

MONTAGE

NEWS FROM THE CAMPUSES OF MONASH UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

MARCH 1994

8 PAGES

NEWS

Playing with time on five campuses

► See page 5



RESEARCH

Sniffing through the rubble

► Research liftout



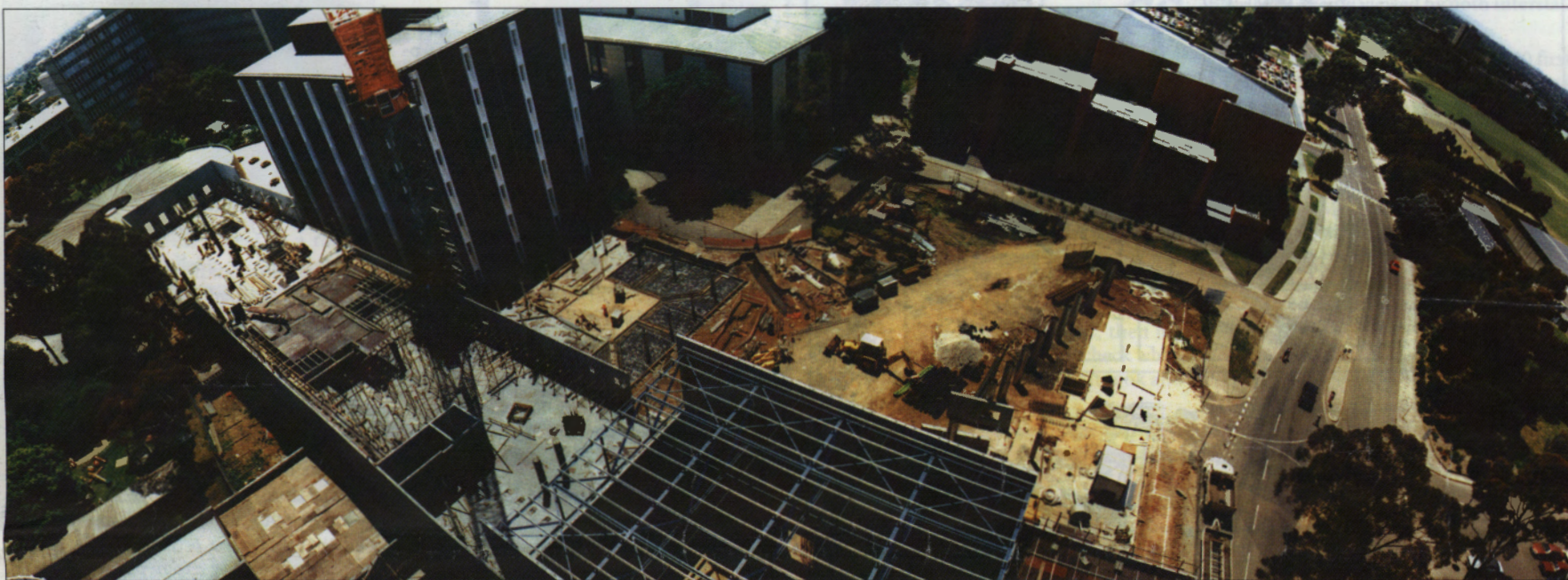
SAVANT

Does Australia have a sporting chance?

► Comment P8



Taking centre stage in Melbourne's south-east



A bird's eye view of the creative arts centre construction site captured by photographer Richard Crompton while suspended from a 100-metre crane in December last year.

Monash University's Clayton campus is set to become one of the largest performing and creative arts centres in Victoria – second only to the Victorian Arts Centre in St Kilda Road.

When the new performing arts building is complete in August, the Clayton campus will have two new 250-seat auditoriums – one for music and the other for drama – as well as ancillary rooms for rehearsals and storage.

These structures add to an already impressive array of facilities on campus, including the Alexander Theatre, the Robert Blackwood Hall, the Religious Centre and the Monash Gallery.

The combined facilities will come under the umbrella title of the Monash Arts Precinct.

Additional resources for the precinct are currently being considered, including a cinema, a bistro or restaurant and lounge areas.

An arts arcade under the main library may link these facilities.

The deputy vice-chancellor (academic projects) and chairman of the Performing and Creative Arts Committee, Professor Robert Pargetter, said the arts precinct concept was born about three years ago.

But it was not until the middle of last year that the coordinating body of the precinct, the Performing and Creative Arts Committee, was established.

"The arts precinct will not only enrich the cultural life of staff and students, but also enhance the relationship between the university and the local community," Professor Pargetter said.

Despite the incomplete state of the new building, the university's focus on the arts will begin in full when the Melbourne Symphony performs the first of a four-concert series at the Robert Blackwood Hall in March.

The general manager of the symphony, Mr Steven Porter, says the orchestra is looking forward to returning to Monash after seven years and believes the precinct's success is assured.

"This area is the demographic centre of Melbourne and an enormous number of people from the eastern and south-eastern suburbs will find an arts precinct centred at Monash far more accessible than the city," Mr Porter said. "They can also be assured that the standard of performance, be it in drama, dance or music, will equal anything on offer in the city."

In addition to the symphony series, more than 40 concerts and about 20 plays are planned on Clayton campus in 1994.

Monash is also expanding its performing and creative arts academic programs and its links with professional bodies, which will enhance its reputation as a complete arts centre with high-quality facilities, performers and performances.

The Department of Music has taken a dynamic new direction with the formation of the New Monash Orchestra and its closer links with the Victoria State Opera.

The department has received a huge response to its new Opera Performance and Conducting Course, which is available to Monash students or the public.

According to the Music department head Professor Margaret Kartomi, Clayton is a good place to develop Victoria's second arts centre.

"City performances can play out here as well because Clayton has a different audience from the Victorian Arts Centre," she said.

In 1994 the English department will offer degree courses in drama and theatre and stage eight theatre productions.

The head of the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies, Professor Peter Fitzpatrick, says the precinct is the beginning of a much more conspicuous relationship between the university and the community.

He believes that the Clayton campus produces more theatre than any other university campus in Victoria and says the new facilities will enable even broader theatre training for students.

Professor Pargetter said: "These building developments, together with the possibilities arising from the new facilities, will not only allow the university to develop greatly enhanced academic programs but also result in the university becoming the major provider of performing and creative arts outside Melbourne's central business district."



Construction staff listen in as the Melbourne String Quartet trial the soon-to-be-completed drama auditorium. The Melbourne String Quartet will perform three concerts at Monash beginning in July.

INSIDE:

- 2 Stress warning at Monash
- 3 Young scholar starts university
- 7 MONVOX: Have women achieved equality?

Paw vs. Claw



THE SPIKE



For Frankston – it exhorted – try ‘for-
nication’ (absolutely no comment).
For Deakin, try ‘decaying’ (see above).
For Curtin, try ‘crouton’ (see above).
For La Trobe, try ‘lottery’ (see above).
For Wollongong, try ‘lounging’ (see
above).
We could go on but we won’t. After
all, things are really looking up.

Cast an eye on the sign at the south-
west corner of Clayton campus. For those
who sneak into work by northern
ingresses, here’s the billboard in all its
better glory. The best line, obviously, is
the second (best)...

Every now and then, columns such as
this contrive to include a small but tried
and true piece that usually begins with
something like ‘we were spell-checking a
story on the computer the other day and
you’d never guess what it suggested...’.

Well (draw a deep breath), we were
spell-checking a story on the computer
the other day and you’d never guess what
it suggested. The following are all true –
only the typeface has been changed to
protect the insolent.

