



Inside

www.monash.edu.au/news/

News

Trade Minister launches South Africa campus

The Australian Minister for Trade, Mr Mark Vaile, last month unveiled a plaque to mark the arrival of Monash University in South Africa.

Page 3

News

Linguists challenge Reverse Speech theory

A claim that a controversial language system taps the subconscious is highly questionable, say Monash linguists.

Page 2

Opinion

Are Australia's boat people genuine asylum seekers?

Our boat people are not the persecuted minorities they represent themselves to be, argues a Monash social researcher.

Page 5

Arts

Monash launches art prize

A new art prize will be launched at Monash next month with the announcement of its inaugural winner.

Page 6

Monash in international bid to develop new anti-malaria drug

BY DAVID BRUCE

Monash University has become the only Australian partner in a global effort, led by the World Health Organisation, to discover and develop a new class of anti-malarial drugs.

The Victorian College of Pharmacy on Monash's Parkville campus was chosen, after a worldwide selection process, to join a team leading the assault on malaria in developing countries.

The World Health Organisation, along with an array of other international agencies, including the World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, have established the Medicines for Malaria Venture with the goal of devel-

oping a new anti-malarial drug every five years.

Each year, between 300 and 500 million people contract malaria, resulting in well over one million deaths, mostly in developing countries. Due to the spread of drug resistance, many common treatments for malaria are becoming ineffective. Recent research into new drugs has lacked the resources to discover, develop, register and commercialise new products.

The project director at Monash, Professor Bill Charman, said it was a unique opportunity for his research team to join with many international research and philanthropic agencies in the development of a new drug.

"We will be developing a whole new class of drugs for malaria. The work

will build on the existing intellectual property, skills and research strengths at the Victorian College of Pharmacy as well as our past involvement with a range of drugs for different commercial and academic partners," Professor Charman said.

Monash will team up with the University of Nebraska and the Swiss Tropical Institute to undertake a project initially funded for three years at US\$1.2 million annually. The team is required to discover a new drug compound ready for human trials within two years.

The University of Nebraska will be responsible for identifying a new class of compounds, and the Swiss Tropical Institute will test the compounds, both

in culture and in animals. The Monash team, led by both Professor Charman and Dr Susan Charman, will be responsible for assessing and improving the pharmaceutical properties of the new compounds.

According to Professor Charman, research infrastructure previously obtained through the Strategic Monash University Research Fund played an important role in helping position the college at the forefront of drug development research.

"This project again reinforces the leading international reputation the college has gained over many years for investigating new drug compounds," he said.



All high speed roads should have barriers to protect vehicles from oncoming traffic and from roadside infrastructure such as poles, as this test last month demonstrated.

Barriers call for high speed roads

BY COREY NASSAU

Monash University's Accident Research Centre (MUARC) and Department of Civil Engineering are conducting world-first research into road safety that is looking at how road design features interact with vehicle design elements during a crash.

Over the last few months, the researchers have been crashing cars loaded with fully instrumented dummies into a range of roadside barrier

types, at different speeds and at different angles.

The tests, conducted at AMP's Westpoint Business Park (the former Laverton RAAF airfield) in southwest Melbourne, are looking at the interactions between the basic elements involved in a car crash - vehicle design, barrier design, vehicle restraint systems and speed.

MUARC director Professor Claes Tingvall said the tests pointed to the future for road safety.

"It is stupid to talk about crash-worthy cars or safe speeds in isolation of everything else. What we are talking about here is a developing a crash-worthy system.

"The message now for road agencies and vehicle manufacturers worldwide is that if they are not looking at the interface between car and barrier design, and how each performs in crashes of various speeds, then they are really missing the point."

Professor Tingvall believes that all roads carrying traffic at speeds higher than 70 kilometres per hour should have barriers on each side of the roadway and in the middle of the roadway.

"One of the early outcomes of this research is the realisation that all high-speed roads should have barriers protecting vehicles both from oncoming traffic and from road-side infrastructure like poles and trees.

Continued on page 2

Reverse speech myth challenged by linguists



BY KAY ANSELL

Australians can expect to hear a lot more about a man called David Oates and his unusual linguistic theories – and Monash experts are advising the public to be very sceptical about them.

Mr Oates is an Australian who claims to have discovered a language phenomenon that allegedly taps the subconscious. Dubbed 'Reverse Speech', Mr Oates believes it could be beneficial in treating such serious issues as alleged child molestation and personal problems.

After moving to California, Mr Oates developed Reverse Speech Enterprises. On his website, Mr Oates offers services such as sessions and tape analysis for A\$150 an hour; a "general round of session work" could take 10 to 12 hours per week.

Monash linguists Dr Mark Newbrook and Ms Jane Curtain have studied the theory in depth, corresponded with Mr Oates and attempted to reproduce Mr Oates' experiments.

They concluded some time ago that the theory was highly implausible in linguistic, psychological and even general terms. So they were surprised to see it covered recently in *The Australian's* weekend magazine and on television. The coverage follows Mr Oates' return to Adelaide to live.



Dr Mark Newbrook and Ms Jane Curtain say the Reverse Speech theory is scientifically unsubstantiated. Photo by Christine Mole.

Dr Newbrook and Ms Curtain have many concerns about the theory. One concern is that Mr Oates presents himself as a counsellor – although they acknowledge that no formal qualifications are needed for the title.

Ms Curtain says Mr Oates' clients send him tapes of conversations with spouses or relatives, which he plays in reverse. Mr Oates then 'analyses' the Reverse Speech, and draws conclusions about messages being conveyed by the subconscious minds. From his 'analysis' he might conclude, for example, that a spouse is being unfaithful or that a teenager is using drugs.

Ms Curtain says Mr Oates claims to have accreditation as a Reverse Speech analyst in California. His theories include that babies can speak much

earlier in Reverse Speech than they can in forward speech.

"He also claims that police forces in Australia and the FBI use Reverse Speech to tell whether people are guilty or not," she says.

Dr Newbrook and Ms Curtain say that auto suggestion – when the mind is influenced by suggestions planted there – figures heavily in the tapes that Mr Oates supplies as proof of his theory. He always tells listeners what they are about to hear in the Reverse Speech example, and this was borne out in the experiments the researchers conducted.

Ms Curtain suggests that one of the most misleading and arguably the most dangerous things about Mr Oates' theory is that he presents it as fact.

BRIEFS

Bush adviser delivers 2000 APEC lecture

Trade policy adviser for the Bush presidential campaign Mr Warren Maruyama delivered the Monash APEC lecture 2000 recently.

