

MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS

Spray device to simplify administration of drugs

BY DAVID BRUCE

Researchers at the Victorian College of Pharmacy at Monash University have developed breakthrough technology that allows a wide range of drugs to be administered via patients' skin.

The device is a simple and highly efficient method that overcomes many of the problems currently associated with drug delivery.

With a simple squirt by the user, the hand-held transdermal spray – which is similar in design to an asthma spray pump – applies the drug to the skin's surface. The spray technology has

been specially formulated by the Monash researchers to safely penetrate the skin's natural protective barrier and deliver the drug directly into the bloodstream.

The breakthrough technology that successfully combines a simple device with an efficient and non-irritant compound was developed by Dr Timothy Morgan while he was a doctoral student in Monash's Department of Pharmaceutics.

Dr Morgan described it as the holy grail of the field of transdermal drug delivery.

"The quest has long been to find a simple way of getting drugs into the bloodstream without irritating the skin

or causing other side-effects throughout the human body," he said. "The problems caused by administering drugs either orally or through skin patches have been a major problem in health care for decades. This device offers a better way of delivering a whole range of drugs."

Dr Morgan is now a project manager for Acrux Ltd, a start-up drug delivery company that has licensed the patented technology from Monash and is seeking funds from Australian investors to commercialise the product. The device is expected to be on the market in about three to four years.

Most drugs are administered orally, but according to Professor Barry Reed,



Pharmaceutics honours student Ms Caroline Winter with a prototype of the new hand-held transdermal spray. Photo by Greg Ford.

professor of biopharmaceutics at the Victorian College of Pharmacy, most people do not like swallowing tablets. For young children and elderly or extremely sick people, it can be particularly difficult.

"Drugs taken orally confront a succession of natural obstacles before they actually get into the bloodstream to do their work – from the ability of the person to swallow, to the natural resistance of the stomach and the liver," Professor Reed said.

Most drugs had great trouble surviving the journey through a healthy liver, he said. To get drugs past the liver, pharmacists had to make them much more potent, leading to greater stomach irritation.

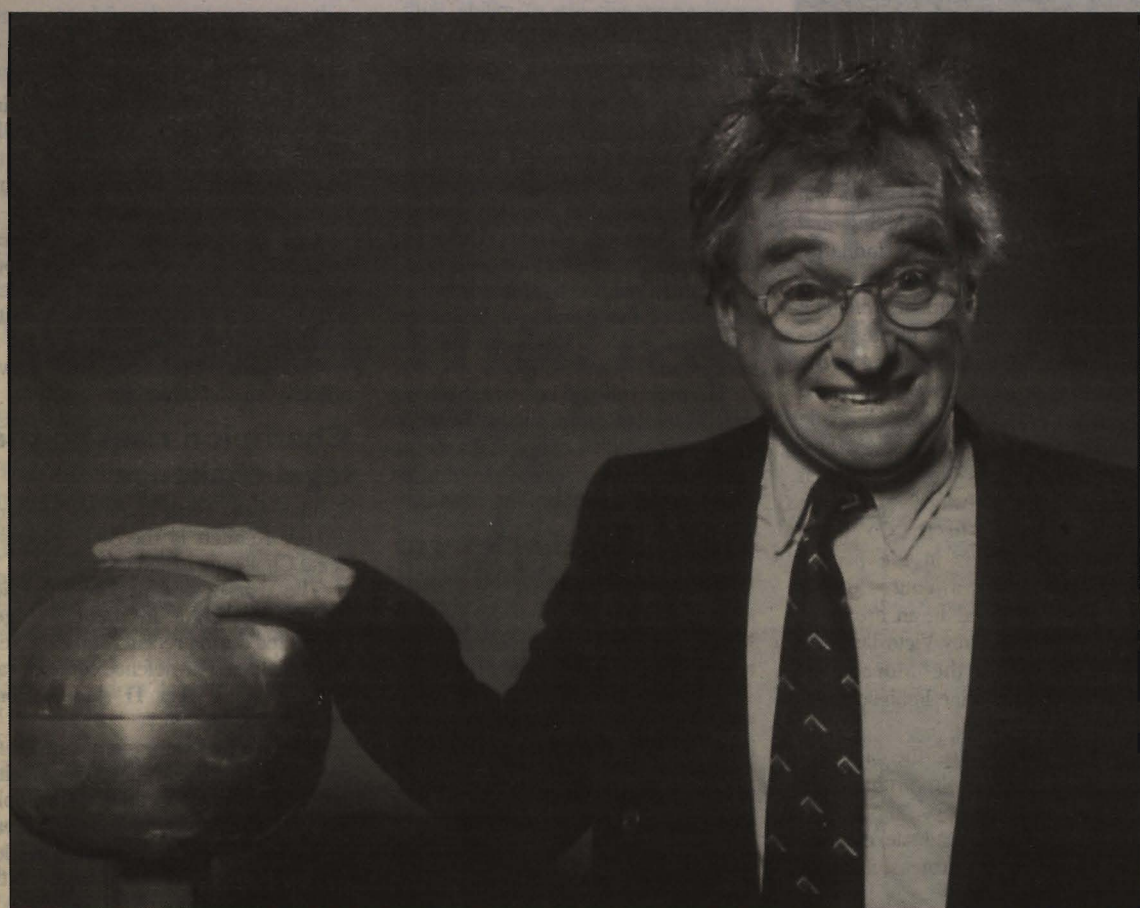
To overcome the problems with oral drug delivery, pharmacists over the past two decades have developed