For Swinburne, it insisted we try
‘swan-upping’ (OK – it’s the practice
of marking young swans to show that
they belong to the Crown or some
corporation).



MONTAGE

Montage is published by the Monash University
Office of University Development. Views
expressed by contributors in Montage are not
necessarily endorsed by Monash University. No
responsibility is accepted by the university or
the editor.

Articles may be reprinted in whole or in part by
permission of the editor.
Editor: Bridget Montgomery, Public Affairs
Office, phone (03) 905 2085,
fax (03) 905 2097.
Imageset by Pageset.
Printed by Camten Graphics.
Registered by Australia Post: Publication no.
VBG0435.

Report stresses health programs

Health promotion programs should be
encouraged to reduce staff stress-related
health and productivity problems at
Monash University, according to a recently
released study.

The survey of stress and health at
Monash found that while anxiety, job stress,
daily hassles and health levels were on aver-
age moderate, there were sizeable segments
of the staff population showing “disturbing
scores” for all of these variables.

All staff of the university were sent a sur-
vey booklet during 1993 and 45 per cent
completed it and returned it within seven
months.

The study, conducted by Dr Chris Sharp-
ley of the Centre for Stress Management
and Research, found that job stress was “ele-
vated” for about one-quarter of the 1925
respondents. Lack of feedback on perfor-
mance was the most common reason for
the stress.

Other reasons for work-related stress at
Monash included lack of promotion oppor-
tunities, worry about amalgamations, lack
of equipment and/or infrastructure sup-
port, and overwork.

Unhealthy effects

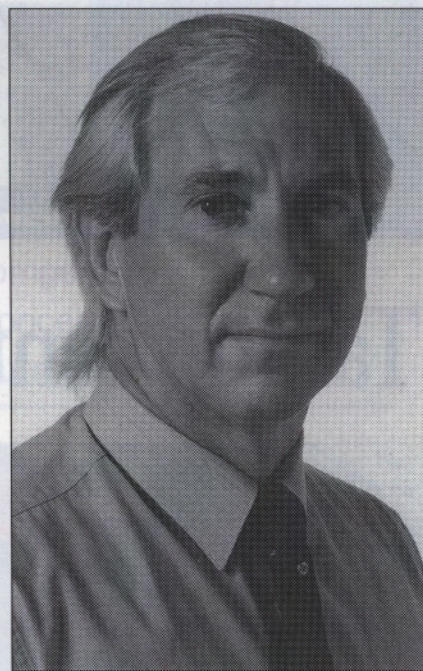
“Most of these factors can be addressed
by Monash management,” said Dr Sharpley.

“High job stress was found to be signif-
icantly and directly associated with anxiety,
daily hassles, days absent, visits to medical
practitioners, injuries, accidents and ill-
nesses,” he said. “Similarly, staff with high
job stress rated their own health lower than
staff with low levels of job stress.”

Dr Sharpley said an entire department
or unit can suffer as a result of one highly
stressed staff member.

“While the onus for personal health pri-
marily lies with the individual, evidence
from organisation-wide health promotion
programs clearly indicates that productivity
is positively influenced by management-
supported health initiatives aimed at phys-
ical and psychological fitness,” Dr Sharp-
ley said.

“Data from evaluations of health pro-
motion programs in other places suggest a
return of 23 per cent on every dollar
invested by management in terms of
reduced staff absences and medical treat-
ment costs.”



Dr Chris Sharpley.

Ninety-four staff rated their health as
“bad” or “very bad”, with 374 saying their
health was “neither bad nor good”.

“These people are most unlikely to be
able to bring their best efforts to work or
recreation, and represent a personal and
management problem,” Dr Sharpley said.

Some interesting comparative statistics
resulted from the study. Male staff tended to
be less anxious than females; Gippsland staff
had slightly higher levels of anxiety, daily
hassles and job stress than other campuses;
the 31 to 40-year-old age group reported
the most job stress; and only minor differ-
ences were noted between full-time and
part-time, temporary and permanent staff.

In concluding the study, Dr Sharpley
said: “Monash’s outstanding success as a
research and teaching institution is often
referred to and is certainly something of
which all staff should be justifiably proud.
However, if Monash is to remain at the pre-
sent level of productivity or increase it, the
type of commitment from management at
all levels to introduce the sorts of staff-
oriented thinking that has made other
organisations in the corporate sector so suc-
cessful needs to be made here.”

‘The Report of a Survey of Stress and
Health at Monash University’ has been sent to
all heads of departments. For further infor-
mation, contact Dr Sharpley on extn 52868 or
55469.

NOW & THEN

25 YEARS AGO

The Foundation Stone of the Great Hall, now
to be known as the Robert Blackwood Hall,
was laid by the Minister of Education, Mr L. H.
S. Thompson, on Monday, February 24.

15 YEARS AGO

Professor Louis Opit addressing a symposium
in Auckland on ‘Human resources in health
care: Is medicine an art, a science or a busi-
ness?’ ...

“It is clear that in most Western societies we
have reached the point where we consider
every perceived disturbance of well-being in
an individual as a need, or potential need, for
medical services.” ...

Professor Opit said that his message to
those who demanded more doctors could best
be summed up by a line written by the 17th
Century Tuscan physician, Francesco Redi:

“I often say that in this world the greatest foe
of good health is the wish to feel better.”

5 YEARS AGO

The Councils of Monash University and the
Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education have
agreed to the Gippsland Institute becoming an
affiliated institute of the university.

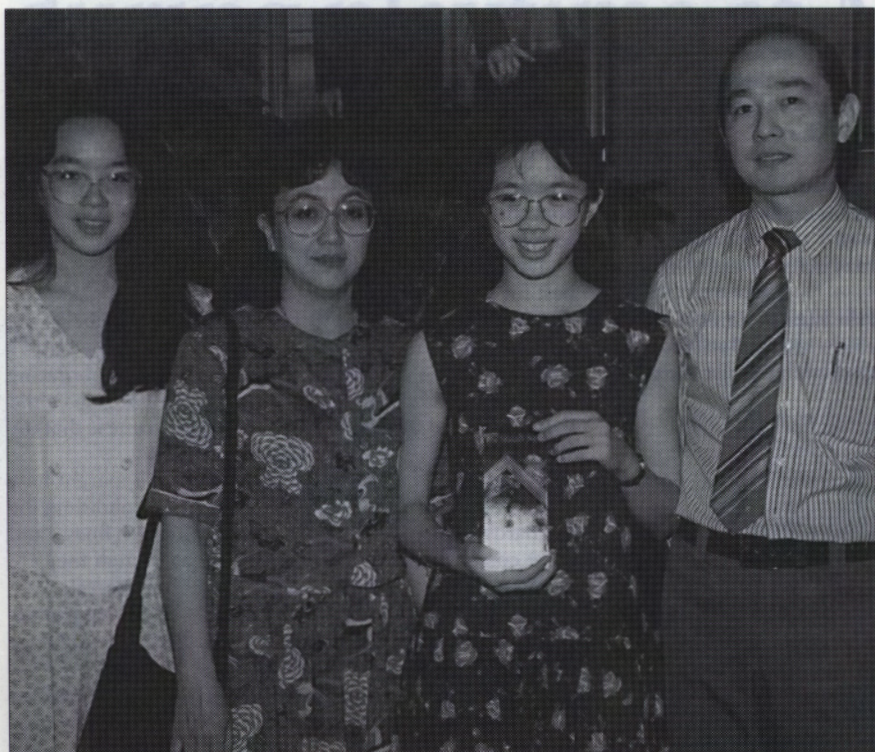
This is the first step in an ongoing process
whereby the Gippsland Institute, as the Gipp-
sland University College, will become a con-
stituent college of Monash University.