Mr Maruyama, who was visiting Australia as a guest of the Australian Government, spoke on 'The United States and the Asian Pacific Region'.

Mr Maruyama is regarded by observers as a candidate for a senior trade policy position in a Bush administration.

He served in the Reagan and Bush administrations, rising to the position of associate director for international economic policy in the White House.

Attorney-General visits uni legal service

Victorian Attorney-General Mr Rob Hulls visited the Springvale Monash Legal Service recently.

The visit included discussions about funding for community legal services and the current review of sentencing laws.

Also discussed was a state government proposal that could see lawyers from private firms working free of charge for six-to-12 month periods at the legal service.

Mr Hulls also expressed his support for the program in which Monash law students appear, under supervision and with the agreement of the Magistrate's or Family Court, on behalf of clients who cannot afford their own lawyers.

MONSU wins customer service award

The Monash University Student Union (MONSU) has won its second consecutive state Australian Customer Service Award in the category of Medium Business, at a recent dinner at the Hilton on the Park.

And the organisation last month also received a Highly Commended Award in the Medium Business Category at the national level.

MONSU was the only winner to come from the education sector. Other winners included Yarra Valley Water, Glen Eira City Council and Transfield Maintenance.

The awards are presented by the Australian Customer Service Association, a non-profit professional organisation dedicated to developing

excellence in the management and delivery of customer service in Australia.

Symposium promotes Pakistan relations

Pakistani and Australian experts in the fields of politics, commerce, media, law and economics came together last month for the Symposium on Modern Pakistan, hosted by Monash's National Centre for South Asian Studies.

The event included a public policy forum on Pakistan's business environment and a workshop on the economic fundamentals of the country.

Speakers included former Foreign Minister and Finance Minister in the Pakistan Government Mr Sartaj Aziz and former judge of the High Court of Pakistan Mrs Nasira Iqbal.

Conference attracts world experts

The 5th Annual Conference on International Trade, Education and Research was hosted recently by Monash University's APEC Study Centre.

The conference, which focused on 'Managing globalisation for prosperity', attracted experts from government and business in Australia and the US.

Speakers addressed subjects including e-commerce, the World Trade Organisation, the environment and trade and labour rights.

Paramedic students win competition

Two Monash students won events in the annual Australian College of Ambulance Professionals national competition held in Queensland recently.

Monash MICA student Ms Julie Scollary and her competition partner Ms Sue Lucas successfully defended their title and defeated New Zealand in the Trans Tasman Cup.

Monash student Ms Michelle Turner and her competition partner Mr Steve Reilly were this year's winners of the overall competition in both the trauma and resuscitation sections.

Crews are evaluated on their performance while working through resuscitation and trauma simulations.

School refusers benefit from new research

BY KAY ANSELL

Helping anxious students to overcome their fear of attending school can require therapy involving parents and the students, as well as consultation with teachers.

But new Monash research is showing that this intensive approach is not always necessary – and the study results could help to spread scarce resources, allowing more students to be helped.

Clinical psychologist Dr David Heyne coordinates a school refusal clinic under the Monash Centre for Developmental Psychiatry. School refusal – when a child's extreme distress stops them from going to school – can be sparked by anything from feelings of inadequacy to fear of bullying, he says. Helping students to manage their anxiety is part of tackling the problem.

Some cases need a more comprehensive approach, he says. "The research question that comes up is, in which cases do you need to use which particular approach?" Dr Heyne says.

Three approaches were compared: teaching the students anxiety management strategies; teaching the caregivers (parents and school staff) how to help the students; and having therapists see both students and caregivers.

Treatment involved 61 families receiving eight sessions spread over four weeks, and the outcome was



Therapy for school refusers need not involve parents, researchers have found.

assessed immediately after treatment and again after four months.

In results soon to be published, the researchers found that in the period immediately following treatment, the involvement of parents was critical in getting children back to school.

"When we worked with parents, either on their own or together with the young person, we found that kids were helped to attend school more of the time, and their emotional distress was lower than when we worked just with the youngster alone."

But the researchers found that after four months the students who had received treatment alone had caught up with the other two groups.

"It tells us that you don't always have to work with both parties – the

caregivers and the young person – to help a family with a school refusal problem."

In 75 per cent of the families across the three groups, attendance improved to 90 per cent or more.

The researchers are now interested in finding out which students are most likely to benefit from different approaches. Dr Heyne says older students and those with greater social anxieties or depression may require direct treatment, whereas young school refusers may respond to indirect therapy through parents or school personnel.

Researchers are currently preparing a manual for publication in 2001, to share their findings with professionals in mental health and education.

More road barriers needed: tests

Continued from page 1

"Vehicles are not designed to successfully protect occupants at higher speeds. Vehicle crash testing is conducted with front-on collisions that bring a car to a stop from 64 kilometres per hour," Professor Tingvall said. "On many of our roads, we are talking about cars travelling at more than 100 kilometres per hour deflecting off barriers and other infrastructure over a range of angles. Cars are not designed to handle these kinds of events on their own."

"That is why this research is fairly novel. But this is the way all road safety will be conducted in the future."

The tests have been sponsored by a number of Swedish stakeholders – Folksham Insurance, NTF and Swedish National Road Administration – as well as the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Autoliv, VicRoads, TAC and the RACV. The barriers used in the tests have been constructed of wire rope, W-beam steel guardrail, concrete and steel piping.

The Age are proud supporters of Monash University.

For home delivery phone 13 27 82

theage.com.au

THE AGE
Seize the day



Unveiling the Monash plaque: From left to right: Monash South Africa pro vice-chancellor Professor John Anderson, Australian Minister for Trade Mr Mark Vaile, South African Education Committee member Mr L. J. Modisenyane, Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson and Australian High Commissioner to South Africa Mr David Connolly. Picture by Robert Botha.

South Africa campus launched

BY DAVID BRUCE

International education opportunities for South African students were given a major boost last month with the launch of Monash University's campus in Johannesburg.

The Australian Minister for Trade, Mr Mark Vaile, officially unveiled a plaque to mark the arrival of Monash University in South Africa.

Also in attendance were the Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, Mr David Connolly, Monash University vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson, Monash South Africa pro vice-chancellor Professor John Anderson, and Monash's special adviser on international affairs, chair of the Australia-Southern Africa Business Council and former Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, Mr Ian Porter.

Professor Robinson said the launch marked the public unveiling of the

campus, currently in its final stages of construction and on target to receive its first students in February next year.