methods of delivering drugs through the skin, usually through a patch glued to the body. Although effective, patch technology has its limitations, ranging from expense in production and visibility to skin irritations.

Professor Reed said the beauty of the new device was that it bypassed the gastro-intestinal tract and liver and was 'friendly' to the skin. It was, he said, "an efficient, simple and cheap way of delivering high-potency drugs into the bloodstream".

Trials for the new device were initially carried out on snake and pig skin at the Victorian Institute of Animal Science in Victoria, and later on patients at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne.

Page 2: Researcher honoured



Monash deputy VC is charged

Monash's deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development) Professor Peter Darvall was charged recently... charged up, that is, with about 300,000 volts. He was among a number of visitors to the Physics department during Monash Open Day, where one of the department's van de Graaff generators provided some truly hair-raising experiences. Visitors could take home their own polaroid record of the occasion. For more on Monash Open Day 1999, see page 8. Photo by Darren Goossens.

Monash artist designs Korean war memorial

BY SUE MCALISTER

All over Australia, there are memorials to those who served in various conflicts. Yet, strangely, there is no memorial specifically dedicated to Australians who served in the Korean War nearly half a century ago.

This is about to change, thanks to a team led by noted sculptor and artist Les Kossatz, of Monash University's Department of Fine Arts. From among 75 contending designs, his was chosen for the Australian National Korean War Memorial on Canberra's Anzac Parade, to be dedicated in April next year. South

Korea's President Kim Dae Jung is expected to attend the ceremony.

Mr Kossatz says the long wait for a Korean memorial is because "the 17,000 Australians who served in the conflict, from 1950 to 1953, and its aftermath, to 1957, were then regarded as members of a United Nations force, making them, technically, not Australian service personnel, but international policemen".

During the Korean War, more than a million South Korean, US and UN personnel were killed, of whom more than 330 were Australian.

Mr Kossatz's winning design incorporates a contemplative space behind a

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People are ignorant about tending even simple wounds, a Monash survey has found.

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The image of the post-feminist male is largely hype, a Monash academic asserts.

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New wine course to capitalise on boom

By JULIE RYAN

Australian winemakers are reaping the rewards of their efforts in the international marketplace, with wine exports exceeding \$1 billion last financial year for the first time in the industry's history.

But according to Dr Mary Cole, foundation senior lecturer and coordinator of the new Diploma of Wine Technology and Marketing at Monash's Peninsula campus, the industry faces challenges if it wishes to maintain growth in the international market.

"With the increase in hectareage of vines and hence the volume of wine in Australia, the industry must learn to compete at the premium and super-premium end of the market," Dr Cole says.

"In Australia, the value of wine consumed has increased because those people drinking wine are committed to quality. We are prepared to pay more for quality wine but are not necessarily drinking more in quantity."