THIS MONTH LAST YEAR

Sir George Lush, Chancellor of Monash since
1983, has not sought a further term this year.

A dinner at the Hyatt-on-Collins hotel last
week paid tribute to his service to the univer-
sity, spanning more than a decade. He was also
a member of the Council from 1969 to 1974.

Early start in pursuit of excellence



Selena Ng (third from left) at the presentation ceremony with her sister Helena and her mother and father.

A tertiary career with a difference begins this month when 13-year-old Selena Ng begins as Monash University's youngest scholar.

Selena, who could read a newspaper when she was two years old and recite medical texts to her father, a doctor, at the age of seven, was awarded a special Monash scholarship to begin her tertiary studies as an undergraduate scholar in mathematics and science.

At a presentation ceremony attended by Selena's family, the vice-chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, presented Selena with the scholarship, which provides \$5000 each year for three years.

Selena, who hails from the Gippsland town of Newborough and has moved to Melbourne to study at Monash, says she feels no nervousness about her tertiary debut. "I've been dealing with people older than me for most of my life," she said.

After skipping several years of primary school, Selena entered Trafalgar High School at nine years of age and tackled VCE last year at the age of 12.

She speaks fluent Chinese and Japanese, is qualified to teach the piano, holds a first-dan black belt in tae kwon do, and has won

numerous prizes for music, debating and academic excellence.

Under a special scheme for gifted students, Selena will have a degree course designed for her, covering a broad range of subjects including mathematics, science, Japanese and Chinese language, and music. She will also have help from an academic mentor and student mentor to help her adjust to university life.

But Selena is more familiar with the Clayton campus than most first-year undergraduates, having spent last summer on work experience with mathematics and science academics.

"I spent last summer on work experience at Monash working on pure mathematics," she said. "I was just doing things here and there, sitting down working my way through a few problems."

Professor Joe Monaghan, of the Faculty of Mathematics, said Selena was "well beyond her years".

"Selena can not only handle complicated mathematics, but also discuss non-scientific matters as comfortably as students twice her age," Professor Monaghan said.

Distinguished graduates: heart and soul

The winners of the inaugural Monash University-SECV Distinguished Alumni Awards, announced recently by the chancellor, Mr Bill Rogers, are bound by spirit: the spirit of place and the spirit of creation.

In the late 1960s, Barbara Hocking was the first lawyer to work in the nascent field of land ownership of indigenous peoples in Australia. Today her work forms the basis of native title in a country once described as *terra nullius*.

More than distance and diverse lifestyles separate the Murray Islands in the Torres Strait and a verdant garden in a leafy Melbourne suburb.

But in legal iconoclast and Monash graduate Mrs Barbara Hocking, the two places have a formidable link.

Mrs Hocking first came to national prominence in 1981, when she was the first barrister to be briefed in the historic Mabo case. Eddie Mabo, a Murray Islander, was at the time organising a common law challenge on land ownership in the High Court.

Twelve years later, the judgements in the Mabo case adopted Mrs Hocking's arguments in favour of legal recognition of native title land ownership, contained in her landmark 1970 master of laws thesis 'Native land rights'.

A woman whose work was once considered "stupid", Mrs Hocking derives a certain satisfaction at her vindication by the High Court's recognition of native title in the Mabo case.

"I was absolutely delighted with the judgement. My initial comment was 'at last they've got it right'."

But it had taken more than 20 years for her thesis to become accepted knowledge. At the time of its publication in Australia, her work on native title in the common law, legally upheld in former British colonies such as the US, Canada and New Zealand, was "considered stupid as a matter of law".

In the late 1960s, soon after Mrs Hocking began her thesis, the Gove Land Rights Case

(Milirrpum vs Nabalco and the Commonwealth) came before the Northern Territory Supreme Court.

"I made my findings available but in the end the case didn't succeed," Mrs Hocking said. "The judge found that there were indigenous inhabitants governed by a system of laws that operated in 1788. In contradiction to this finding of fact, however, he held that there was no land ownership and that in law Australia had been *terra nullius*, 'land of no owners'."

"His judgement was seriously flawed. Although the findings of fact were outstanding, he totally misunderstood the legal position. Of course there was ownership of territory before 1788, and a form of land



Mrs Barbara Hocking.

ownership in a system of law recognisable by the common law."

For 20 years, Mrs Hocking said, the law had been wrong in refusing to uphold native land title. But then came the Mabo decisions.

"Once we were the legal laughing stock, now we are at the forefront of this area of jurisprudence," she said.

Two years ago, Mrs Hocking was awarded the Australian Human Rights Medal by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission for her 25-year contribution to this aspect of human rights in Australia.

Mrs Hocking has a part-time appointment as chairperson of the Medicare Participation Review Committee, and has just been appointed visiting scholar in the National Institute for Law, Ethics and Public Affairs at Griffith University.

At present she is editing a book on a subject close to her heart: the next step in the recognition of the place of indigenous communities in Australia.

Yean Leng Lim is a noted cardiologist who uses the camera, the scalpel, the conductor's baton, and the bible in his passion to create – and recreate. At the age of 13, he became the youngest graduate of the Singapore Academy of Fine Art.

In another time and another place, Dr Yean Leng Lim (MBBS Hons 1972) would have been a renaissance man – his creative urges seem to be kept in check only by the small matter of sleep.

Dr Lim's professional and part-time interests span several occupations: cardiology (his work is acclaimed here and overseas), photography (his first collection is about to be published), choir conducting, missionary work overseas, community work at home, and painting (Monash University owns six of his watercolours).

By day Dr Lim works busily on other's hearts but by night he tends his soul – editing photographs or delving into his extensive libraries of music and books. "Classical music and photography are my two relaxations," he says.

An overwhelming urge to create, which he says stems from his Christian beliefs, saw Dr Lim swap painting for photography several years ago. "I was too busy to paint," he explains simply.

But nature remains his inspiration. "Photography is close to nature. I am moved



Dr Yean Leng Lim.

by light, looking for intricacies in the art and science of nature. My photography is composed with both the western impressionistic desire to capture the image of an instant – that instant of perfect light – combined with an eastern expression of the spiritual and emphasis of form."

Noted Australian artist Albert Tucker concurs. In his foreword to Dr Lim's book *Eastern eye, western light*, he writes that Yean's eye "is finely balanced between the East and West".

The East is also a major influence in other aspects of Dr Lim's life. Each year he travels in an honorary capacity to a Christian hospital in Taiwan, where he carries out both medical and missionary work.

And since 1985, he has been overseas adviser to a large cardiovascular training centre in Beijing, and senior adviser to Guangzhou and Hangzhou's people's provincial hospitals and health department.

Like the rest of his life, Dr Lim combines body and soul on his trips to China. He arranges his schedule so that he can photograph before the light of dusk and dawn, the best hours for photography.

Dr Lim's evangelising does not end at Tullamarine. He teaches bible classes to the Chinese community in Melbourne, and is inaugural president of the Chinese Sacred Music Society.

Dr Lim sees no conflict between religion and science. He says it all comes down to humankind's innate desire to create. "A doctor's urge is to make patients better by creating new treatments. And each day religion wins new souls," he says.

Not surprisingly, Dr Lim's role models are William Osler, the 'father' of modern medicine, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Albert Schweitzer – both theologians/physicians.

BY JOHN CLARK

The many faces of Don Thomson

When 26-year-old 'Jenny' visited her parents after her first psychological consultation, she told them her depression was diagnosed as being due to a repressed memory of extensive sexual abuse by her father some 20 years before.