"Monash University's major investment of funds and other resources in South Africa has been realised today with the launch of its South African campus. This represents a long-term commitment to South Africa's future," he said.

"The campus will be part of the new South Africa's continued integration into the global economy, and will play a major role in educating the country's workforce for tomorrow's challenges.

"If we can follow the example of our campus in Malaysia, a full 25 per cent of the student population will come from outside South Africa, thereby bringing enormous economic benefits to the country."

Monash South Africa pro vice-chancellor Professor John Anderson said the establishment of the South African campus was part of Monash's goal of

"having an educational network that spans the globe".

"The South African campus is our second international campus after Malaysia, and these international operations, together with the Monash centres in the UK and Italy, are central to our vision of offering all Monash students a gateway to the world," he said. "It should produce global citizens who will be able to contribute a great deal to their own countries."

Professor Anderson said the South Africa campus offered opportunities for all Monash students to broaden their horizons by providing a new and different working, learning, teaching, research and living environment.

Monash University marked the campus launch with a gift of artworks to South Africa, that will eventually be on display at the campus.

Heads of school announced

BY JUNE YU

Three Monash academics have been appointed heads of school at the new South Africa campus in Johannesburg, due to open its doors in February next year.

School of Business and Economics head Associate Professor Alan Simon, School of Arts head Associate Professor Art Venio and School of Information Technology head Mr Edward Wilson will travel to South Africa later this year to take up their new appointments.

Dr Simon, of the Department of Management, said he was "looking forward to the challenge of establishing a state-of-the-art school of business and economics in South Africa".

He said his first priorities would be to set up the Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Commerce courses and build a strong research ethic.

"We will have good research, quality teaching and mutually beneficial relationships with the community and, ultimately, we will increase our offerings beyond the undergraduate level," he said.

Dr Simon, born and bred in Johannesburg, brings to his new position his previous experience as a senior lecturer in business schools in South Africa.

Dr Venio, who lived in Zambia from 1979 to 1980, said he hoped to contribute to the rebuilding of South Africa as a nation after the reign of apartheid.

He will start by establishing the School of Arts with courses including psychology, mass communications, contemporary world and history, geography and environmental sciences.

"Arts is a highly sought-after degree in South Africa because many people want to study community development and then go back and help their communities," he said.

Dr Venio was formerly director of the Centre for Police and Justice Studies and deputy director of the School of Public Policy.

Dr Venio was recently in South Africa, where he established links with the South African police regarding training and education and with the University of South Africa in relation to security and community justice systems.

Mr Wilson, course director for the Bachelor of Business Systems for the last 10 years, said his new appointment was "a chance to start something from scratch and to make a contribution to both the university and South Africa".

He intends to focus on establishing links with the IT industry in South Africa by way of joint programs, sponsored research and cooperative education links.

After becoming course director for the Bachelor of Business Systems in 1991, he was responsible for the high-level growth of the course, raised \$7 million in industrial sponsorships, and initiated and implemented two double degrees.



From left to right: Associate Professor Alan Simon, Associate Professor Art Venio and Mr Edward Wilson.

New law reform commissioner promises community consultation

BY STUART HEATHER

Victoria's newly established Law Reform Commission will be relevant and independent, and will ask Victorians themselves where reform is required, according to the organisation's new head.

Professor Marcia Neave, professor of law at Monash University, has been given the job of bringing life back to the commission, which was disbanded in 1992.

Professor Neave said that without the commission, Victorians and their government have been in the "unfortunate situation of not having the benefit of its independent legal advice on important policy issues".

"The government might have acted differently on big issues such as privatisation if it had been better advised on the legal implications and safeguards that could have been built in to give the community more confidence," she said.

Professor Neave will begin a four-year term as Victorian Law Reform Commissioner in early December.

Specific areas of its work will be decided in discussions with the state Attorney-General, but several themes



Professor Marcia Neave. Photo by Christine Moie.

stand out as special interests of Professor Neave - property law, families, access to justice and community education.

While undertaking volunteer work for the Monash-Oakleigh Legal Service, she is sometimes asked for advice on settling disputes between people who own property together.

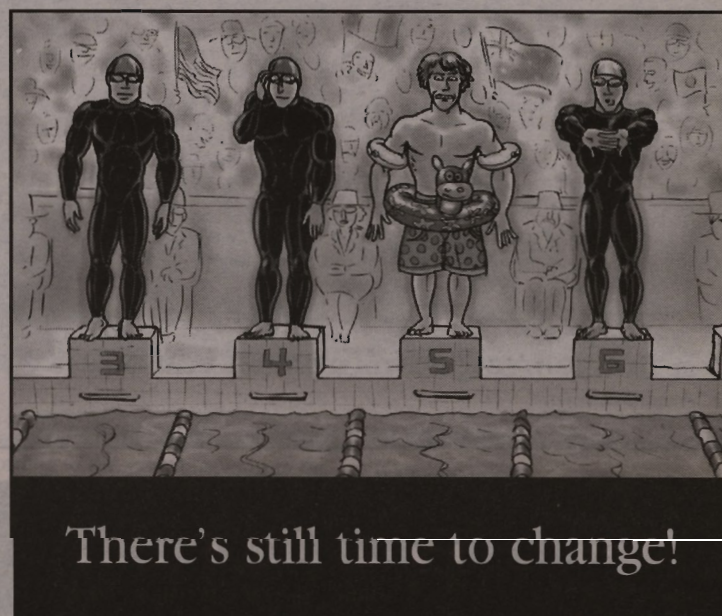
"The law in this area is very old and unnecessarily messy - it would be a fairly simple process to fix it," she said. "Whether it is dividing up an inheri-

tance, seeking a just outcome for the gay partner of someone who has died, or joint property owners who fall out of agreement, there are 'technical' solutions that could be enacted reasonably quickly."

Professor Neave said the division of federal and state responsibilities for children before the law, such as through the federal Family Law Court and the state Children's Court, sometimes allows children to "fall between the gaps". The two legal systems "do not fit together very well" and better integration is needed.

Or community law education, Professor Neave said a state Law Reform Commission could help people to be better informed about legal issues affecting the community. "Sentencing is an example; when given good information instead of prejudice, people often come to different conclusions."

Professor Neave plans to talk to community groups and "all stakeholders" across the state to ask where they think Victoria's laws require reform. As well, "there is the issue of giving groups and individuals better access to legal advice and the justice system more broadly".



Monash Change of Preference Information Sessions

Now that you have your VCE results, you may want to rethink your course preferences. Our Monash Change of Preference Information Sessions will give you everything you need to know about all courses in all Monash campuses so come along and discover how at Monash, the world is your campus.

