story page 3.



Associate Professor  
Anthony Harris.

— Robyn Anns

## Contact:

anthony.harris@buseco.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9496 4417

# Joining forces to counter terrorism

Security

Monash University and Victoria Police have joined forces to develop counter-terrorism measures that will involve community consultation.

Police chief commissioner Ms Christine Nixon said the collaboration would provide innovative solutions that would enhance police tactics when dealing with security threats.

The project involves Dr Sharon Pickering, Dr David Wright-Neville, Dr Jude McCulloch and Dr Pete Lentini from Monash's School of Political and Social Inquiry in the Faculty of Arts, police, and an advisory committee that includes representatives of media, government and community organisations including the Australian Multicultural Foundation.



**Police listen:** Dr David Wright-Neville discusses the initiative at the launch, while Dr Sharon Pickering and Police Commissioner Ms Christine Nixon look on.

Dr Pickering said the project aimed to strengthen relationships between police and the community, and to consolidate and integrate community policing principles when investigating terrorist threats.

Four research teams will be formed to evaluate existing approaches to terrorism and counter-terrorism measures from the police, community, media and legislative perspectives.

"The teams will provide a strong research-based focus for the police to provide effective responses to terrorism, while maintaining strong relationships with the Victorian community," Dr Pickering said.

The three-year project, 'Counter-terrorism policing and culturally diverse communities', has received almost \$300,000 in funding over three years through an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant.

Ms Nixon expressed confidence in the project. "I have no doubt it will be a forward-thinking strategy that will cater to both policing and community needs, and I congratulate all of those involved in the project," she said.

— Ingrid Sanders

## Contact:

sharon.pickering@arts.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9903 2537



# From the vice-chancellor's desk



A monthly column by the vice-chancellor of Monash University, **Professor Richard Larkins**

As we approach the end of 2004, I would like to reflect on my first 15 months at Monash University and to highlight some of the major achievements for Monash this year.

Let me start by saying that I am more convinced than ever of the potential for Monash University to become a truly great international research-led university. It has areas of excellence in research and scholarship and the critical mass to enable the development of multidisciplinary research teams which alone or in collaboration with other institutions and industry can compete at the highest international level.

We are beginning to realise that our multicampus structure, while producing some administrative complexities, provides particular opportunities both in regional alliances with associated funding and in international links through our developing overseas campuses.

There is a general appreciation of the opportunities presented by the Australian synchrotron at our Clayton campus and the likely development of a science, technology and industry hub around that campus, with the STRIP development playing a central role.

Performance in the NHMRC Program Grant round was outstanding, with Monash achieving the best results Australia-wide by far for the second successive year.

ARC and NHMRC Project Grant outcomes were improved compared with last year, but we have a lot of potential to do much better next year. CRC and Federation Fellow applications look promising, but we will have to await next year to see the outcomes.

In teaching and learning, the outcomes of the Monash Experience

Questionnaire showed us current institution-wide data for the first time on what our students think of their experience. The outcomes, like those of the Course Experience Questionnaire, were satisfactory but again show there is room for improvement, and we are putting steps in place to ensure that we will accomplish this.

The Partners for Advanced Collaboration in Engineering Education, a \$16m program in 3D computer design in the faculties of Art and Design and Engineering, funded by an external industry consortium led by General Motors, showed the potential for external funding of education programs allied with industry. Monash joins a prestigious group of international universities as the only Australian university to be a part of the PACE program.

There have been many awards to staff and students, and it is a little invidious to describe some of these but not others.

The Prime Minister's Science Prize in Life Sciences Award to Dr Jamie Rossjohn from the Department of Biochemistry is particularly significant.

Hugh Evans, a law/science student, was named as the young Australian of the Year at the Australia Day awards and recently was named as one of 12 outstanding young people of the world for his work in establishing the Oaktree Foundation, a philanthropic organisation run entirely by young people aiding community development in developing countries, especially in Africa.

Farnaz Sabet, a medical student, has been named as the Victorian Rhodes Scholar for 2004, the fourth year in a row that a Monash student has received this award.

We have wonderful and committed staff who are proud to work at Monash University. Our student body is diverse and talented and will be the future leaders of communities around the globe.

I feel privileged to be a part of this great institution and look forward to it going from strength to strength in the years ahead.

I thank all the staff for your hard work and support and congratulate the students on your achievements. I wish you all a happy and peaceful festive season and a wonderful year ahead.

— Richard Larkins



A 2004 Outstanding Young Person of the World: Mr Hugh Evans in South Africa.

## Global award for Hugh Evans

Young Australian of the Year and Monash student Mr Hugh Evans has received a prestigious international award for his humanitarian and volunteer leadership.

The law/science student was named one of 12 Outstanding Young Persons of the World for 2004 at an awards ceremony in Japan on 24 November. The award is conferred annually by the Junior Chamber International – a worldwide federation of young leaders and entrepreneurs.

Mr Evans described his award as a great encouragement to all volunteers.

"We believe this will give us the opportunity to take our message across the world – a message that young

people can make a difference in the lives of those in need," he said.

In January this year, Mr Evans was named Young Australian of the Year after he successfully founded Australia's first entirely youth-run aid and development organisation, the Oaktree Foundation.

He formed the organisation in 2003 after spending the previous year working at an AIDS orphanage in South Africa. He has recently released a book, *Stone of the Mountain*, which recounts those experiences. The book title was taken from a Zulu hymn.

— Robyn Anns

Web link:  
www.theoaktree.org

## Educational psychologist heads two centres

### Education

A leading educational psychologist is the new director of two of Monash University's most prominent Faculty of Education research centres.

Professor Dennis Moore, who holds a chair in educational psychology at Monash, now heads the university's Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children and the Elwyn Morey Child Study Centre in the Education faculty at the Clayton campus.

He took up the new positions on 1 November; the centres' previous director, Associate Professor David Harvey, will retire at the end of the year.

After training in his native New Zealand, Professor Moore taught at the University of PNG from 1979 until 1985 – the final two years in the education research unit.

From there he moved to the University of Auckland as associate professor in the Department of Education. He was also director of the university's training program for education psychology and was involved in a three-university consortium that trained resource teachers in learning and behaviour.

"Throughout my career I have been a practitioner, researcher and teacher in education psychology, particularly in special education," he said. "During the last seven years, I have been increasingly involved in research and support of inclusive education, and have worked on strategies to help teachers cater for the diverse student population we face in the education system today.

"For instance, a large number of non-English-speaking students have arrived in schools in Australia and New Zealand in recent years, and that presents an interesting challenge to those education systems."

Professor Moore said the modern concept of inclusive education was concerned with catering for the needs of all students.

"It is one of the roles of the Krongold Centre to help advance that concept," he said.

The Krongold Centre conducts research in educational and developmental psychology, psychological counselling and special education.