Bewildered by the claim, Jenny's father rang Monash University's head of Forensic Psychology, Dr Don Thomson.

Renowned as one of Australia's best forensic psychologists, Dr Thomson receives many such telephone calls reporting some of Australia's most bizarre and horrific family abuse cases.

Dr Thomson says the number of repressed memory claims, particularly relating to family sexual abuse, is on the rise in Australia.

"People are going into therapy because they are having emotional problems, and while they are under therapy it is suggested that they may have been sexually abused as a child," he said. "When the patient goes away and thinks about it, they slowly, over time, begin to believe it."

Often, he explained, people are very open to suggestion during therapy and feel better if they have an 'answer', even when the claims have a severe impact on the family structure.

But Dr Thomson says therapists are "not in a position to make those claims".

"It's a prostitution of the profession," he said. "Whether you're a scientist, a clinician or any other professional person, you should limit yourself to the facts."

Repressed memory is just one of the highly topical issues in psychology being investigated by Dr Thomson and his students at Monash.

"Forensic psychology encompasses anything to do with people in the legal system - from victims of crime, defenders and prosecutors, the court system and the way it functions, and the treatment of offenders to how the community perceives crime," he said.

Dr Thomson has an unusually broad view of the issues because he is not only an academic overseeing the theoretical and practical training of 45 masters and six PhD students. He also conducts his own research, runs his own psychological practice and is a practising barrister.

With this kind of experience, Dr Thomson is constantly being called on to deliver addresses, provide comment for the media and give professional opinion for cases.

He says the most difficult cases involve child sexual abuse because they usually involve one person's word against another's. In the adult world of the courts, there can also be problems with accepting a child as a witness.

As an example of these problems, Dr Thomson discussed a case where a six-year-old girl came home upset after spending the weekend with her father. On inquiry by the mother, the girl said her dad hadn't paid her any attention all weekend. On further investigation by the mother, the girl revealed that her dad had digitally penetrated her. By the end of the hearing into the case, the girl had claimed that not only had her father raped her on at least four occasions, but so had another relative.

Asked Dr Thomson: "Was the child remembering the facts as they happened, or was the child elaborating on the basis of what the mother or some other person was telling her?"

Based on his research, Dr Thomson gave evidence for the prosecution in this case, saying that a person's response about what happened at a given time will vary from day to day.

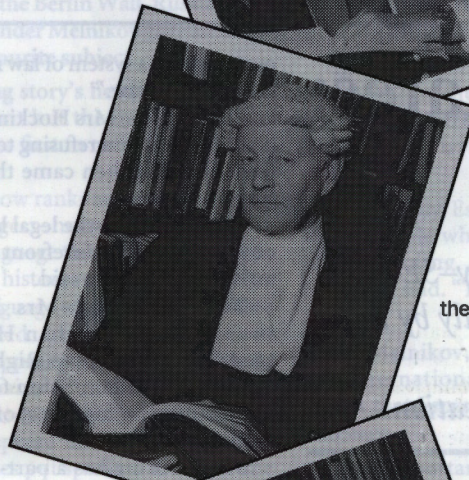
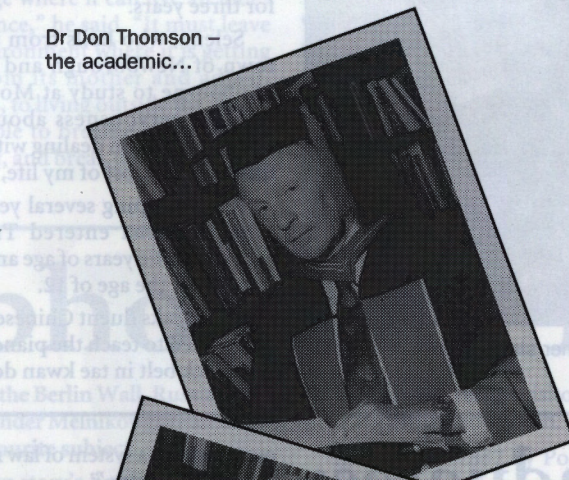
"If at any time I question a person about something they had experienced and then I ask them the same question a day or two later, they will probably remember a little less of the events, and some of the facts they remember may differ from those they recalled previously," he said. "This really is a very normal phenomenon."

"So although the child's story had mushroomed, this didn't necessarily mean that she was making it up."

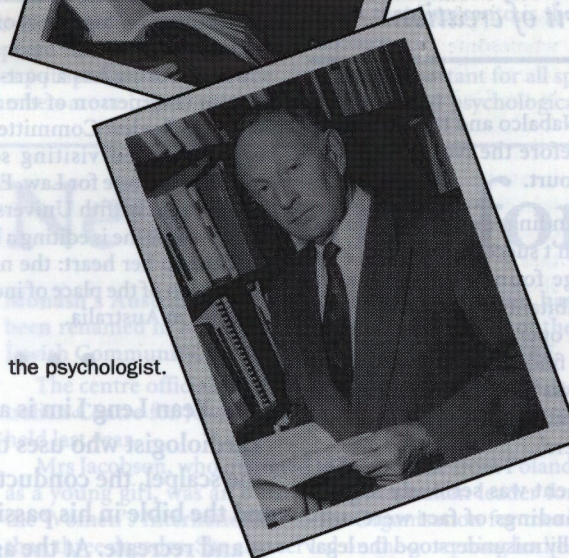
On the basis of Dr Thomson's research, the court accepted that the child's story may be true, and the father was asked to stand trial.

Controversy has surrounded the issue of how old a child needs to be in order to be a reliable witness. Until recently, courts were required to establish the reliability of any witness under the age of 14.

Dr Don Thomson - the academic...



the barrister...



the psychologist.

Dr Thomson believes that there is really no age when a person becomes a reliable witness.

"It really depends on the person," he explained. "Children under the age of 14 are quite capable of being wrong, just as an adult may be wrong."

"In our present day values it would be inappropriate to attempt to exclude children because if offences are being committed in the family, then children become vulnerable to subsequent offences."

Dr Thomson was quick to point out that sometimes it is best for police and magistrates not to proceed with a case.

"Often it is not in the interests of the child to be giving evidence in court day after day... If it is only the child's word against an adult's word, if there is no corroborating evidence, then it is very difficult to justify putting a child through all the trauma when the likely outcome is that the adult will be acquitted," he said.

When talking to Dr Thomson, it is very apparent how much he enjoys his work and is devoted to upholding the standards of his professions. He speaks with such finesse and quiet conviction that the listener feels as though they are being made privy to an immensely important secret.

When asked what had been his most satisfying professional experience, Dr Thomson replied: "Helping to change some of Victoria's laws."

Group dynamic research by Dr Thomson played an important role in changes to the state's jury system for protracted trials.

Previously if a jury member became sick, a mistrial was called, sometimes nullifying months of work.

Now, for trials that are expected to be lengthy, 15 people form a jury. It is not until the jury is called to vote that 12 final jurors are balloted from the 15. Since all 15 members will be capable of making a fair and informed vote at the end of the trial, mistrials are avoided if some jurors become ill.

Another change in law that Dr Thomson was involved in concerned the admission of children's evidence on closed-circuit television. He was later one of the first lawyers to defend a client using the system.

The tireless Dr Thomson is now assessing the efficacy of videotaped statements as evidence in court.

As well, he and Monash student Mr Paul Dietz are training Victoria's police in questioning children. The pair advocate a technique that involves reconstructing the event in the child's mind. The child may be asked to close their eyes and visualise the event and then to describe what they see.