Metropolitan region: Wednesday, 13 December, 10 am - 2 pm
Level 3, E Block, Caulfield campus, Dandenong Road

Gippsland region: Tuesday, 12 December, 4 pm - 7 pm
Faculty of Business and Economics Conference Room
Gippsland campus, Northways Road, Churchill

For a free copy of the *Monash Change of Preference Guide*, which provides useful information about Monash undergraduate courses, entry requirements, ENTERS, fee-paying places and more, contact the Prospective Students Office at the details below.

Prospective Students Office
Ph (03) 9905 1320, Fax (03) 9905 3168
Email mci@adm.monash.edu.au

MONASH
UNIVERSITY

Schools



Enhancement Studies closing date

Applications for the Monash 2001 Enhancement Studies Program close on Friday, 3 November 2000. Late applications will be accepted subject to availability of places.

The Enhancement Studies Program gives high-achieving students the opportunity to study a Monash subject as part of their Year 12 program. Subjects available include:

- Accounting
- Australian History/Politics
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Communications/Media Studies
- Computer Technology/Programming
- Economics
- English Literature
- Geography
- History of World War II
- Indonesian
- Japanese
- Jewish civilisation
- Mathematics
- Music (Performance)
- Philosophy

To obtain a handbook and application form, contact Ms Philippa Brown in

the Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 5859 or email philippa.brown@adm.monash.edu.au

Change of Preference information sessions

Monash will be conducting information sessions during the VTAC Change of Preference period. Students will be able to access information about all courses at all campuses at each session.

Metropolitan region

Wednesday 13 December

10 am to 2 pm

Level 3, K Block

Monash University Caulfield campus
Dandenong Road
Caulfield

Gippsland region

Tuesday 12 December

4 pm to 7 pm

Faculty of Business and Economics
Conference Room

Building 5N

Monash University Gippsland campus
Northways Road
Churchill

Students who are unable to attend a session can contact the Prospective Students Office for advice and a copy of the *Change of Preference Information Guide* on (03) 9905 1320 or email mci@adm.monash.edu.au

Researcher sheds new light on Japan's foreign aid program

By SUE McALISTER

A Japanese development assistance program in the Philippines is unusual in that it attempts to place the interests of local communities ahead of those of Japan, claims a Monash researcher.

For his doctoral thesis, Mr Henry Scheyvens is focusing on the developmental impact of Japan's aid program, the world's largest. It is an issue largely overlooked by a literature primarily concerned with motives.

After researching aid agencies in Japan, Mr Scheyvens undertook a number of case studies in Bangladesh and the Philippines. "Japan has generally preferred to fund large-scale public works development, much of it constructed by Japanese contractors," he said. "This does not necessarily translate into an environment which builds the capacity of the poor to plan and act for their own development."

By contrast, one project in the Philippines sheds new light on Japanese aid, revealing a more progressive, participatory approach to development, he says. "Concerted efforts were being made to meet the needs of local people, even at the expense of Japan's commercial interests."

Japanese development assistance was used to fund facilitation workshops in a number of Philippine villages on Bohol Island. Villagers gathered to identify their needs and seek ways of acting collectively to improve their livelihoods. Based on these workshops, one coastal community decided to construct a marine sanctuary that it then policed, allowing depleted fish stocks to recover. Three other communities followed suit with the support of the district mayor. Another community applied sloping agricultural land technology to grow vegetables and fodder, showing potential for widespread application, as much of the island is mountainous.

The key, Mr Scheyvens says, lies in the aid donor allowing local communi-



An innovative Japanese aid project in the Philippines is unusual in encouraging villagers to help themselves, says researcher Mr Henry Scheyvens.

ties to decide what's best for them and how to use local resources most effectively. "In this way, locals develop a strong sense of ownership of the development process and begin to feel that they are in charge of their own destiny. The role of the donor, on the other hand, becomes one of facilitating rather than leading. Once pilot schemes have been identified by the community through this process, the donor should be willing to assist with

funding and technical assistance if necessary."

But allowing local communities greater control over their development choices can have unpredictable results, and can deprive Japanese companies of lucrative aid contracts.

This is why Mr Scheyvens is not optimistic that the participatory approach he observed in the Philippines will be replicated on a broad scale by Japan's aid administration.

DO YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE?

For details on how to advertise in *Monash News*,

call Duyen Vo on

(03) 9905 3087,

fax (03) 9905 2097 or email
duyen.vo@adm.monash.edu.au

Bayview Conference Centre

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

10 minutes walking distance from
Monash Campus Centre

Christmas functions – book now

Bayview Avenue, Clayton 9544 5933

Conference Centre



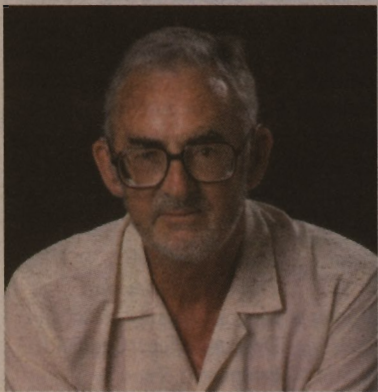
New initiatives help clear the air

Monash students Mr Shalain Singh (left) and Mr Matt Fielden are part of a growing number of students and staff at Monash's Clayton campus who are taking advantage of the university's carpooling scheme and facilities. In an effort to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, another carpoolers' carpark has been planned at the campus for early next year. New bicycle lockers, an extended bus shuttle service between the Caulfield and Clayton campuses, a website providing information on how to get to Monash using public transport, and new bus shelters are also proposed. Improvements to the existing bus loop, such as increased seating, improved lighting and a self-cleaning toilet, should be near completion by the end of the year. The improvements are an initiative of the university's Facilities & Services division in conjunction with the Monash Students Association. Photo by Janelle Jakowenko.

Australia's boat people: persecuted minorities or opportunists?

Most Middle Eastern boat people who reach Australia are succeeding in their refugee claims. However, Australia's first responsibility is to those who do not have a refuge against the threat of persecution, such as those in our own region, argues social researcher Dr Bob Birrell.

OPINION



Refugee policy engages intense passions. Advocates for the unauthorised boat arrivals see them as the most miserable and oppressed of people. They have placed themselves at our mercy. Their future depends on our charity as a nation. Put in these terms, if Australia does not respond generously, its credibility as a compassionate community is put into question.

As a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Refugees, the Australian Government is bound to consider the claims of the boat people and the far larger number who enter Australia legally, then subsequently apply for asylum.