The Elwyn Morey Centre provides early childhood intervention programs and services for young children, and their families, with significant developmental delays and disabilities.

"I am also interested in the work of the Elwyn Morey Centre because I have a particular interest in working with children who have pervasive developmental disorders or disabilities – particularly helping children with autism – and assisting their parents," Professor Moore said.

"I have been involved in a number of research projects over the past eight years concerned with teaching autistic children and have recently completed an evaluation of a UK-based support program for parents of children with autism."

— Robyn Anns

Contact:  
dennis.moore@education.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9905 0706

## Crash barriers for risky roads

### Accident research

Victoria's road toll could be dramatically reduced through the continued installation of flexible roadside barriers on high-risk roads, according to Monash University research.

A new Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) report reveals nearly four out of every 10 road deaths are the result of collisions with objects along the roadside.

"Fatal and serious injuries from collisions with fixed roadside hazards are the single largest component of road trauma in Victoria," said MUARC senior research fellow Mr Bruce Corben.

"In rural Victoria, over half of all road deaths involve vehicles leaving the road, resulting in collisions with trees, poles or rock embankments, or in vehicle rollovers."

Mr Corben pinpointed seven routes in Victoria, totalling 673 kilometres in length, where 425 serious casualty run-off-road crashes have occurred during the past five years.

"These are the roads that should be a major focus of any programs aimed at reducing trauma due to roadside design and other features," he said.

MUARC has assessed the costs and benefits of installing barriers along high-risk Victorian roads including the Princes Freeway from the West Gate Freeway to Geelong, the Calder Freeway from the Western Ring Road to Bendigo, and the Princes Freeway east from Hallam to Traralgon.

The research, which was commissioned by VicRoads, was presented at the 2004 Road Safety, Research, Policing and Education Conference in Perth last month.

Mr Corben said MUARC's recommendation was supported by Swedish research that showed flexible safety barriers could cut run-off-road crashes by 90 per cent.

"Barriers seem to provide a genuine solution to roadside safety problems along otherwise high-standard roads," he said.

"And given that run-off-road crashes tend to occur somewhat randomly along many routes, placing barriers along substantial lengths of road is needed to combat road trauma, rather than an approach based solely on where crashes have occurred in the past."

The Victorian Minister for Transport, Mr Peter Batchelor, said safety barriers, including flexible barriers, were already being used along lengths of Victorian roads and highways.

He said sections of road with the highest run-off crash risk were receiving priority, and the technology had already been introduced on lengths of Victorian highways including the Hume Highway, Western Highway and the Princes Freeway to Geelong.

— Allison Harding

Contact:  
bruce.corben@general.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9905 4375

Christmas Entertaining  
Try a Bayview private room or our lovely gardens

## Bayview Conference Centre

10 minutes walk from Monash Clayton campus

Visit our website:  
[www.bayviewconferencecentre.com](http://www.bayviewconferencecentre.com)

### Bayview facilities include:

- 20 Meeting rooms that seat from 8 to 200 people
- Lecture theatre with 8 breakout rooms
- Bayview employed Chef and Kitchen staff
- Accommodation available

### Bayview Avenue, Clayton

Tel: 9544 5933 Fax: 9544 1903  
Email: [enquire@bviewcc.com.au](mailto:enquire@bviewcc.com.au)  
[conferences@bviewcc.com.au](mailto:conferences@bviewcc.com.au)



# Coastal towns should brace for retiree wave

## Community planning

Many of Victoria's coastal towns will have to upgrade their infrastructure and facilities within the next 20 years to cope with a predicted influx of ageing seachangers, a Monash University academic has found.

Dr Warwick Frost, of the Faculty of Business and Economics, said councils would struggle to meet the expectations of retirees moving into their holiday homes.

"I suggest the local councils of those areas examine their existing services and infrastructure, to start work now on what needs to be improved and expanded for the future," said Dr Frost, a lecturer in the faculty's Department of Management. "This will help avoid a situation where, within about 20 years, they could be overwhelmed by demands they cannot meet or fund."



**Under a cloud:** coastal towns face increased spending on infrastructure.

**Photo: Newspix**

As part of a study into the role of second homes in domestic tourism, Dr Frost looked at the 70-to-200 kilometre belt of towns, containing about 15,000 holiday houses, stretching along the coast on either side of Melbourne. His findings were detailed in a chapter written by him for the book *Second Homes in South-Eastern Australia*.

Dr Frost said many 'second home' towns were poorly serviced because they catered for seasonal population peaks. But he said this situation would soon change, as more retirees sold their suburban family homes to settle in their second homes.

"The nature of Melbourne's second-home belt, and the seachange movement of retirees, could produce a real dilemma for government planners," he said.

Dr Frost highlighted Venus Bay, a small town about 170 kilometres south-east of Melbourne, as an example. "In the 1996 census, the town's resident population was listed as 385, with 978 private homes, 795 of which were unoccupied in mid-winter. There were also 2000 vacant blocks zoned for residential development," he said.

"Venus Bay had four real estate agents and two restaurants but no petrol station, post office, bank, school, doctor, water supply, sewage system or rubbish collection service.

"But as the town grows and experiences demographic changes, there will be greater demand for local government expenditure. At some stage, population pressure will force the local government to introduce a town sewerage system to replace the existing septic tanks.

"And as the resident population consists mainly of retirees, and more can be expected to move to Venus Bay, there is likely to be a strong future demand for medical and other services for the aged.

"Also, the recent property boom, which has seen property prices double across the board in two years, may also have changed expectations of what services should be available in the town. The question is: who will pay for increased amenities and will the funding be generated through increased rates and taxes?"

**- Robyn Anns**

### Contact:

warwick.frost@buseco.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9904 7042

# Asthma plans need (the same) perspective

## Medical research

Treatment plans for asthma sufferers could be compromised because the patients and their doctors may have a different understanding of the term 'asthma attack', a Monash University study has found.

In the study, a multidisciplinary team of researchers, funded by the Cooperative Research Centre for Asthma, interviewed 62 men and women who had sought treatment for asthma in Australian emergency departments over a one-year period.