However, Dr Cole says, while there is a strong market for good wine in Australia, 49 per cent of all wine consumed in this country is sold in casks. While the 'chateau cardboard' consumer is one who may be converted more easily than the committed beer drinker when trying to increase premium wine consumption in Australia, she says the real potential is in international markets.

With a stable Australian market but an increase in overall production, winemakers are setting their sights on increasing exports and establishing their reputation in the global marketplace.

"The Australian wine industry's long-term goal is to increase its cur-



Coordinator of Monash University's new Diploma of Wine Technology and Marketing Dr Mary Cole. Photo by The Tank.

rent 3.5 per cent of the international market to 6 per cent by the year 2025," Dr Cole says.

"This means competing at the very competitive top end of the market. Because of industry production costs in Australia from price of land to labour costs we can't compete at the market's lower end against countries like Hungary, Bulgaria and Chile."

Dr Cole says the new diploma will focus largely on the marketing and sales aspect of the wine industry. "While the diploma does not aim at producing winemakers, students will get a strong overall grounding in the industry, including an understanding of the winemaking process, how to recognise a premium grape and how it is made into a premium wine," she says. "This kind of knowledge is important when it comes to selling the wine."

And according to Dr Cole, the Peninsula campus is in the perfect location for such a course. "The campus is positioned in an area surrounded by several key Victorian wine regions, including the Mornington Peninsula, the Bellarine Peninsula and the Yarra Valley."

Dr Cole plans to use the campus's prime position to hold professional seminars and workshops, and is currently developing a graduate diploma aimed at industry professionals to begin mid-2000.

For more information about the new Diploma of Wine Technology and Marketing, contact the David Syme School of Business on (03) 9904 4621 or visit the web site at www.monash.edu.au/wine

International honour for drug researcher

By DAVID BRUCE

Research into improving the effectiveness of certain drugs has earned a Monash pharmaceutical chemist an international accolade.

Professor Bill Charman, from Monash's Victorian College of Pharmacy, has been awarded the 1999 Glaxo Wellcome International Achievement award in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The award, a first for an Australian pharmaceutical scientist, was made by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain from an international field of researchers in academia, industry, the public service and other scientific establishments.

Professor Charman and his team have specialised in developing new ways of enhancing the absorption of drugs taken orally. His research has led to a number of improvements in the formulation of a range of drugs.

"This award recognises the outcomes from the creative effort and dedicated work of my research

team. Importantly, it also demonstrates the significance and international standing of the drug delivery, drug development and formulation science research being undertaken at the Victorian College of Pharmacy," Professor Charman said.

"In the field of drug delivery and drug formulation, we have been able to attract significant funding from international companies and we have been able to hold on to the best and the brightest of our young researchers."

Professor Charman's research team of 20 postgraduate students, research assistants and post-doctoral fellows is working on several studies in collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry.

The team is involved in studies investigating the use of lipids, or fats, to improve the effectiveness of drugs that are poorly water-soluble. With improved delivery agents in the drug compound, the drug can be targeted more efficiently at its intended site and can be taken in smaller amounts with fewer side effects.

BRIEFS

Foundation pro VC for London

Professor Richard White has been named foundation pro vice-chancellor of the Monash Centre in London.

Professor White's appointment follows the signing of a major strategic alliance between Monash University and King's College London.

With 18 years as a professor and six as dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor White will take up his position in January.

His main role will be to establish the new Monash Centre on the Waterloo campus of King's College, before moving it to a more permanent home on King's main campus on The Strand.

Vice-chancellor's term extended to 2006

Professor David Robinson's term as Monash University's vice-chancellor has been extended to 2006.

The vice-chancellor's current contract runs to 2001, but was extended last month by the Monash University Council.

Monash chancellor Dr Jerry Ellis said that by accepting the council's offer, Professor Robinson had indicated his strong commitment to the university's vision for 2020.

"Now in his third year at Monash, Professor Robinson has worked with great purpose to achieve clear directions for the university which build on its history and current strengths," Dr Ellis said.

DVC to return to the west

Monash University's deputy vice-chancellor for international and public affairs, Professor John Maloney, is to leave Monash early next year and return to Western Australia.

One of Professor Maloney's key tasks has been to oversee the development of the Monash Global Plan, which will be presented to the University Council in November.