Though coming from a small base, the number of boat people arriving in Australia has surged dramatically since mid-1999.

In 1998-99 fewer than 1000 unauthorised persons arrived by boat. In the period from July 1999 to February 2000, the number increased to 3484.

Most came from Middle Eastern countries, thus confirming that our geographical isolation is no protection from the global movement of people searching for a secure haven.

The recently announced budget decision to build two new detention centres and to refurbish existing centres at a cost of \$52 million substantiates the message. It also implies that the government anticipates a further flow of unauthorised asylum seekers.

To observers who believe that the boat people are deserving of our compassion, and that the numbers are small relative to European standards, this response seems excessive.

There is no doubt that emphasis on well-publicised deterrent measures partly reflects the Coalition's anxiety that it not be seen to be 'losing control' of migration movements.

Most Australians see the escalation in the number of unauthorised boat people as evidence that the government cannot manage our borders properly.

But there is much more to the situation. The problem from the viewpoint



Artwork by Elizabeth Dias.

of the government's priority of limiting on-shore claims is that most of those arriving from the Middle East are succeeding in their refugee claims.

This may seem surprising in the light of the accompanying graphic descriptions of self-mutilation in protest against Australia's policies.

It seems that the smugglers led their clients to believe that they would gain instant asylum status. The Australian Government insists on case-by-case review.

Most of the applicants from Iraq are successful, as are the majority from Afghanistan. Of the minority who fail at the primary level, most succeed at the Refugee Review Tribunal level. In 1998-99, of the 54 cases from Iraq considered, 47 or 87 per cent were 'set aside' or approved.

Most of the Middle Eastern boat people arrive without documentation. If they can substantiate their claim that they originally come from countries like Iraq or Afghanistan, where it is well known that the losers to internal conflicts are likely to be persecuted on

the basis of their religious or political beliefs, they are usually granted protection visas.

This success of the Middle Eastern boat people in gaining asylum helps explain the move to greater deterrence. The message to other potential claimants, and particularly to the syn-

The message to other potential claimants... is that Australia is a good target.

icates that profit from finding successful outlets, is that Australia is a good target.

As the government appears to be anticipating, Australia could well be the target for many more unauthorised asylum seekers.

Is this a problem, given that most seem to be succeeding under the exist-

ing rules? Judgements will vary according to the values brought to the issue.

My view is that there is a valid moral argument against allowing individual asylum seekers (by virtue of their ability to make it illegally to Australia) to decide who should absorb Australia's capacity to provide humanitarian settlement opportunities.

The highest priority should go to people who have the most need for protection, that is those who do not have a refuge against the threat of persecution. It is not clear that the boat people have a good case on this account.

As far as those from Iraq are concerned, most have lived for up to 10 years in Jordan and Iran. It appears that they are not in danger of being returned to Iraq, though there are pressures from Jordan and Iran for them to move elsewhere.

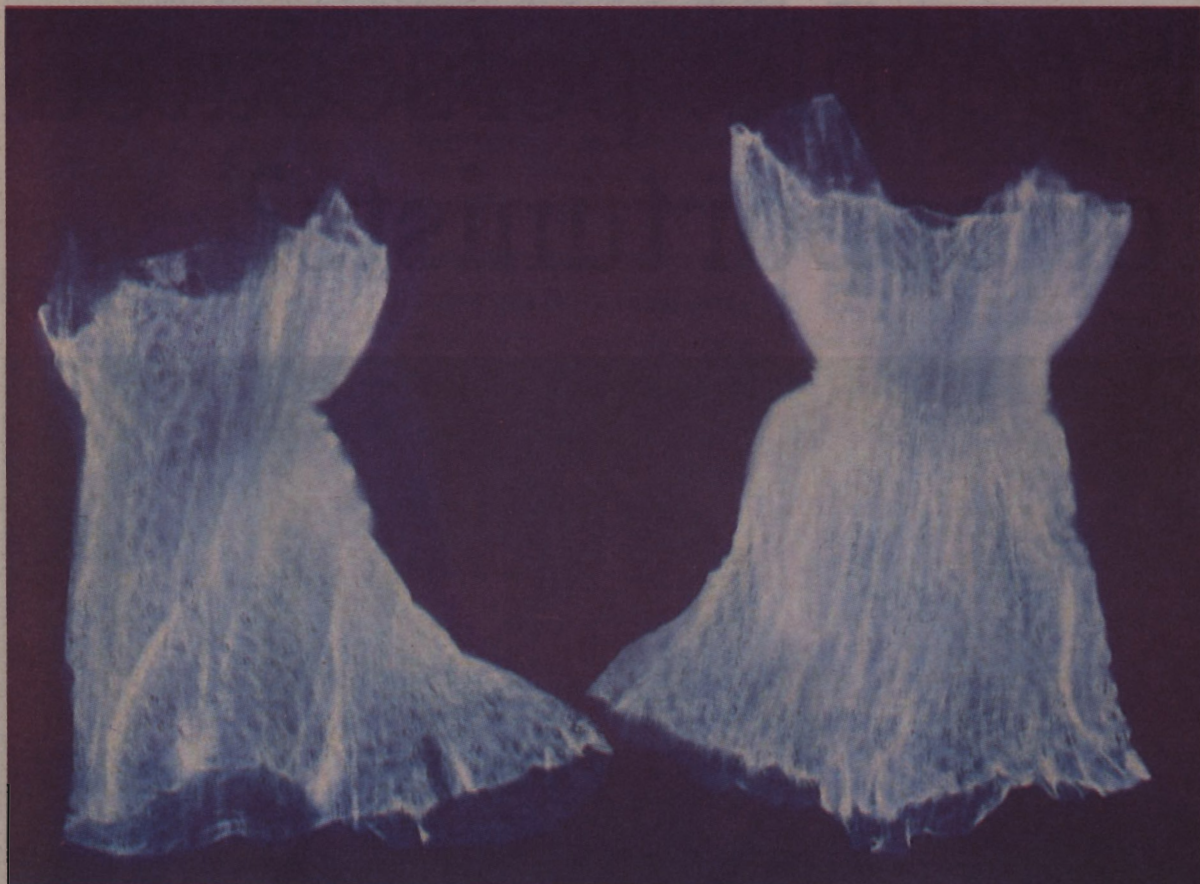
This issue was recently explored by the Federal Court of Australia, in the case of the Minister for Immigration

and Multicultural Affairs vs Al-Sallal (October 1999).