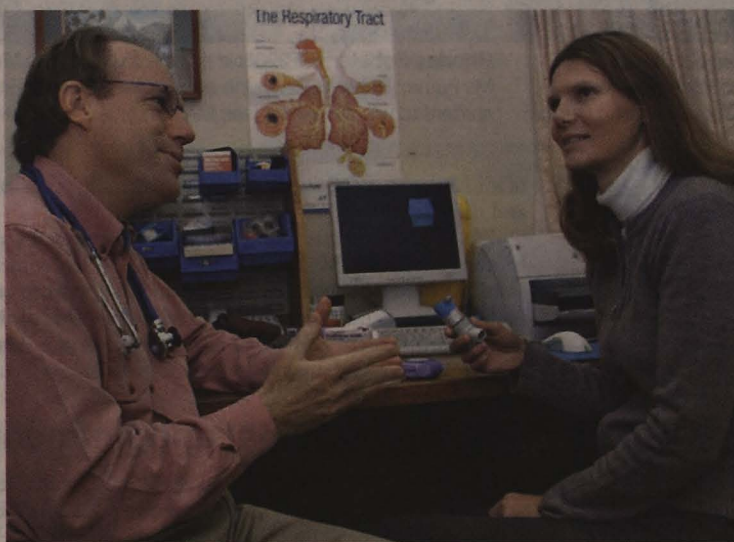
Dr Rosalie Aroni, the team's health sociologist from the Monash Institute of Health Services Research, said optimal clinical care relied on clinicians and patients

knowing they were talking about the same thing. "In our study, we set out to investigate the experiences and perceptions of people living with asthma," she said. "We learned that people had differing ideas of what constituted an asthma attack.

"A key finding was that interviewees defined asthma as 'major' or 'minor' depending on the degree of personal control they were able to exercise at the time of an episode."

Dr Aroni said the issue was crucial because major epidemiological asthma studies nearly always posed the question: how many attacks of asthma have you had in the past 12 months?

"These epidemiological studies of chronic disease influence national and international public health planning and investment, so we need



**Shared understanding:** Doctor-patient communication is vital for an effective asthma action plan.

**Photo: Newspix**

to ensure we are using the correct terminology," she said. "If we don't know what a person means when they use the term 'asthma attack', we might have clinicians and people with asthma having difficulty producing an effective asthma action plan in partnership."

The study, published in the latest *Journal of Asthma*, grew out of a

broader study into the experiences of people with asthma, led by Associate Professor Jo Douglass, who is based at the Department of Allergy, Immunology and Respiratory Medicine at The Alfred hospital.

**- Allison Harding**

### Contact:

rosalie.aroni@med.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9594 7561

# Monash research wins \$38 million in grants

Monash University researchers have received more than \$38 million in grants, awarded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC) in November.

The funding includes \$4.5 million in ARC Linkage Project Grants and \$15.9 million in ARC Discovery Project Grants, as well as \$14.7 million in NHMRC Project Grants and \$3.5 million in NHMRC Health Service Research Grants.

Twenty-nine Monash projects received \$14.7 million in funding as part of the \$222 million provided by the NHMRC to researchers across Australia to boost research into major health problems including cancer and heart disease.

Projects receiving funding under the NHMRC grant scheme this year include a project on fatigue, attention and sleep disturbance after traumatic brain injury; an investigation into the factors that regulate blood clot formation; risk prediction in coronary heart disease; and developing a common outcome measure for priority-setting in health.

In addition to the project grants, Associate Professor Anthony Harris, deputy director of the Centre for Health Economics in the Faculty of Business and Economics, and his team received a \$3.5 million Health Services Research Grant for its project modelling the economics of the Australian health care system for policy analysis.

The project is a collaboration between the Centre for Health Economics and the Centre of Policy Studies and will look into the economics of health as an industry, as well as the impact of health on the national economy.

Of the \$381 million awarded nationally by the ARC, Monash received \$15.9 million in Discovery Project Grants for 69 projects and \$4.5 million in Linkage Project Grants for 17 projects.

The funding is a \$1.5 million increase on ARC grants received at the same time last year.

Funding was received for a diverse range of projects including a project intended to develop and test cost-effective tools for use in exploration of buried mineral deposits; a study into fan behaviour and management in basketball; and improved processes for the automatic inspection and classification of fruit.

Monash deputy vice-chancellor (research) Professor Edwina Cornish congratulated all grant recipients.

"The scope of projects receiving funding this year emphasises the diverse range of areas Monash staff are working in," she said. "All staff should feel proud of their success."

**- Diane Squires**

# Light on diabetes

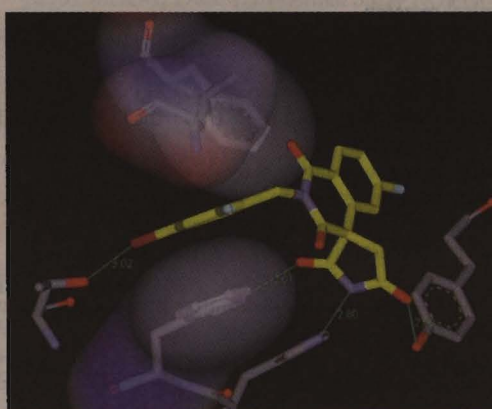
## Pharmacy

A Monash University researcher has moved one step closer to finding drugs that successfully treat the complications of Type 1 and 2 diabetes such as kidney disease, eye damage or heart problems.

Dr Ossama El-Kabbani, from the Victorian College of Pharmacy, has developed crystal samples of aldose reductase, a human enzyme implicated in those conditions.

Then, by using a synchrotron in Switzerland, Dr El-Kabbani has produced detailed images of the enzyme reacting with two experimental diabetes medications.

"This research has allowed us to take the enzyme from a test-tube



A detailed image of the aldose reductase enzyme reacting with two different drugs. It shows contact between a drug and the enzyme, with polar (green lines) or surface contacts corresponding to zones of excluded water.

the successful Swiss experiment would benefit diabetics around the world, including one million Australians.

The research, part of an international collaboration involving universities and drug companies in Germany, France, Japan, Switzerland and the US, has recently been reported in the journal *Proteins*.

**- Ingrid Sanders**

### Contact:

ossama.el-kabbani@vcp.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9903 9691

environment to mimic how drugs work in the body," he said. "The work on the enzyme will enable researchers to refine and improve drugs used to treat complications associated with diabetes."

Dr El-Kabbani said he planned further research at the Australian Synchrotron at Monash, when it is completed in 2007. He said results from



**Leading the way:** Dr Ossama El-Kabbani.  
**Photo by:** Melissa Di Ciero

# Monash to enhance online news and information

As of January 2005, the Monash University Media Communications Unit will strengthen its web-based news and information service.

The aim is to provide a central, online source for all Monash news and information – for staff, students, the media and the public – and to make the Monash news portal the best university news site in Australia.

This improved online resource, which is compatible with the university's green policy on saving paper, also aims to better meet the needs

of a multi-campus organisation with bases in various countries.

By focusing more on online communications, the unit will be able to:

- provide better, more convenient and more timely communications for major internal and external stakeholders;
- maximise media exposure for Monash research and educational efforts; and
- take advantage of the fact that, more than ever, journalists are using the web as a news source.

A redesigned news site will provide the latest Monash news and research stories, university announcements, media releases, access to the Monash experts database, an archiving service of media mentions and a register of coming events. The site will be updated daily.

Given these developments, the December *Monash News* will be the final printed edition.

*Monash Memo* will not be affected by the changes and will continue to be emailed to all staff on Wednesdays.