"The first and most important thing is to establish a rapport with the child, and the second thing is to operate at the same level as the child," he said.

The techniques are also being incorporated into police training programs throughout Australia, and Dr Thomson and Mr Dietz are continuing with their research.

A 'workaholic' who loves what he does is the only way to describe Dr Thomson. He starts work at 6 am and often doesn't leave until 10 or 11 in the evenings. He thrives on working with students, claiming "they give me a real buzz".

But the man who established Monash's forensic psychology course, the first in Australia, is moving to Edith Cowan University in Western Australia to take up the position of foundation professor of Psychology.

During his 21 years at Monash, he has helped to build a national and international reputation for both the department's work and his own work.

Of his self-imposed workload, he simply says: "It's demanding, but it's exciting!"

Fine-tuned connections

Monash's network services head, Mr Neil Clarke, is breathing a sigh of relief with the successful introduction of the university's new telephone system.

The new system means that all Monash numbers now have a single common prefix which gives the university a unified presence.

"With the expansion of the university, there needed to be a uniform phone system," Mr Clarke said. "The main objective of the new system was to have a single common prefix for every campus followed by an unambiguous extension number."

"The university was rapidly running out of spare numbers in its existing number range and we couldn't expand into adjacent number blocks at Clayton or Caulfield because they had been allocated to other organisations."

Monash is the first in the metropolitan area to have numbers beginning with nine.

This move, along with the uniform new five-digit extension numbers, has helped reinforce the university's unified 'corporate image'.

The big 'headache', according to Mr Clarke, was to find numbers that would suit both the university's needs as well as meet Telecom's and Austel's regulations.

"The two-zero prefix would have been okay from a policy viewpoint but the ranges weren't available. The five-zero prefix was available but it didn't conform with Austel's call zone policy rules," Mr Clarke explained.

So it was back to the drawing board to find numbers that would cover everyone's requirements.

Eventually Monash 'borrowed' a prefix that had been set aside by Austel in readiness for the migration to the eight-digit telephone number system in 1995. Nine-zero was decided on because it suited all parties' requirements.

"The nine-zero prefix was agreed upon as there were no metropolitan numbers that had nine as their first number and zero as their second, so there was no possibility of ambiguity when the new eight-digit numbers were introduced," Mr Clarke said.

Number planning is no easy task according to Mr Clarke, and nor is introducing a new telephone system for an organisation as large as Monash.

"We had to make sure that the old numbers worked and the new numbers worked, while at the same time making sure the migration from the old numbers to the new numbers was as smooth as possible," he said.

The first two digits of the new numbers are uniform across all campuses, and the third digit indicates the area being called. Gippsland campus has the same internal dialling system, but has two different numbers to accommodate local and national callers.

Other than unifying the telephone number plan across the university, the new system incorporates digital lines which improve the service to callers. This means

better speech quality, instantaneous call connect times, improved FAX services and modem calls, and good network reliability.

"It is nice to think that we've got a unique image because we're the only ones with a Melbourne phone number that starts with nine. But it was really just the end result of this fairly long, tortuous path to satisfy our requirements," Mr Clarke said.

As complicated as the system may sound (and you can be assured that it is), the transition from the old numbers to the new has been quite smooth.

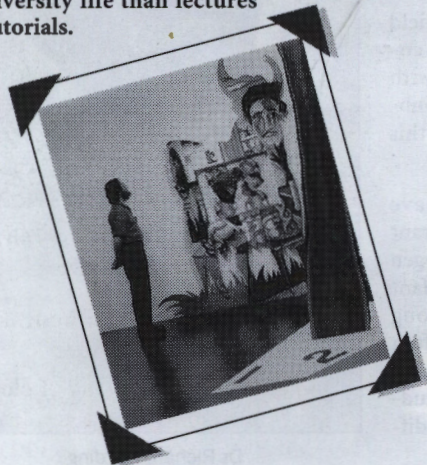
"A lot of people, when they came back to work, tried dialling four-digit extension numbers and didn't get anywhere. They soon realised that it wasn't their phone but rather that they were meant to be dialling five digits," Mr Clarke said.

"This was the only sudden change, since the old Telecom numbers still work and the new numbers now work."

The old prefix system will continue to work until the end of June. Staff and students should inform any external contacts of the new prefix system before then.

Ten or more things to do during playtime at Monash

For Monash University's new and not-so-new campus dwellers, the following lists prove there is much more to university life than lectures and tutorials.



On Caulfield campus:

- explore Monash's creative side – works by ceramics students are on display in showcases on the 6th floor of B block;
- visit the STA branch in the union building to plan your next holiday – Vietnam is good at this time of year;

“O” what a week!

Abseiling down the Clayton campus Main Library is just one of the bizarre activities students may find themselves sliding into during O-week this year.

More than 7000 new students are expected to take advantage of orientation week activities and ‘freebies’ before they hit the books on 28 February.

According to the Chairman of the Orientation Committee, Dr Ian Ward, this year's orientation week is the biggest to date in terms of activities and the level of involvement from all campuses.

The committee in conjunction with Clubs and Societies have organised masses of fun pursuits to help students meet new friends and become comfortable with the university environment.

A comedy night in the Student Union Bar and a wine and cheese tasting are just two of the activities planned on Caulfield campus.

Clayton will hold ballroom dancing classes, Hobbit High Tea Dragon Flights (whatever they are), aikido demonstrations and the AIDS information tent.

Peninsula, Gippsland and Parkville campuses will offer free barbecues, cruises, tours, bands and buskers.

And staff won't be left out of the week's events either. They can also join the various clubs and societies and will be involved in meeting and welcoming students into their courses.

In addition, official opening ceremonies will be held on each campus to welcome staff and students.

Dr Ward said planning for the fun-filled week began in March last year with a review of the 1993 program.

“By April we were advertising for Host Scheme coordinators,” Dr Ward explained.

The Host Scheme, organised by the O-week Committee, is a mentor program that matches first-year students with second- and third-year students.

The hosts arrange tours of the campuses, nights out and weekend camps, and are available to answer any questions that first-timers may have.

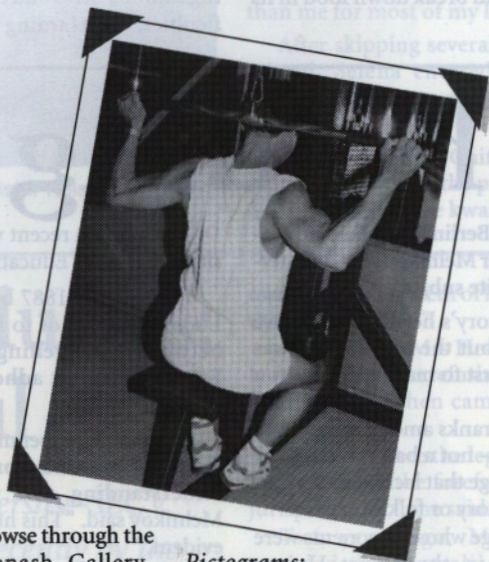


Abseiling from the roof of the Main Library on Clayton campus.

- have lunch in one of the newly landscaped recreational areas;
- play a game of pool in the union building;
- join the gym and have your fitness assessed (three-month membership: students \$40; staff \$60);
- play the pinnies;
- shop at the supermarket opposite the union building – a great time-saver;
- have a cappuccino in the cafeteria – fluffy and hot, ideal for cold summer or winter days; or
- read the day's newspapers in the library.