The court rejected Al-Sallal's appeal against the Refugee Review Tribunal's denial of his asylum claim on the grounds that persons of Arab origin who have fled to Jordan are not likely to be in danger of being returned to Iraq or Kuwait, where they might face persecution.

From a regional viewpoint, Australia's first responsibility is to our neighbouring region. Here, sadly, there many locations, such as parts of Indonesia, where people desperately need protection from religious and other forms of persecution.

Dr Bob Birrell is director of the Centre for Population and Urban Research at Monash University. This is an extract of an article by Dr Birrell that first appeared in Dissent!, Spring 2000, and has been reprinted with the permission of the editors.



'Untitled' by Carolyn Lewens (2000).

Student art exhibition guarantees surprises

BY SUE McALISTER

A startlingly diverse collection of works by Monash students titled *ArtArt* will be on display next month.

And according to the kaleidoscopic show's curator, Ms Nadine Sawyer, the 21 participants are "full of energy and enthusiasm".

"You can expect to be surprised," says Ms Sawyer, who is studying for her masters degree in painting at Monash. "There's a lot of exciting work evolving at Monash at present. You'll see whirling washing machines suspended overhead, latex moulds of bathroom fixtures draped over a towel rail, exquisite prints and paintings, works in glass, bright synthetic tapestries that look as though they've just arrived from Tonga, and large navy blue ships made from wax. The list goes on and on!"

According to Ms Sawyer, the title *ArtArt* was chosen "to reflect the fact that, unlike many exhibitions today, the works do not have to conform to a theme - this show is about art for art's sake. Each exhibit was created by and for an individual, and included on the basis of its own intrinsic strength as a visual work".

All the exhibits are by third-year students as well as honours, masters and doctoral candidates from Monash's Faculty of Art and Design. They were chosen through a process whereby each artist submitted three slides or photographs of their work, a resumé and a statement about how and why their work was created.

Ms Sawyer's approach to arranging the exhibits is, however, somewhat less orthodox. "Being a painter," she says, "I enjoy this aspect of curating. I like to be as spontaneous as possible, so I go into the gallery with only a very rough

idea of where each work will sit - it's similar to the experience of painting, though I'm using other people's works, of course. When the first work is placed, its colour, texture and shape triggers the next move, and so on. The outcome is stimulating, with the viewer experiencing not only the wonderful art, but the fresh way the exhibition has been put together."

What: *ArtArt*

Where: Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus

When: 7 to 25 November. As 7 November is Melbourne Cup Day, the official opening will be held on 8 November, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Who: For more details, contact Ms Nadine Sawyer on (03) 9533 4680.

Gallery launches sculpture prize

BY SUE McALISTER

The Baldessin Arts 21 Travelling Fellowship will be launched with the announcement of its first winner on 23 November at Monash University's Caulfield campus.

The annual fellowship, named for the gifted young artist and sculptor George Baldessin who was killed in 1978, is open to graduating third-year sculpture students at Monash, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the Victorian College of the Arts.

"It's a hugely wonderful, fitting tribute to an artist of tremendous ability," says Mr Malcom Bywaters, manager of Monash's Faculty of Art and Design Gallery, where the 12 finalists will be exhibited. The deputy director of the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Mr Tony Elwood, will judge the award, worth \$16,000. The exhibition will be opened by Dr Gerard Vaughan, director of the NGV.

"The Baldessin Fellowship is unique in Australia as it enables graduating third-year students to visit overseas galleries and collections with some financial support," Mr Bywaters said. "It also gives students who have never exhibited an exceptional opportunity to show their work and to practice making applications as professional sculptors. Monash students are very enthusiastic about the opportunity and the exhibition."

The exhibition also shows that establishing a fellowship doesn't require millions of dollars - in this case, it took only a modest bequest and a mother's love.

George Baldessin was born in Italy in 1939. After suffering the trauma of being separated during World War II, his mother, Carmen, her husband,

Luigi, and George were re-united in Melbourne in 1949.

George attended schools in Melbourne before studying painting at RMIT from 1958 to 1961. He later attended the Chelsea Art School in London and the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan. His sculptures, paintings and prints focused on the human body, especially its vulnerability. He exhibited here and overseas, and won numerous Australian and international art prizes.

When George died in an automobile accident at the age of 39, Carmen, a pensioner, drew up a will specifying that \$15,000 from the sale of the family home be used to create a public memorial to her beloved son. After she died in 1990, one of George's close friends, Mr Les Kossatz of Monash's Fine Arts department, suggested using Carmen's bequest to pay for three bronze replicas of George's early work, 'Trapeze' (1965). One was donated to the National Gallery of Australia and the others were sold to start the George Baldessin Memorial Foundation, which, along with Arts Victoria, will fund the new prize.

What: *The Baldessin Arts 21 Travelling Fellowship*

Where: Monash Faculty of Art and Design Gallery, Caulfield campus

When: Winner announced 23 November; exhibition of 12 finalists, chosen by the heads of the sculpture studios at Monash, RMIT and VCA, from 24 November to 8 December

Who: Contact Malcom Bywaters on (03) 9903 2882.



'Trapeze' by George Baldessin (1965).

ARTS SCENE

Monash academics win art prize

Two Monash Art and Design academics have won the prestigious Flemming Muntz Prize for Works on Paper, held at the Albury Regional Art Gallery recently.

Ms Susan Purdy, a lecturer in photography from the Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, created an image of a decorative fan for the competition using a photographic process called photogram, where objects are placed on photographic paper to create an image.

Ms Caroline Durré, coordinator of printmaking and photomedia studies in the Department of Fine Arts, produced 'The History of Burdens', a large-scale linocut in black and white depicting historical images of figures carrying weights.

Both works have been purchased by the Albury Regional Art Gallery and will join two images of jugs created by

Ms Purdy that already form part of the gallery collection.

Much ado about high school teaching

Imagine a high school where Hamlet is the physical education teacher, Shakespeare is the head of the English department and the three witches from *Macbeth* are in charge of the canteen.

Much Ado About Teaching is set in such a school. The latest musical theatre production by students from the Graduate Diploma of Education at Monash takes a light-hearted look at conflict in a high school setting.

The production aims to help Monash students - who will be involved as cast members, set builders, publicity officers and choreographers - learn the skills they will need as secondary school music and drama teachers.

Performances will be held on 16, 17 and 18 November at 7.30 pm in the Drama Performance Space at the

Clayton campus. For inquiries and bookings, contact Dr Jane Southcott on (03) 9905 2810.