**Industry links:** Professor Tam Sridhar (left), dean of the Engineering Faculty, and Professor John Redmond, dean of the Faculty of Art and Design, welcome the university's alliance with PACE (see Art and Design).



**Rhodes Scholar for 2005:** medicine student Ms Farnaz Sabet is the fourth successive Monash student to win the award (see Medicine).



**Meeting demand:** Monash vice-chancellor Professor Richard Larkins, Business and Economics faculty dean Professor Gill Palmer and Monash GSB director Professor Owen Hughes at the school's launch (see Business and Economics).

## BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

### Business school – newest, biggest, best

Monash University has met the increasing demand for postgraduate business training by opening Australia's newest and largest business school.

The school, which opened in October, was formed through a restructure and re-packaging of the university's suite of existing research and graduate degrees, including the MBA.

### Nobel Laureate joins Economics department

Professor Kenneth J. Arrow of Stanford University in the US joined the Department of Economics as an honorary professor.

In 1972, Professor Arrow and Sir John R. Hicks shared the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences, awarded in memory of Alfred Nobel, for their contributions to general economic equilibrium theory and welfare theory.

Department head Professor Tony Dingle said Professor Arrow had paved the way for generations of academics and students in the economic sciences, particularly general equilibrium and social choice theories. He is also credited with major works in the areas of growth theory and decision theory.

## ART AND DESIGN

### Monash joins international collaboration with PACE

Monash became the first university in Australia to join forces with Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education (PACE).

The \$16 million alliance involves the university's Engineering and Art and Design faculties, which will gain access to leading software and hardware for 3D solid modelling, 3D plant layout, computer-assisted engineering/simulation, computer-aided

manufacturing, product data management, digital collaboration and digital styling.

PACE – a corporate alliance since 1999 between General Motors, EDS, Sun Microsystems and UGS – has contributed software, hardware, training and technical support to schools such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Michigan State, Northwestern and Virginia Tech, as well as institutions in Canada, China, Germany, Mexico and Sweden.

### Top international appointment

Internationally respected artist and academic Claudia Terstappen was appointed professor of fine arts, based at Caulfield campus. Professor Terstappen completed a masters degree in fine arts (sculpture) at Staatliche Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany.

Over the past 20 years, she has established an extensive exhibition record, and her works are held in public and private collections around the world. She has won numerous prizes and awards for her work and has lectured at some of the world's most recognised art schools, including Oxford University's Ruskin School of Art and the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, US.

## CHEMISTRY

### Medal for top researcher

Professor Alan Bond was awarded the prestigious Craig Medal by the Australian Academy of Science in May for his outstanding work in chemical research.

The Craig Medal is an annual award that recognises high-level contributions by active researchers.

Professor Bond, who came to Monash in 1995 as chair of chemistry, was this year appointed the RL Martin Distinguished Professor of Chemistry.

He is a world leader in building state-of-the-art instrumentation that can be used in environmental, industrial and research settings. The instrumentation underpins a number of current research projects funded by the Australian Research Council.

Professor Bond is involved in collaborative projects with many Australian and overseas universities.

## ARTS

### Premier's Award for arts academic

Associate Professor Bain Attwood from Monash's School of Historical Studies was awarded a \$15,000 prize in the New South Wales Premier's History Awards for his book *Rights for Aborigines*, published last year.

The book details a century-long struggle for rights for Aborigines in Australia and tracks the ever-changing perceptions of race and history.

Publisher Allen & Unwin says the book broke new ground in documenting the close relationship that has developed between Indigenous political leaders, white activists and humanitarians on both sides in the struggle against racial discrimination.

### Arts professor appointed to prestigious academy

The director of Monash's Australian Centre for the Study of Jewish Civilisation, Professor Andrew Markus, was appointed to the Academy of the Social Sciences.

Professor Markus is the second academic from the School of Historical Studies to be inducted into the academy, joining colleague Professor Graeme Davison.

The internationally recognised academy is an Australian body that promotes research and the advancement of the social sciences.

Professor Markus commenced at Monash in 1984 and has held a variety of roles within the Arts faculty at Clayton campus. He took up his current position as centre director in 2001.

## EDUCATION

### Electronic education for Chile

Monash University education senior lecturer Dr Geoff Romeo this year conducted a series of lectures and workshops in Chile to demonstrate the benefits of information and communication technologies in schools.

At universities in Santiago and Concepcion, he demonstrated best-practice use of computers, the internet, intranets and other electronic and digital communication technologies in schools.

## LAW

### Gala dinner marks faculty's 40th anniversary

The 40th anniversary of the Monash Law faculty was marked with a gala dinner in August, attended by hundreds of past and present students and staff.

Initiatives over the 40 years include establishing the Springvale Monash Legal Service, the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law and the Centre for Privatisation and Public Accountability.

## MEDICINE

### PM award for young scientist

Monash researcher Dr Jamie Rossjohn, the head of the university's Protein Crystallography Unit, received the Science Minister's Prize for Life Scientist of the Year award for his contribution to science. Presented to a scientist of 35 years or younger, the

## mecu home loans, smarter by far

If you're thinking of buying or re-financing a home this Spring, then choosing mecu could be the smartest move you'll ever make.

Our \$250k+ Home Loan offers a low rate of just 6.55% p.a. (Comparison Rate 6.59% p.a.)\* and also includes:

- no monthly fees
- the option to pause your loan repayments during maternity and paternity leave\*
- 12 months worth of Allianz building and contents insurance for the price of 11 months!

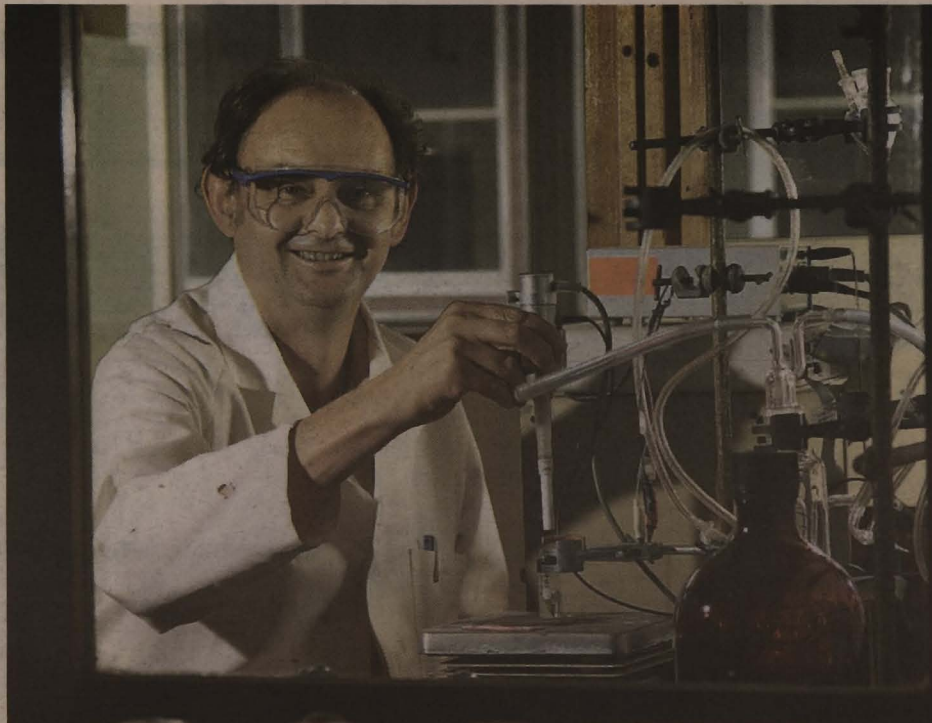
make a smart move™  
call 132 888 or visit [mecu.com.au](http://mecu.com.au).