On Clayton campus:

- try a visit to the anatomy museum – not for the faint-stomached;
- enjoy a gym circuit class at the Sports and Recreation Centre – warning: ‘no pain no gain’ is their motto (\$2.30 per class, 1 pm daily);



- browse through the Monash Gallery - *Pictograms: Aspects of Contemporary Photographic Practice* and *Sweet Dampier and Gossip* are the current exhibitions;
- eat a vegetarian or vegan meal at Wholefoods – good wholesome tucker that even carnivores will enjoy;
- take in a Theatresports performance on Tuesdays at 1 pm in the Union Theatre, or participate in a Theatresports workshop for beginners on Thursdays at 1 pm;
- listen to a CD of your choice in the John Medley Library, located on the 1st floor of the Union;
- join the band of walkers who take to the ring-road each day;
- take a stroll to the Notting Hill pub;
- shop at Brandon Park Shopping Centre – not far by car; or
- attend a music recital in the Music department – listings in *Etcetera* weekly.

On Gippsland campus:

- play tennis on the residence courts;

- sweat it out at the leisure centre, either in the pool or on the squash court;
- stroll to the shopping centre;
- practise your golf swing at the driving range;
- tone a few muscles at the gym;
- lounge around in the Union and watch television – ‘Days of Our Lives’ is still a favourite;
- pick an unsuspecting partner to play pool with;
- buy some coloured pens at the stationery shop to brighten up pages of lecture notes;
- catch a band performance or join in the array of social and cultural activities on during the campus lunch hour; or
- have a picnic in the rose garden.

On Parkville campus:

- visit the zoo – you'll need to go off-campus to do this;
- plan an exotic dinner party and shop for the necessary fare at the Brunswick shopping centre;
- go for a stroll in the surrounding parks and gardens – a joy at any time of the year;
- watch a game of hockey at Victoria Park – for those who enjoy spectator sports;
- catch a tram to an unknown destination;
- play the pokies at Princess Park – an unknown treasure opposite the campus on Royal Parade;
- grab a bowl of pasta in Lygon Street, the ethnic heart of Melbourne;
- discover some bizarre and interesting facts in the CSIRO library;
- take a photograph – subject matter abounds wherever there are people, trees and buildings.
- eat hot donuts and browse through the Victoria Market.

On Peninsula campus:

- go to the beach – but don't forget to slip, slop, slap;
- play tennis;
- stroll through the Potter's Workshop, located at the back of building B – all works on display are by Monash ceramics students;
- play kick-to-kick football on the oval;
- watch a video in the library's audiovisual section;
- visit the Course and Careers Centre and discover what new direction your future could take;
- shop at the Frankston Shopping Centre;
- watch television in the Union;
- take a leisurely stroll around the campus; or
- relax in the Union and listen to the tunes of 3JJJ.



Satisfaction high for DE students

Studying off-campus is intellectually stimulating and varies little from on-campus studies, according to the people who should know – distance education students.

In a recent survey by the Gippsland Region and Information Bank, distance education students revealed a high level of satisfaction with their courses, particularly in relation to the helpfulness of support staff.

Ninety-six per cent of students said they found their course intellectually stimulating, and 69 per cent chose to study additional material to that which was prescribed in the study guides or recommended reading.

The level of satisfaction with the mode of study was reflected in the large proportion of students – 44 per cent – who had collected information about higher degrees.

According to the director of the Distance Education Centre (DEC), Professor John Harris, 31 graduate degrees and diplomas are currently offered to off-campus students, with initiatives for new higher degree courses by distance education usually coming from the schools offering the subjects.

He said the telephone survey of 300 students, or 6 per cent of the distance education student population, was representative of the distance education population and part of an ongoing assessment of the services offered by the DEC.

“The survey will be thoroughly assessed by the Management Advisory Group of the DEC,” Professor Harris

said. “We will examine all aspects of the findings and review the operating systems.”

“In particular, we will look at the interactions of the DEC with academic staff and other pertinent areas such as enrolment procedures.”

The average respondent to the survey was mature, employed and cited vocational advancement as the main reason for studying by distance education.

They said their studies had helped them reach set goals, at least to some extent, with 89 per cent of respondents stating that their studies had increased the range of things they could do or speak confidently about.

Respondents' awareness and praise for distance education services provided by Monash was generally high.

However, personal and careers counselling and study skills services were less well known. Few students used these services, but those who did rated their usefulness highly.

Common difficulties experienced by the students included a lack of time, problems with self-motivation and discipline, and a poor understanding of the requirements and expectations of the courses.

Professor Harris said the centre would review not only what the students receive but also how they receive the information. “We are constantly striving to improve the information flow so that students better understand what their courses require of them,” he said.

Research lets babies breathe easy

Newborn babies and children can now look forward to a healthier future, thanks to award-winning research by a Monash academic.

Dr Richard Harding, of the Department of Physiology, has won the medical faculty's Silver Jubilee Research Prize for his studies into the control of fetal lung growth.

The prize recognises Dr Harding's significant contribution to national and international research, particularly in providing an understanding of the role of fetal breathing movements in lung development.

The prize, valued at \$2000, was established in March 1986 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Faculty of Medicine. Dr Harding was awarded the prize at a special presentation in December.

Physiology department head Professor Geoff Thorburn, who nominated Dr Harding for the award, said the research had led

to a greater understanding of lung fluid dynamics and lung mechanics in the fetus.

More recent work by Dr Harding has focused on the influence of a reduced amniotic fluid volume on fetal lung growth, and the effect that this has on breathing in the newborn.

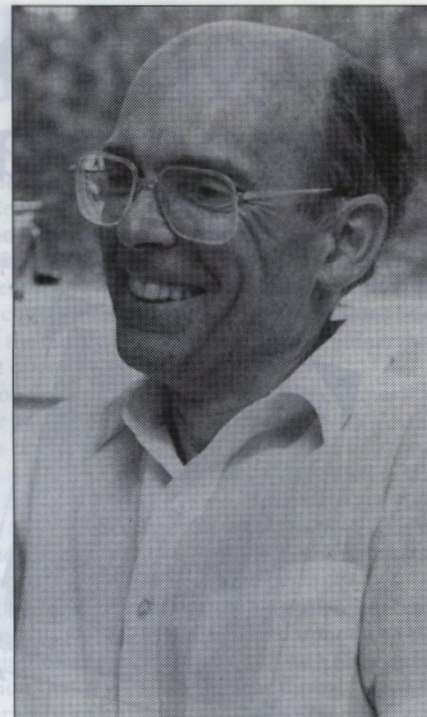
Dr Harding graduated BSc from the University of Melbourne, later completing his PhD in neurophysiology at Edinburgh University. He continued his research with postdoctoral studies at Oxford University, where he first became interested in the developing respiratory system of mammals.

"I was always fascinated with the question of how the fetus adapts inside the uterus to a stage where it can live an independent existence," he said. "It must leave an aquatic environment where it is getting everything from its mother and adjust, within minutes, to living outside the womb – it must be able to breathe oxygen from the air, swallow, and break down food in its stomach."

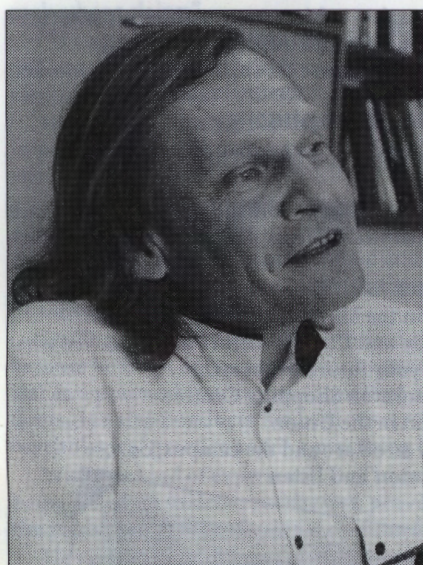
Dr Harding joined Monash in 1981 as an NHMRC research fellow, becoming a senior research fellow in 1984 and later a senior lecturer. In 1991, he was appointed a principal research fellow and reader in physiology.