Modern musical shows the way

Monash University Musical Company's latest production creates a spellbinding tale of a young orphan propelled into a dark, wintry New Year's Eve to meet a host of bizarre characters, from a fallen angel to the richest man in the world.

Celebration, which will be performed at the Cromwell Road Theatre in South Yarra from 14 to 18 November, has been designed to challenge people's assumptions as they follow the orphan on a symbolic journey to find his garden. The production involves a number of Monash students from a variety of faculties and year levels.

For inquiries and bookings, contact the Monash University Musical Company on (03) 9543 4034.

New book brings facts to modern bioethics debates

BY DEREK BROWN

Questions over the use of medical and biological advances such as cloning and IVF have long been debated in the public arena, but most of us are still missing the real issues, claims the editor of a new book on bioethics.

Associate Professor Helga Kuhse, who has edited *Bioethics: An Anthology* with prominent ethicist Professor Peter Singer, says there is often a great deal of misunderstanding by the general public and in the media about the scientific reality of medical and biological advances.



Complicated medical and biological processes cloud the public's understanding of bioethical issues, says Associate Professor Helga Kuhse. Photo by Richard Crompton.

"Many bioethical issues revolve around complicated medical or biological processes, which means public debate, due to a lack of knowledge, is often based on emotional responses rather than the facts," said Dr Kuhse.

"For example, 20 years ago, when debate over the use of IVF to create 'test-tube' babies began, people were talking about the IVF embryos as if they were fully formed fetuses with the ability to feel pain. In reality, the embryos consisted of only a few cells, none of which were nerve cells and, hence, they were unable to feel pain," she said.

Today, things have improved little according to Dr Kuhse, who believes questions raised about cloning reveal some equally inaccurate assumptions.

"If you look at some of the comments on radio talkback, in newspapers and collected via opinion polls, there is clearly an assumption that a clone of a person will be an exact copy of the original – biologically, emotionally and psychologically – with no free will of its own," she said.

"Even a cloned human would be a self-determining individual able to shape and be shaped by their experiences. They would be free to develop their own personality and make choices on how they want to live their life."

Dr Kuhse said misconceptions tended to cloud real and valid ethical questions on the uses of new medical and biological techniques and she hoped the book would bring these issues to the surface.

"Public debate on bioethical issues is usually too limited by time and money to deal with complex issues, but there are some questions that need to be asked," she said.

"Good philosophy should address the real-life issues that affect people's daily existence. How we live and die, the role and responsibilities of parents, how we should treat newborn babies with disabilities, and what technologies or breakthroughs should be supported financially are all issues our society needs to deal with."

Exhibition reveals the rich history of private press publishing

BY DEREK BROWN

Every Tuesday evening, deep inside a basement at Monash's Clayton campus, a group of people gather to continue the centuries-old tradition of private and fine press publishing under the name of Ancora Press.

In *Outside the Mainstream: Private, Fine and Amateur Printing*, an exhibition currently on show at Monash's Rare Books Library, publications printed by Ancora join a selection of works by private presses in the UK, US and Australia, some dating back to the early 18th century.

According to Dr Brian McMullin, Monash academic and head printer at Ancora Press, the exhibition was designed to show the history of printing and publishing outside the confines of normal commercial activity.

"In private press printing, the printer is usually less concerned with making money than making a book look good. The owner/printer prints what they like and will spend more time choosing an appropriate font, selecting an attractive design and producing a quality publication than is normally the case," Dr McMullin said.

"The quality of the type, paper and illustrations and the fact that there is only a limited run for each publication makes fine press books very collectable," he said.

Although the last decade of the 19th century ushered in a large demand for fine press printing, many private presses already existed, some having been established as early as the middle of the 18th century, said Dr McMullin.

"The Strawberry Hill Press was established in 1757 by the 4th Earl of Orford to produce works written



One of the exhibits featured in *Outside the Mainstream: Private and Amateur Printing*.

mainly by himself and his friends. As a man of means, there was no commercial pressure on the Earl to produce anything else."

Dr McMullin pointed out that while the private press movement declined during and after World War II, it did not disappear entirely, with the influence of

private presses still evident in commercial printing today.

"The lasting impact of the private presses was to raise the standards of commercial book publishing. As part of the move to improve standards, the role of the book designer became more central," he said.

INPRINT

Changing University Teaching
Open & Distance Learning
Reflections on Creating Educational Technologies

Changing University Teaching:

Reflections on Creating Educational Technologies

Edited by Terry Evans and Daryl Nation

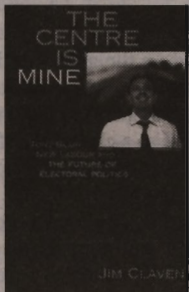
Kogan Page

RRP: \$55.95 (paperback)

The rise of the virtual university and the development of new and innovative methods of course delivery have meant real changes to the way professionals in higher education are approaching university teaching.

One of many books in the Open and Distance Learning Series, *Changing University Teaching* draws on the experience of a number of contributors from a range of international universities, to consider if and how technological change can improve teaching.

Associate Professor Daryl Nation is the deputy director of the Centre for Learning and Teaching Services and head of the Educational Design Group at Monash University. Professor Terry Evans is director of research in the Faculty of Education at Deakin University.



The Centre is Mine:

Tony Blair, New Labour and the Future of Electoral Politics

By Jim Claven

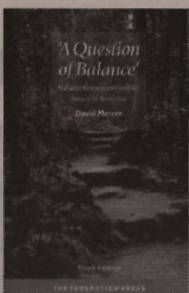
Pluto Press

RRP: \$25.16

In 1997, Britain's newly elected prime minister, Tony Blair, declared the recent electoral win a victory for 'New Labour', a recreation of the traditional Labour party in Britain. It was a rebirth designed to capture the hearts and minds of swinging voters, the centre ground of politics.

In *The Centre is Mine*, author Jim Claven looks at the phenomenal success of this political transformation. In particular, Claven looks at the implications of New Labour's politics for left-of-centre parties in other countries, including Australia. *The Centre is Mine* includes a forward by Kim Beazley, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Claven is a Monash master of arts graduate (1998). He has worked in both the political and industrial wings of the labour movement and is currently a senior industrial research officer with the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union of Australia.



A Question of Balance: Natural Resources Conflict Issues in Australia

(3rd edition)

David Mercer

Federation Press

RRP: \$43.94

As Australian Governments retreat from involvement in green issues, the use and management of our natural resources is increasingly at the mercy of free-traders and the globalised economy.