**me&u**  
intelligent banking

\* Offer valid to members who take out an mecu home loan between 1 July and 30 November 2004. You should consult the Product Disclosure Statement for each product and the Financial Services Guide before making a decision to apply for products with mecu. \* Variable rates are subject to change at any time. The Comparison Rate is based on a secured loan of \$150,000 for 25 years. A Comparison Rate Schedule is available at the premises from mecu by calling 132 888, visiting [mecu.com.au](http://mecu.com.au) or your local service centre. Warning: The Comparison rate applies only to the example given. Different amounts and terms will result in different Comparison rates. Cost such as redraw fees, early repayment fees, and cost savings such as fee waivers, are not included in the Comparison rate but may influence the cost of the loan. Loans subject to normal lending criteria and approval. Terms, conditions, fees and charges apply and are available on application. Loan repayment pause – repayments may be paused for up to three months or reduced by 50% for up to six months. Members and Education Credit Union Limited ABN 21 067 651 607 • AFSL 238431

**6.59% p.a.**  
**\$250k+ Home Loan**





**Winning formula:** Professor Alan Bond was awarded the prestigious Craig Medal by the Australian Academy of Science in May for his outstanding work in chemical research (see Chemistry).



**Life Scientist of the Year:** Dr Jamie Rossjohn (see Science).



**Next generation:** Dr Barrie Finnin demonstrates spray-on drug delivery (see Pharmacy).

award acknowledges Dr Rossjohn's work in the areas of structural biology and x-ray crystallography. He is one of Australia's leading scientists and has more than 50 publications and several patents to his name.

X-ray crystallography is a technology-driven field of science that seeks to better understand the shape and function of proteins and other biological molecules.

## 2005 Rhodes Scholar

Final-year year medicine student Ms Farnaz Sabet became the fourth successive Monash student to be awarded the prestigious Victorian Rhodes Scholarship.

The 2005 Victorian Rhodes Scholar plans to take up her scholarship at Oxford University in 2006, where she will undertake a masters program in development studies.

The 24-year-old had been awarded the medicine Faculty Prize every year in her first three years at Monash, and the VCE Premier's Awards in English and Chemistry in 1997.

Previous Monash Rhodes Scholars include Mr Lucas Bluff (2004), Ms Geraldine Buckingham (2003) and Mr Nathan Grills (2002).

## SCIENCE

### PM award for ASIRC at Gippsland

Prime Minister John Howard awarded a \$98,000 grant to the Australian Sustainable Industry Research Centre (ASIRC) based at Monash's Gippsland campus during a visit to the region in April. ASIRC general manager Dr Paul Brown said the grant was being used to develop construction products from brown coal fly ash, an unused waste product of the energy generation in the Latrobe Valley.

"Construction materials with a fly ash content have the potential to be cheaper and more energy-efficient than conventional materials," he said. "Research indicates the technology will have application in lightweight construction, internal wall and ceiling panels, and acoustic insulation products."

ASIRC was founded in 2002 by Monash University, Gippsland Water, and the Cooperative Research Centre for Waste Management and Pollution Control (NSW) to develop sustainable solutions for the management of resources, waste and the environment.

## PHARMACY

### Malaria breakthrough

A new synthetic drug nicknamed Oz, developed by an international team, including researchers from Monash University, has been described as the biggest breakthrough of our generation in malaria treatment.

Professor Bill Charman from the Victorian College of Pharmacy said the drug was set to become the major weapon in the fight against multi-drug resistant malaria and could be available within three years. "Being cheap and easy to manufacture, it will be available to even the poorest nations, giving it the potential to save millions of lives," he said.

The project is an international effort by researchers from Monash University, the University of Nebraska, the Swiss Tropical Institute and Hoffmann-LaRoche, who have been working on the project since the late 1990s.

### The \$13m spray-on drug deal

A company created after researchers in Monash's Faculty of Pharmacy invented a method for delivering drugs through the skin secured a multi-million dollar deal to develop its drug delivery system for treating female sexual dysfunction and menopause.

Acrux Pty Ltd secured the US\$13.3 million deal with VIVUS Inc, a world leader in the research, development and commercialisation of products to restore sexual function.

Acrux Metered Dose Transdermal Spray technology was developed after Dr Barrie Finnin and Professor Barry Reed in the Department of Pharmaceutics discovered that sunscreens increase the penetration of compounds through the skin. Acrux was established in 1998 so that the transdermal spray technology could be licensed from Monash University. "The technology is the next generation of drug delivery," said Dr Finnin.

## MATERIALS ENGINEERING

### New cancer weapon

Ms Kathryn Spiers, a PhD student in Monash's School of Physics and Materials Engineering, is manufacturing microspheres – tiny beads no bigger than a speck of dust that could become the new

weapon in the fight against liver cancer. Thousands of radioactive and magnetic microspheres are injected into the hepatic artery, the main blood supply for the liver.

They are picked up by the blood flow and eventually lodge in the malignant cells of the liver tumours. A magnetic field is then applied to the body to heat the magnetic microspheres, which works to damage the cancer cells. The procedure, to be trialled in association with researchers from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Austin Hospital, could replace the need for surgery.

## MUARC

### Middle East road safety push

Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Arab Emirates University in March following regular visits by the centre's researchers over several years.

MUARC is helping to establish a Traffic Safety Research Centre at the university's main campus in Al Ain. The chair of road safety, Professor Brian Fildes, said one of the first tasks was to establish reliable data on the number and types of crashes that lead to injuries and death on the roads there.

### New approach needed for young drivers

A MUARC review of licensing systems throughout Western countries revealed that vulnerable young drivers worldwide needed more initial supervision and support.

The research showed that gradually introducing different driving conditions to new drivers could be the key to reducing their chances of becoming crash statistics.

The VicRoads-commissioned study showed several initiatives had a clear association on crash reduction, including increasing the minimum learner period and night driving and peer passenger restrictions.

## PRATO

### New director

Dr Annamaria Pagliaro, a specialist in Italian studies, was appointed the new academic director of the Monash University Prato Centre.