He has published extensively in the field of fetal physiology, and has recently co-edited a textbook on fetal physiology with Professor Thorburn. The book will be published by Oxford University Press later this year.

Dr Harding and his colleagues have received a National SIDS Foundation grant to examine the possible link between oxygen deprivation in pregnancy and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). "There is strong evidence to suggest that fetal stress, often caused by smoking in pregnancy, can lead to breathing problems in the newborn, including asthma, SIDS and other respiratory difficulties," Dr Harding said.



Dr Richard Harding.



Dr Alexander Melnikov says Esperanto's original aim, to bring world understanding and peace, is still evident.

Upholding Esperanto

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Russian academic Dr Alexander Melnikov gave an interview on his favourite subject.

The resulting story's headline may have been extravagant but the implication was clear: 'Esperanto first to make holes in Iron Curtain'.

Esperanto now ranks among the world's top 150 languages – not a bad position, say critics, for a language that lacks either a cultural tradition, history or folklore.

But for a language whose exponents were once persecuted in the Soviet Union, Esperanto still appears to be dipping its toe in the linguistic mainstream.

The 107-year-old language may not have attracted widespread international support (recent estimates put speakers at about one million), but numbers are unimportant, says

Dr Melnikov, a recent visitor to the university's Faculty of Education.

Invented in 1887 by Polish linguist Dr Ludovik Zamenhof to help reduce tension between quarrelling ethnic groups, Esperanto's first adherents were strictly idealists.

"Originally, Esperanto gathered together those people who worried about mutual understanding and world peace," Dr Melnikov said. "This humanistic aim is still evident."

Dr Melnikov, an associate professor at the International Academy of Sciences, argues that Esperanto is the perfect second language.

"It is important for all spheres: political, economic and psychological. It is not only

undemocratic to choose an ethnic language, it is also a heavy burden," Dr Melnikov said.

"Esperanto, on the other hand, is easy to learn. Usually it takes between five to 10 times less than most languages.

"And if you study a national language, you are too connected to the culture, whereas Esperanto's horizon is much larger."

Today many Esperantists are also pragmatists, Dr Melnikov said.

"What is important is that it can be used to get in touch with other Esperantists.

"For instance, I have visited more than 20 countries – from Bulgaria to Japan to Hungary – and I use only Esperanto to get in touch with people there.

For further information on Esperanto in Victoria, contact Professor Alan Bishop on extn 52772.

Languages receive \$0.5 million boost

Monash University has pledged \$500,000 annually to support Australia's largest overseas scholarship program for language students.

Under the new program, up to 150 language students will spend one semester at an overseas tertiary institution each year.

Monash will pay the return airfares and a substantial contribution towards living expenses for all graduates and fourth-year students taking a language course as part of any degree program, from arts to engineering and sciences. All Graduate Diploma of Education language students are also eligible, as well as selected third-year students.

The head of German Studies, Professor Philip Thomson, said the funding represented a major commitment by Monash to language education.

Monash currently teaches about 20 different languages, including German, Italian, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Greek, French and Russian, to students from almost every faculty in the university.

"The university has a special strength in languages, which it is now moving to consolidate," Professor Thomson said. "For the first time, an Australian university is moving to a situation in which it is taken for granted that senior language students undertake a semester of study abroad as part of their course.

"In Australia we have tended to blame long distances for not having a systematic study abroad program, such as those offered in Britain and the US. The reality is that \$2000 will buy you an air ticket to anywhere in the world and back. Given what we know about the quantum leap in linguistic proficiency that takes place during in-country study, this program can only be successful."

New name for Jewish centre

Monash's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation has been renamed in honour of a well-known member of the Jewish Community, the late Mrs Martha Jacobson MBE.

The centre officially became the Martha Jacobson Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation in a special function held last year.

Mrs Jacobson, who migrated to Melbourne from Poland as a young girl, was an outstanding Australian leader for the Women's International Zionist Organisation for more than three decades. She also served on the governing bodies of many other Jewish organisations. She died in 1991.

Her husband, Mr Nathan Jacobson OBE, has undertaken to generously support the centre in memory of his late wife.

Mr Jacobson is well known as a former president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the Zionist Federation of Australia.

A new chair in Jewish Civilisation was also created by an endowment from Mr Jacobson's close friends, Mrs Ada Murkies and the late Mr Toni Murkies.

Mr Murkies achieved high rank in the Soviet Army in the Second World War, winning the Virtute Militari, the highest Polish decoration of valour. His wife served with him in the same army. They came to Australia after the war to settle in Melbourne. Mr Murkies died in March last year.

The person appointed to the Ada and Toni Murkies Chair in Jewish Civilisation will also be the centre's director.



At the renaming ceremony: (from left) Professor Mal Logan, Mrs Dinah Krongold, Dr Henry Krongold and Mrs Ada Murkies.

The culture of Australian sport

The attitude to sport in Australian tertiary institutions is equivocal.

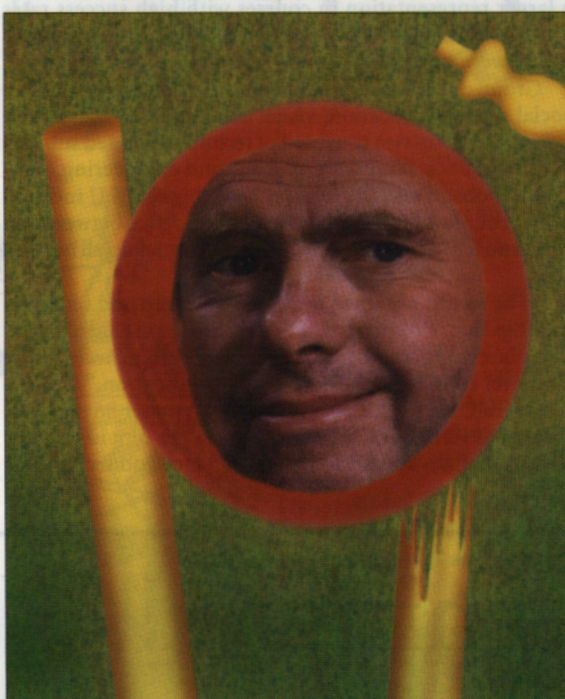
Although sport is universally regarded as healthy and fulfilling, there has been a deprecating snobbery to it as an area worthy of academic study. Monash, like most universities, typifies this equivocation. On the one hand, it provides superb facilities for athletes and sportspersons – a wonderful swimming pool, manicured playing fields and unlimited facilities for tennis and squash. On the other hand, there is no department of physical education or human movement.

Why is there this anti-intellectual attitude to sport? Surely sport embodies the creative spirit of the Australian identity more patently than any other facet of its culture. When I was travelling in India and Sri Lanka last year, I discovered that no-one had ever heard of Paul Keating or Bob Hawke. Yet every single male human being (and a great many females) idolised Allan Border! Sir Donald Bradman is, unarguably, the greatest Australian of all time.

I have been addicted to sport since I was in short pants. I have always read the back pages of a newspaper first, for pleasure. Now, however, I find myself justified in doing so for professional reasons, for there is invariably more law on the sports pages than in the whole of the rest of the newspaper! Sports law is a growing and entirely bona fide discipline. Sadly, Monash's Law school does not cater for it in its syllabus, perhaps on the ground that it is allegedly not a discrete area of law, but rather the application of ordinary principles of mainstream law to a particular activity.