Professor Maloney will leave officially on 15 November.

Champion rises to the legal challenge

Camberwell High School student Jeremy Kennett is the 1999 Monash Legal Challenge grand champion.

The Year 12 student played the victorious prosecutor in the challenge, conducted during recent Monash Open Day activities. The defence counsel was Mark Boyle, a Year 11 student from Taylor's College.

The two had won a series of heats coordinated by the Monash Law faculty and involving more than 40 schools from the Melbourne metropolitan area.

Their 'trial' involved a love triangle, where the accused was charged with the stabbing murder of his wife.

The judging panel comprised Mr Justice Winneke, AO, president of the Court of Appeal, Justice Marilyn Warren from the Victorian Supreme Court and the Victorian director of public prosecutions, Mr Geoffrey Flatman QC.

Ed Credit

Proud Sponsors of the
1999 Monash Legal Challenge



Congratulations to the finalists and to the
Monash Law Faculty for this innovative competition.

Centre: Overall Winner - Jeremy Kennett (Camberwell High)

Centre Right: Runner-up - Mark Boyle (Taylor's College)

Left: Prof. Stephen Parker (Dean of Law)

Centre Left: Jeremy's Teacher Helen Koutsegerous

Right: D.V.C Prof. Peter Darvall

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Monash artist designs Korean war memorial

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monumental wall, to help visitors gain a greater understanding of the war and Australia's role in it.

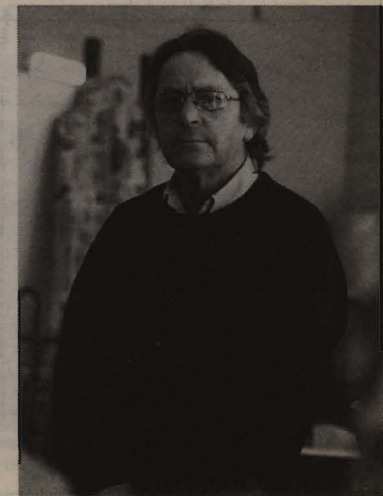
"It's a shrine," he explains, "but also a time capsule, recording the battles and commitment of service personnel."

The memorial will include samples of war telegrams, a field of stainless

steel poles to symbolise the Australians who died in Korea, and life-sized, cast aluminium figures to represent the Australians who served there.

The site also incorporates a gift from the government and people of South Korea - five Korean boulders, one of which will provide the focus for ceremonies such as wreath-laying.

Noted sculptor and artist Les Kossatz, who designed the Australian National Korean War Memorial to be built in Canberra. Photo by Andrew Barcham.



Regions the spot to watch at poll time

By FIONA PERRY

With the ALP needing a five per cent swing to win the Victorian election, there is little doubt the Kennett Government will be returned for a third term, say three of the authors of the recently published book, *The Kennett Revolution*.

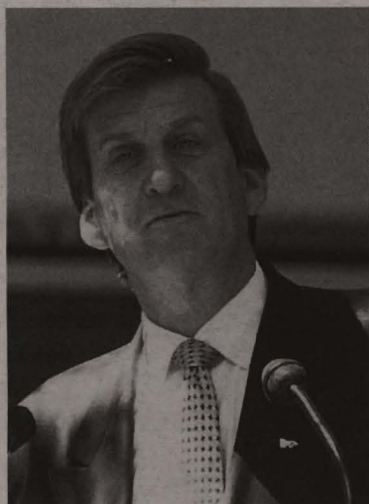
The ALP will simply not garner enough support in Melbourne's southern and south-eastern suburbs to turn around the government's 17-seat majority, according to the head of Monash's School of Public Policy, Professor Brian Costar.

And as in last year's federal election, there will be no predictable swing, with all parties and perhaps even some independents likely to win and lose seats.

But the key area to watch will be rural Victoria, where disillusionment with the perceived Melbourne-centric policies of the Kennett Government may result in some seats going to independent candidates, he said.

"Rural independents are the wild card in this election – they could either wreak havoc in provincial Victoria or win no seats at all," he said. "Either way, the Liberals will recreate their 1992 and 1996 landslide victories and retain at least a 15-seat majority."