She commences her appointment on 1 January 2005, taking over from the centre's founding director, Professor Bill Kent, who stepped down from the role in October.

Dr Pagliaro, who is convenor of Italian studies in Monash's School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics at Clayton campus, has had a long association with the Prato centre.

She was a member of the first working party formed to study the feasibility of establishing the centre, and in recent years she had delivered courses there.

## MONASH MALAYSIA

### New medical school

A School of Medicine and Health Sciences will be established at Monash Malaysia campus.

The school will offer the undergraduate medical course Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MB BS) from 2005, but for the first two years students will study through the Clayton campus while the new Malaysia campus is being built in Bandar Sunway.

The medical school will complement the School of Business, School of Information Technology, School of Engineering and School of Arts and Sciences at the Malaysia campus.



**Anniversary distinguished alumni:** From left, Victoria's Chief Magistrate Mr Ian Gray; Victorian Solicitor-General Ms Pamela Tate; Monash Law dean Professor Arie Freiberg; Chief Judge of the County Court His Honour Chief Judge Michael Rozenes; Chief Justice of Victoria The Hon. Justice Marilyn Warren; and President of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal The Hon. Justice Stuart Morris (see Law).



## INPRINT



## The Young Cosima

By Henry Handel Richardson

Edited by Clive Probyn and Bruce Steele

Published by Australian Scholarly Publishing

RRP: \$39.95

This scholarly edition of *The Young Cosima*, first published in 1939, presents for the first time an accurate text, an extensive introduction, notes, and Richardson's essay of 1930, originally titled 'Cosima as daughter and wife'.

In this novel, Richardson chronicles the life of Cosima, the youngest daughter of Franz Liszt, and one of the most remarkable women of her time. Ms Richardson chooses the turbulent, crucial period (1855–68) from Cosima's engagement and marriage to the neurotic musical genius Hans von Bülow, until her painful, inevitable abandonment of him to live with Richard Wagner.

Clive Probyn is professor of English in the School of Literary, Visual and Performance Studies in the Faculty of Arts. Associate Professor Bruce Steele is an honorary associate in the same school.

Stone of the Mountain  
The Hugh Evans Story

By Hugh Evans

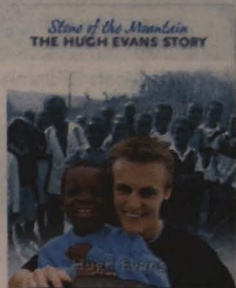
Published by Lothian Books

RRP: \$34.95

*Stone of the Mountain* is the story of Monash student Mr Hugh Evans who, aged 19, travelled to South Africa on an international volunteer mission to provide healthcare education and supplies to children living in brutal poverty.

The book details Mr Evans' work at God's Golden Acre, a home for children orphaned by AIDS or violence, who have been abandoned or have suffered sexual abuse. It tells of his struggle with bureaucracy, poverty and ignorance as he worked to introduce a child sponsorship program, help provide food parcels to orphaned households, present talks to school students about AIDS, and many other projects. During this period, the author formed deep and lifelong friendships, and was given the Zulu name Itshelentaba, meaning Stone of the Mountain, recognising his steadfast commitment, patience and determination.

A Monash law/science student, Mr Evans is the current Young Australian of the Year who was recently named one of 12 Outstanding Young Persons of the World for 2004 by a worldwide federation of young leaders and entrepreneurs.

Corporations and Transnational  
Human Rights Litigation  
Human Rights Law in Perspective

By Sarah Joseph

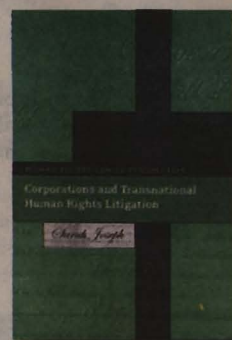
Published by Hart Publishing

RRP: \$75

This book is an impressive and balanced assessment of the law and practice which recognises the potential and limits of transnational litigation. Dr Joseph analyses the role of human rights litigation in challenging the actions of such corporations and offers guidance on the nature, scope and limitation of this form of legal action.

The debate is put in context by highlighting the power of the large corporations and the difficulties individuals or groups face in taking the path of litigation. The author explores various formal and informal methods for holding corporations to account, and her book will be of interest to individuals seeking redress and to corporations wishing to manage risk.

Dr Sarah Joseph is a senior lecturer in law at Monash University and an associate director of the university's Castan Centre for Human Rights Law.



## POSTscript

## Bidasari

## Jewel of Malay Muslim Culture

By Julian Millie

Published by KITLV Press, Holland

RRP: approx \$60

The wit and eroticism of the verse genre known as *romantic syair* were staple fare in Southeast Asian culture during the 18th and 19th centuries, especially in the Malay Islamic regional centres. Yet few examples survive, and academic texts on the poems are rare. In this book, the author conveys the seductive qualities of the most erotic of the romantic *syair*, the 'Poem of Bidasari'.

Few Malay works have been loved and disseminated as extensively as the *Syair Bidasari*; it has been translated into other languages of the region and adapted for the Malay theatre and cinema. In this book, the author provides a transliteration into Roman characters of one of the surviving Malay manuscripts of the poem, a translation of that manuscript into English, and an inquiry into the poem's virtues.

Julian Millie teaches in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics in Monash's Faculty of Arts at Berwick campus. KITLV Press specialises in literatures of the Malay/Indonesian world.

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

• Caulfield +61 3 9571 3277 • Clayton +61 3 9905 3111  
• Gippsland +61 3 5122 1771 • Peninsula +61 3 9783 6932

www.monash.edu.au

## New Monash exhibitions



John Meade: 'Black Duo: Self-portrait as Mary Magdalene, and Nude with Pitchfork 2004.' Courtesy the artist and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne.

The playful, theatrical sculptures of Melbourne artist John Meade and a selection of significant and treasured works from the Monash University Collection are featured in two new exhibitions at the Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) on the university's Clayton campus.

*Incident in the Museum 2: John Meade* features new work by the artist, who recently returned from a year's research in New York where he enjoyed a prestigious Anne and Gordon Samstag Visual Arts Scholarship.

The Mead exhibition involves a trilogy of sculptural works that have been displayed using a specially designed light installation. The centrepiece is a dramatic new work that he completed in New York. Titled 'Black Duo: Self-portrait as Mary Magdalene, and Nude with Pitchfork 2004', it depicts an aberrant upright figure, loosely based on Renaissance artist Donatello's Magdalene, accompanied by another abstract, reclining motif.

The *Incident in the Museum* series is an occasional program of newly commissioned exhibitions, projects and events by contemporary artists.

*Before Night – After Nature, Selected Works From the Monash University Collection* takes as its starting

point Domenico de Clario's powerful Night Paintings of 1972–77. These evocative works study various aspects of the landscape at night.