I dispute that. In my view, sports law is *sui generis*. The contractual doctrine of 'restraint of trade' has in a large measure been developed and expanded by the many recent cases on sport which have reached the court. And the 'public interest' argument applicable to that doctrine, by which a restraint otherwise void might be justified, is comprehensible only by sports lovers, who can appreciate the value of an even competition. The AFL draft, which seems at first sight a blatant restraint, might after all be justified as being a far-sighted device, rather than the devious clog on players' freedom that its opponents claim it to be.

In practical terms, sports law possesses attributes that would make it admirable material for teaching. It has great public interest, and cases are reported that never reach the law reports. There is then a whole corpus of realistic, non-adversarial law readily available, which encompasses a range of issues such as players' contracts, civil and criminal liability for injuries, occupiers' liability of proprietors of public arenas, planning applications, restraints of trade, sex discrimination in sport, and corporate liability. Before long, it will be unusual for a professional player not to have his or her own lawyer!



Several years ago, I was ridiculed for making a prediction that a footballer would be prosecuted for a foul tackle. Yet that came true! I am now prepared to predict an assault on another bastion of legal immunity – the inviolability of selectors. When Merv Hughes was omitted from the World Series matches in 1992–93, after performing in a sterling way in the test matches, on the fatuous basis that he was not a good 'one-day-cricketer', I consider that he might have sued the selectors. He must have lost a good deal of the monetary rewards that he deserved, and these would have been the claimable damages.

To say that a man is a 'good one-day cricketer' is not damning with faint praise! It is condemning with strident damnation. If a man can star at test cricket, *a fortiori* he can play the one-day codswallop that passes for it.

The time will come when selectors will have to give written reasons for their decision, and base them on computerised statistics.

I should like to see a chair of sports studies set up at Monash University. There is now a fine body of excellent historical scholarship of sport being pursued in Australia, fostered by the admirable Australian Society of Sports History. The Oxford companion to Australian sport is a fine achievement of that society. And Ray Webster's *History of*

Australian cricket is, in my view, the best book of its kind in the world – in many ways superior to *Wisden*.

I also believe that the longed-for Aboriginal 'reconciliation' is much more likely to be achieved by sportspersons than by politicians. Athletes like the delightfully unspoiled Kathy Freeman, whom I met in Canberra recently, have a tremendous responsibility in promoting the image of Aborigines. Kathy, in particular, seems to appreciate this, and I think is mature enough to carry the burden.

"The current fad for non-competitive sport is misconceived. It is human nature to seek to win."

Sadly, sport in schools has been devalued of late. This appalling trend is due to many factors, but it must be reversed immediately. It is particularly disturbing that organised sport has been allowed to wither in state primary and secondary schools. This is a breach of Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provides that every child (not just those of wealthy parents) has a right to appropriate sport and leisure. The current fad for non-competitive sport is misconceived. It is human nature to seek to win. Children should not be taught that winning is undesirable, but rather that ungracious losing – or winning – is unpardonable impoliteness!

The joy that I have derived from a lifetime of playing, watching and reading about sport – especially the world's most beautiful game, cricket – is incalculable. It is a privilege to live in a country where sport is so revered a part of its culture. It is imperative that Australian children appreciate this. In the year 2000, they will have the opportunity to demonstrate that Australia is the most multicultural, tolerant and sporting country in the world. If they can be promoted as the 'Children's Games of the 21st Century', then I believe that the hosting of the Olympic Games, achieved by the eloquence of an 11-year-old child, will be one of the great milestones in Australian cultural history.

Mr J. Neville Turner is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law. He is the honourable legal adviser to the Australian Society of Sports History and the vice-president of Oz Child/Children Australia.

National remedy for rural health

The future of rural Australians looks much healthier, thanks to a new national research centre led by Monash University.

A dynamic consortium of tertiary institutions will operate the National Rural Health Unit (NRHU) with \$500,000 in annual funding pledged from federal and state governments.

NRHU will be Australia's leading body for rural health research, operating as a national network of tertiary institutions and health organisations with a common interest in rural health issues.

Central NRHU administration will be based in Moe at the Monash Centre for Rural Health. Other offices will be set up in Alice Springs by the Menzies School of Health Research and in Wagga Wagga by Charles Sturt University.

Rural health experts from the universities of Western Australia and South Australia will also play leading roles in the new research unit.

Negotiations are also underway with institutions in Queensland and Tasmania, along with key research organisations across Australia.

The Federal Government will fund half of the NRHU costs, with the remainder shared by the states and territories. The unit has won strong support from health leaders,

including the Victorian Health Minister, Mrs Marie Tehan.

"I am delighted that the nationwide consortium has won the right to base this innovative unit in country Victoria," Mrs Tehan said.

"The NRHU recognises the importance of rural health needs and will enable the specific health concerns of people in country Australia to be better addressed."

NRHU organisers plan to operate a 'clearing house' of information about rural and remote area health research, including training and education initiatives for the rural health workforce.

The director of the Monash Centre for Rural Health, Professor Roger Strasser, will be NRHU's first management committee chairman.

As the chairman, Professor Strasser will handle the day-to-day running of the unit, reporting to a steering committee set up by the Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council (AHMAC). One of his first tasks will be to organise a conference of key players to develop a five-year strategy for the unit.

"The announcement marks the beginning of an exciting era focused on improving the health of Australians living in rural and remote areas," Professor Strasser said.

Wellington's calls

A student who hallucinates, an academic in need of a break, an administrative officer lacking culinary skills, and a secretary who spends a lot on lunch, have each won a lunch for two at Wellington's.

Montage readers were asked in the last issue for 1993 to write, in 30 words or less, why they deserved a free lunch at the Clayton campus cafe.

The winners wrote they deserved their free lunches for the following reasons:

"As I've a very strong HUNCH
I've already spent a BUNCH
When at Wellie's I MUNCH
To win a free LUNCH
Would be...simply SCRUMPCH."

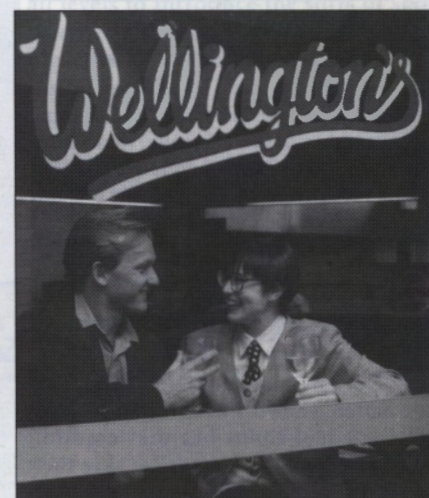
Carole Uhlman, Policy and Planning Directorate.

"To 'recharge my batteries' after a busy year of teaching, research, attending conferences and visiting exotic destinations."

Dr Andrew Goldsmith, Faculty of Law.

"Often, when I stare down my microscope, my algae begins to look like bottles of wine, plates of nachos and chocolate desserts. Take me away from this terrible fate and to a better life at Wellington's."

Mr John Tibbey, Department of Geography and Environmental Science.



"Because my digestive system requires some delicate consideration following the abuse it receives from my own culinary hand."

Ms Helen Dunne, University Secretariat.

Ms Dunne wasn't actually the scribe of this winning entry. A colleague, Ms Alison Dunneman, had submitted the entry in her friend's name. Does this mean that the entry is worth only an entree?

Each winner receives a lunch for two at Wellington's, which includes a two-course meal and a bottle of wine.