In *A Question of Balance*, author David Mercer attempts to discern the impact of this power shift on the Australian environment and, in particular, the four commercial sectors that have been the backbone of rural Australia for decades: forestry resources; tourism; mining and energy; and agriculture and pastoralism.

Avoiding either extreme of the environmental debate, from technological optimism to pessimistic doomsday predictions, Mercer produces a well-researched, scientifically based analysis of the state of natural resources in Australia.

Associate Professor David Mercer is from the School of Geography and Environmental Science at Monash University.

POSTscript

The Enterprise University: Power, Governance and Reinvention in Australia, by Professor Simon Marginson from Monash University and Associate Professor Mark Considine from the University of Melbourne, was launched last month by Lynne Kosky, Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Training and Employment and Minister for Finance.

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

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

• CITSU (Caulfield) (03) 9571 3277 • Clayton (03) 9905 3111
• Gippsland (03) 5122 1771 • Peninsula (03) 9783 6932

www.monash.edu.au

New technique to aid problem amputees

BY COREY NASSAU

Despite ongoing advances in the production and design of specialised prosthetics, some amputees cannot adapt to a traditional socket prosthesis. But now, thanks to an experimental technique developed in Sweden, there may be an alternative.

Known as Osseointegrated Prosthesis for the Rehabilitation of Amputees (OPRA) and involving the direct skeletal attachment of a prosthesis to the bone, the technique promises to help problem amputees by providing benefits beyond those of conventional prosthetic devices.

According to Mr Bill Contoyannis, manager of the Monash University Rehabilitation and Technology Research Unit (Rehabtech), OPRA is helping to advance prosthetic technology.

"A person who has a very small stump is biomechanically at a disadvantage with a socket prosthesis, as the load to surface area is always going to be great. This new technique may, in future, provide a common alternative for such cases," Mr Contoyannis said.

Last month, Monash researchers became part of an extended team that performed this procedure for the first time outside Sweden or the UK, operating on two patients at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

Pioneered by Professor Per-Ingvar Brånemark from Sweden, osseointegration literally refers to 'bone integration' and is today a common technique used in dentistry and facial restorations.



Rehabtech manager Mr Bill Contoyannis says new prosthetic technology which attaches directly to the bone promises hope for problem amputees.

Photo by Greg Ford.

OPRA is based on the ability of the skeleton to attach to titanium metal. Surgeons insert a titanium implant into the bone and the skin is closed over for a period of about six months to allow the two to grow together.

"After six months, the final procedure is performed and a cut is made into the bottom of the stump to reveal the implant," Mr Contoyannis said. "This allows the insertion of another bolt that protrudes through the stump. The prosthesis is then attached to this device and a gradual rehabilitation process begins."

Rehabtech and Monash's Centre for Biomedical Engineering became part of the world-wide clinical trial through their involvement with the

Caulfield General Medical Centre, the Alfred Hospital and Integrum, the company heading the collaborative trial.

Rehabtech's role is to assist in the ongoing assessment of clients by measuring their improvements post-procedure, such as any increases in load capacity, walkable distances, speeds and other functionalities.

The unit also undertakes pre-operative assessments of prospective OPRA candidates and conducts computer modelling of current patients to advance the clinical data.

For more information, visit Rehabtech's website at www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech

Researchers collaborate on Arctic global warming study

BY PETER GOLDIE

Monash scientists are contributing to an important study of global warming in the Arctic climatic zone which is being undertaken by the universities of Alaska and Colorado and funded by the US National Science Foundation.

A combination of its internationally-recognised role in climatology, skills with complex meteorological research tools and the experience of its scientists won Monash's School of Geography and Environmental Science

its invitation to collaborate in the ATLAS project.

The Australian contribution to the work is coordinated through Associate Professor Nigel Tapper at the school, while honours students Mr Ian McHugh and Mr Chris Wendt are conducting field research in Alaska. PhD student Ms Willow Hallgren is also involved in climate modelling work back at Monash.

Dr Tapper says it has been a great opportunity to bring the school's skills and techniques to bear on problems

associated with possible changes in climatic patterns in the Arctic, particularly at the Arctic 'treeline', where forest gives way to tundra.

"The environment up there is actually a very important one in global climate terms, because of the control it exerts on northern hemisphere climates," he said.

"It is an area that is heavily snowed in winter and which melts out quickly through the summer, so changes in snow and ice accompanied by any degree of global warming are likely to have substantial feedbacks for climates."

The region is interesting to environmental scientists because its 'surface energy budget characteristics', including the amount of the sun's energy it retains or reflects, are not well understood, but thought to have profound implications for changed ecosystems, permafrost and snow distributions, and atmospheric circulations.

The Monash scientists in the field are measuring changes in localised atmospheric conditions among regions where the Alaskan tundra meets the northern forests.

Mr McHugh has completed the better part of two years in Alaska and continues his work next year in Siberia. The ATLAS field program is being run through the University of Alaska's Institute of Arctic Biology and is headed by Dr Jason Beringer, a former Monash PhD student.



Field research conducted by Monash scientists in Alaska is helping to cast light on the contribution of Arctic climate change to global warming.

BRIEFS

Researcher is contender for Young Achiever award

Monash PhD student Ms Kirsten Robertson has won a place as a semi-finalist in the Science and Technology section of the Young Achiever of the Year Awards.

Ms Robertson, who is based at Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, has been studying aromatase, the enzyme responsible for converting testosterone into oestrogen.

Her research to date suggests that oestrogen, commonly thought of as a female hormone, is necessary for reproduction in males as well – a finding that could lead to further research into male contraceptives.

Last year, Ms Robertson was a finalist in the Junior Scientist Award from the Endocrine Society of

Australia, and was also awarded the 1998 Novo-Nordisk Award for Student Excellence.

Students tackle adolescent health

A new website aimed at educating teenagers about depression has been developed by a group of Monash medicine students.

The website provides adolescents with information on the symptoms of depression and the services available to sufferers.

Group spokesperson Ms Katie Cunneen said the group was aiming to increase awareness of depression among teenagers because it was such a common phenomenon in Australia.

The website can be viewed at www.users.bigpond.com/PHWOF/teendepression

Ed Credit Education Credit Union

Looking for investment advice?

CIS Financial Services

- ✓ Independent, obligation free investment and financial planning advice
- ✓ Superannuation advice (SSAU and Vic Super)
- ✓ Share investment, managed funds, cash management trusts
- ✓ Salary packaging – CIS is one of the RMIT recommended Financial Advisers for salary packaging

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

MONASH NEWS

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

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

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

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

MONASH
UNIVERSITY

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