"The exhibition considers the complex associations between night, shadows, fear, the landscape and the self," explained MUMA curator Ms Geraldine Barlow.

The exhibition also features key works by Susan Norrie, John Perceval, Mike Parr and Ricky Swallow.

– Ros White

## Show notes

**What:** *Incident in the Museum 2 John Meade and Before Night – After Nature, Selected Works From the Monash University Collection.*

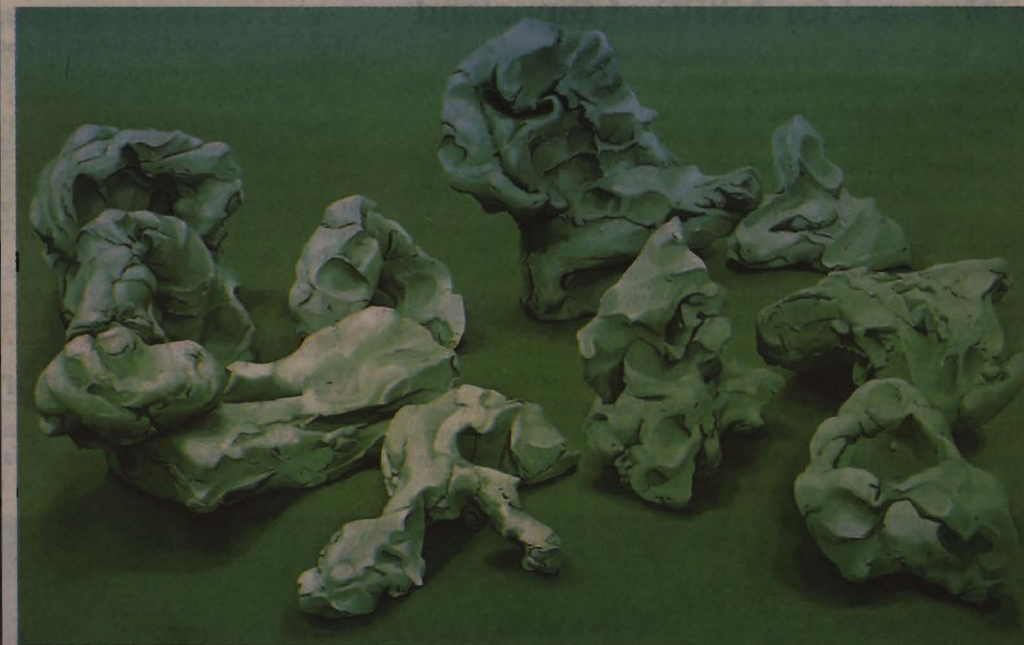
**When:** Both exhibitions run until Saturday 17 December and then from 1 February until 24 March 2005.

**Opening hours:** Tuesdays to Fridays 10 am to 5 pm, Saturdays 2–5 pm.

**Where:** Monash University Museum of Art, building 55, Monash University, Clayton campus

**Who:** For more information, contact +61 3 9905 4217, email [muma@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:muma@adm.monash.edu.au), or visit [www.monash.edu.au/muma](http://www.monash.edu.au/muma).

**Cost:** Entry is free.



Stephen Bus: Verde Cromo 2001, featured in *Before Night – After Nature*.

## Schools

## Change of Preference

A reminder to all students who recently finished Year 12 that the Change of Preference period is just around the corner. Once students have received their ENTERs, Monash will provide opportunities to speak to faculty representatives at Change of Preference information sessions.

## Gippsland region

Tuesday 14 December, 3 pm to 6 pm  
Edison Mission room, building 5 N  
Gippsland campus

## Metropolitan region

Wednesday 15 December, 10 am to 2 pm  
South one lecture theatre, building 64  
Clayton campus

For further information about Change of Preference sessions at Monash University, visit [www.monash.edu.au/cop/](http://www.monash.edu.au/cop/).

## Christmas/New Year shutdown

Monash University will close over the Christmas/New Year period from Wednesday 22 December and will re-open on Tuesday, 4 January 2005.

## Important dates 2005

Students who are offered a place to study at Monash University in 2005 are reminded of the following important dates:

■ Round one VTAC enrolments – 24 to 28 January

■ Orientation – 21 to 25 February

■ Semester one commences – 28 February



# Champion of an unglamorous cause



As a trained nurse, the Wound Foundation of Australia's Jan Rice fully appreciates the importance of wound care in patient recovery. She also knows it is a subject that is often overlooked, but, as Ingrid Sanders reports, this has not dampened her enthusiasm.

As manager of education and clinical services for the Wound Foundation of Australia, Jan Rice is well aware that wound care is often the poor relation of medicine.

Its Cinderella status makes it a hard sell when it comes to obtaining funding for research and improvements, but that doesn't deter the trained nurse and midwife, who has championed the cause throughout her 30-year career.

Ms Rice has worked for the foundation since its establishment as a federally funded, independent body in 1993. In 2000, it became part of Monash University's Department of Pharmacy Practice at the Victorian College of Pharmacy.

Through the foundation, Ms Rice has educated more than half a million people in the intricacies of wound care and treated even more patients, as part of its charter to provide care and undertake research.

Improved wound care is her passion. In fact, she cheerfully admits she will talk about wound care management to anyone who will listen. Her team has educated general practitioners, nurses, occupational therapists and carers in regional and metropolitan areas across Australia.

However, Ms Rice says wound care is frequently pushed to one side and too easily forgotten. She has often encountered resistance as she tries to spread the word about developments in wound care and the importance of looking after the skin.

"Doctors readily accept new technology and embrace it with open arms, but with wound management it is sometimes difficult to persuade them that modern practices need

to replace the traditional and often painful dressings of years gone by," she said.

"We really try to educate doctors and health practitioners in the importance of using modern pharmaceutical products and to get them to move away from the old-style gauze and bandage products.

"The problem with wound management is that it doesn't win you a Nobel Prize. I have never understood why we spend the most money on the heart – the smallest organ in the body – but the least on our largest organ – the skin. There is a cardiac unit in almost every hospital but we don't invest nearly enough on encouraging and educating people about their skin."

Acknowledged as one of the world's top experts on wound care, Ms Rice regularly presents seminars on the Australian and international speaking circuits, spreading the word on the importance of proper wound management techniques.

An average week can include a four-day course in the country Victorian town of Horsham, a visit to Alice Springs in central Australia and a presentation in New Zealand.

She said prevention was also an important aspect of the foundation's work, particularly with an ageing population. "The key to maintaining healthy skin is to moisturise and protect – inside and out. Drink plenty of water

and buy a moisturiser with few preservatives and no perfume – and apply it every day."

She said many of her patients were over 65 and it was obvious they hadn't thought about protecting their skin when they were younger. "Especially in old age, wounds can be debilitating and painful, but many of us don't think about it until it is too late."

To find out more about the Wound Foundation of Australia, go to [www.vcp.monash.edu.au/wfa](http://www.vcp.monash.edu.au/wfa).