While the ALP will be desperately hoping for a protest vote coming out of



Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett seems assured of a third term in office.

left field, like that which former NSW premier Nick Greiner suffered, there is no indication that this is probable, according to Monash politics lecturer Mr Dennis Woodward.

"Increasingly, political parties have become 'electoral professional' parties and their success revolves around their ability to win the media image battle. In short election campaigns, the focus is very much on the leaders, and here Jeff Kennett has a decisive lead," Mr Woodward said.

Despite attempts by the ALP to push issues such as law and order, gambling, government credit card abuse, school and hospital closures, and secrecy, it had failed to dent the government's image as a sound economic manager.

"Retiring state debt may be a rather simplistic policy goal – especially when it is not balanced against reduction of assets, but it is also readily sold as a clear economic achievement," Mr Woodward said. "Self-promotion by the Kennett Government has never been an area in which it has been lacking."

With the retirement of treasurer Mr Alan Stockdale and other key figures in the Kennett cabinet this year, the post-election Kennett Government will be very different to its predecessor, predicts Monash politics lecturer Dr Nick Economou.

"It will be interesting to see if the government maintains its line of fiscal rectitude, especially now that Mr Kennett seems to be taking a softer social liberal line," he said.

And is the premier likely to see out another full term of office?

Yes, said Dr Economou, with Brighton candidate Ms Louise Asher being the most likely replacement when Mr Kennett eventually steps down.

"Jeff Kennett is unlikely to surrender power to another man," he said.

People ignorant on wound management

By CHRIS GILES

The public is ignorant about how to manage even the most simple wound and some aspects of today's first aid training courses are outdated, doing little to educate people about correct wound management techniques.

These are just two of the findings from a random telephone survey of 113 people, carried out by Monash University's Wound Education Research Centre (WERC).

WERC director Mr Geoff Sussman said that despite research from 1962 which proved a moist environment increased the rate of wound healing by 50 per cent, the survey showed that most people still believed the best treatment was to keep a wound clean and dry.

The president of the Australian Wound Management Association and founder/director of the Wound Foundation of Australia, Mr Sussman, said his concerns about this lack of knowledge extended to health professionals.

"The information hasn't been filtering through because no-one has taken up the cause and it's the conservatism of the health system that doctors, nurses, pharmacists and others are reluctant to change something they feel happy with," he said.

"I've been talking to the Pharmacy Guild about producing a more appropriate first aid kit, and I'd also like to talk to the departments of industry within government because many of them have quite defined first aid kits... and I wonder how up to date they really are."

"Frankly, the standard kit you normally buy to put in the home, caravan, boat or wherever contains mostly material that's of no benefit in first aid.



Getting it right: Researcher Mr Geoff Sussman has major concerns about widespread ignorance of correct wound management procedures. Photo by Richard Crompton.

My first aid kit will contain a very small number of items that are meant to be there for immediate use, when you have some sort of a traumatic injury, that you need to put together so you can get it to medical attention."

Mr Sussman was surprised that 65 per cent of survey respondents had first aid training but still believed traditional treatment methods were best.

"First aid training is something that has concerned me for a long time. When I look through first aid manuals that are still being used today, they're very out-of-date in the area of modern wound management."

Mr Sussman hopes to change wound management opinion via a series of lectures in Australia and overseas to pharmacists, GPs and other health professionals who regularly interact with the public.

A leader in the field, Mr Sussman won the 1998 Australian Pharmacy Practice Foundation medal of excellence for his work in wound management and pharmacy. WERC has also received a \$430,000 grant from the Federal Health Department to study wound care in community and nursing home settings.

Sir, will that be a franchise to go?



Franchising expert Mr Max Coulthard. Photo image by Richard Crompton.

By KAY ANSELL

Franchising has become one of the biggest growth areas for employment in Australia, accounting for about one in four jobs created in the past four years.

According to Monash University lecturer Mr Max Coulthard, franchising currently generates more than \$76 billion of annual turnover in Australia with an annual growth rate of 17 per cent compounded. By the end of the next decade, it will make up about half of this country's retail businesses.