– Ingrid Sanders

**Contact:**  
jan.rice@vcp.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9903 9123

*"I have never understood why we spend the most money on the heart – the smallest organ in the body – but the least on our largest organ – the skin."*

#### Education is the key:

Over the past 10 years, Ms Rice estimates that through the Wound Foundation of Australia, she has educated more than half a million people in the intricacies of wound care and treated thousands more.

Photo: Greg Ford







Impressive type: Mr Magnus Bjørk. Photo: Simon Nicol

# Student is the bold type

## Visual communication

A Monash University design student has made a lasting impression in the world of print by designing a striking new typeface.

Final-year Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication) student Mr Magnus Bjørk has created DACO – a font he describes as “a contemporary-style typeface mixed with art deco”.

DACO was released in Norway in August, to immediate commercial success. Two of the country's major design firms have already bought the font, and there are plans to sell DACO to type foundries in Europe and the US.

Mr Bjørk who is from Norway but completed his degree at Monash's Caulfield campus, has a passion for typography.

His journey to become a typeface designer began when he undertook an assessment project as part of the

‘Digital font design’ unit in 2003.

While working on the project, he contacted a Norwegian type foundry, Luth – a division of FontShop – which expressed interest in selling the font he was creating. This encouraged him to complete a whole family of characters in that font.

Mr Bjørk used a drawing application on his computer to design and sketch 250 characters for each of the typeface's 10 variations that included DACO thin, light regular, bold, extra bold and oblique.

Spacing issues and difficult pairings of letters were considered, and each letter was given its own distinctive characteristic. In all, 2500 characters were carefully crafted during a 12-month period, involving more than 300 hours of work.

“It was a very tedious process as there are so many details and technicalities to be aware of, but I got a lot of help from different people, including a font designer from Luth

and a famous Norwegian type designer, Magnus Røken, Mr Bjørk said.

Monash is one of the few educational institutions in Australia offering a specialised unit in type design.

Digital font design lecturer at Monash Ms Wendy Ellerton said Mr Bjørk used his initiative to go beyond the original brief.

“He actively consulted type designers in Norway, creating a valuable network of contacts in the industry, which led to the production of type to a commercial standard,” she said.

“It is rare for students to have their typefaces released through foundries, because type design is extremely time-consuming.”

Mr Bjørk plans to return to Norway this month and in the long term, to carve out a niche in font design.

– Karen Stichtenoth

### Contact:

m@magnusland.com  
or visit [www.magnusland.com/daco/](http://www.magnusland.com/daco/)

## Program brings help for autism carers

### Medicine

A Monash University training program for parents and carers of children with autism has helped reduce symptoms in the children and resulted in major improvements in the emotional health of the parents.

Professor Bruce Tonge, head of the Department of Psychological Medicine, and Dr Avril Brereton, senior research fellow in the Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology, with Associate Professor Neville King from the Faculty of Education, developed and assessed a 20-week education and skills training program.

The project was funded by a grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Dr Brereton said the program was designed to help parents of young children with autism understand the condition and how it affected the children's development, play, behaviour, communication skills and ability to socialise.

It is aimed at those parents who have autistic children aged between three and five years and who have been diagnosed in the previous 12 months.

Professor Tonge said parents of children with autism were generally more affected by stress than parents of children with other disabilities. “They tend to be stressed by their children's dependency, cognitive impairment,

limits on family opportunity and the prospect of the need for life-long care,” he said.

“The training program helps them deal with these issues and also helps them address the behavioural problems associated with autism.”

The program comprised 10 individual and 10 group sessions of up to five families and addressed the nature of autism, how it was manifested in young children, understanding and managing behaviour, communication and social problems, goal-setting techniques, changing existing behaviour and encouraging new behaviour, and teaching children new skills.

Results showed parents who had attended the program reported lower levels of stress and grief and improved mental health for up to two years after the program ended. The training also led to improved daily living, communication and social skills in the children and reduced symptoms of autism.

Dr Brereton and Professor Tonge have written two manuals – one for clinicians and one for families – designed to be used in conjunction with the training program. The manuals will be published in February next year by Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London.

– Diane Squires

Contact:  
avril.brereton@med.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9905 1402

## Creating a monument to sculpture

### Fine arts

Well-known Melbourne sculptor Simon Kessel is a man on a mission to create lasting works that reflect his life experiences and understanding of art.

Mr Kessel, who migrated to Australia in 1950, holds two Monash degrees – a recently completed Masters in Fine Arts (sculpture) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (honours).

His masters thesis on monumental sculpture drew on the experiences of Holocaust survivors and his own early childhood spent in refugee camps in post-war Germany.

His experiences have instilled in him a passion for people and art – passions that are reflected in major sculptural works he has completed over the past five years, while also managing a Melbourne-based fashion company.

Mr Kessel has several commissions in private collections in Melbourne and Adelaide, and in public spaces. His latest commissioned work, ‘Mother and Child Playing’, was unveiled earlier this year at the Freemason's Hospital, East

Melbourne, by Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport Senator Rod Kemp.

The bronze four metre by four metre sculpture, donated by the Quittner family, took a year to complete.

It was originally constructed in wood, before being sent to a foundry where it was cast, cut and shaped in bronze.

“My works are designed to be both aesthetic and functional objects,” he said. “They are practical works of art to be used, to be sat on and to be touched.”

Mr Kessel's main academic supervisor at Monash, senior lecturer



Unveiled: ‘Mother and Child Playing’.

Photo: courtesy Quittner family.

in sculpture Dr Dan Wollmering, said Mr Kessel's enthusiasm and drive brought much passion to the sculpture studio.

“Simon studied part-time over 12 years and demonstrated that persistence and dedication can make for success and achievement in the art world – at any age,” he said. “His work is an enterprising mixture of classical humanism and conventional figurative abstraction that embraces a monumental sensibility.”

“The outdoor sculpture ‘Mother and Child Playing’ harnesses both functional and expressive qualities in a site-specific location and should prove to be popular.”

Mr Kessel maintains an unbridled passion for sculpture. “It's enormously exciting and satisfying that someone wants to buy my work and see it,” he says.

– Karen Stichtenoth

### Contact:

palazzi@bigpond.com.au  
dan.wollmering@artdes.monash.edu.au  
Ph: +61 3 9903 1574

## MONASH News

Published by Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3800

Editorial inquiries: +61 3 9905 9317  
Fax +61 3 9905 2097 or email  
[media@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:media@adm.monash.edu.au)

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



MONASH University

For the latest in research and opinion from Monash, visit [www.monash.edu.au/news/](http://www.monash.edu.au/news/)



At the unveiling: from left, Senator Rod Kemp, Mrs Lina Quittner, Mr Simon Kessel and Freemasons grand master Mr John Evans.

Photo: courtesy Quittner family.