"Australians have embraced franchising so much that this country now has the highest number of franchise organisations per head of population in the world," says Mr Coulthard, a lecturer in strategy and international business in Monash's Management department who recently attended a major conference in Queensland on the subject.

Prospective franchise operators need to do their homework to avoid common pitfalls, he advises. "In the past, many new franchise operators believed their businesses would succeed simply because of the brand name and reputation of the franchising system," Mr Coulthard says. "However, this is changing as the sector grows in both size and experience."

Prospective franchisees were now screened carefully and told that success would require them to be committed to hard work and continual learning. "The new code of

practice set up last year by the Federal Government and enforced by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has seen the rapid departure of shonky operators and provides a new level of confidence within the industry," he says.

Each week in this country, at least one new franchise system is established. There are now more than 740 franchise systems in Australia employing more than 650,000 people. As a result of this extraordinary growth, the employment terrain is changing fast, with franchising having created about 400,000 new jobs in the past four years.

It is becoming hard to find a commercial retail sector that hasn't become part of the franchising revolution. A visit to any shopping centre reveals examples of everything from food to pharmacies, clothing, furniture, tyres, giftware and electrical appliances that are franchise operations.

'Time-poor' lifestyles have seen the outsourcing of many services that have been successfully franchised. The main attraction, according to Mr Coulthard, is the high success rate that franchises enjoy – up to 96 per cent compared with about 40 per cent of small businesses overall that survive their first five years.

There is no foreseeable limit on how far franchising can go, according to Mr Coulthard. He sees future franchise opportunities in the further outsourcing of home duties – including a service where customers dial out for a dinner to be cooked in their own homes.

Caution: hold that extra beer

Three Monash medical students have embarked on a project aimed at reducing alcohol-related injuries and deaths among their peers.

Working with the Australian Drug Foundation, the students are mounting a major awareness campaign this month to promote safer drinking.

Third-year students Ms Jennifer Weil, Mr Tom Sutherland and Ms Jane Mitchell have targeted Monash University for the project, which is part of their Health Promotion Unit studies.

"Our focus is the prevention of alcohol-related injury and death," Mr Sutherland said. "We're not trying to stop people drinking, but we want to give them the knowledge and strategies to avoid, or deal with, the problems."

The students' health promotion strategy involves posters, pamphlets, an information booklet, a voluntary survey and an expert discussion on Monash's internal radio station, 3MU, from noon on 15 September.

Young adults and adolescents are one of the highest-risk groups of drinkers, with studies showing that nearly 70 per cent of 14 to 19-year-olds and more than 50 per cent of 20 to 29-year-olds consume dangerous amounts of alcohol when they drink. Problems associated with dangerous drinking range from accidents and unsafe sex to organ damage, sexual assault and homicide.

"Alcohol misuse is the third most significant preventable public health problem in Australia," Mr Sutherland said. "The statistics are truly amazing."

– Josie Gibson

Schools



History prize on offer

This year, Monash History will again offer prizes in two categories: one for students enrolled in units 1 and 2 of a VCE history subject, and one for students enrolled in units 3 and 4 of a VCE history subject or IB history.

Essays written as CATs or for other purposes can be entered. They should be between 1000 and 2000 words in length. Each school can submit a maximum of two essays, one in each category, or two in one category. A panel of academic staff will evaluate the essays and announce the winners at the beginning of term four. The closing date for entries is Monday 20 September.

A first prize of \$250 and a winner's certificate will be awarded in each category. Up to three other prizes of \$100 and a certificate may be awarded to outstanding essays, at the discretion of the evaluating panel. The panel will also nominate up to 10 essays in each category for a special commendation certificate. All entered essays will receive a certificate of congratulations from Monash History. The prize-winners will receive their awards from a Monash staff member at a ceremony at their school.

For more information, write to Ms Helen Doyle, Monash History Prize, School of Historical and Gender Studies, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, 3168, or email mark.peel@arts.monash.edu.au

Wine diploma new option

A new Diploma of Wine Technology and Marketing will be offered as a double-award option from the beginning of 2000. The diploma is open to students who have satisfied the entry requirements for an undergraduate degree at Monash University and who have enrolled in a Monash degree.

The new course is aimed at business students or science/engineering students intending to seek employment in the industry. However, it may also be an option for students considering a generalist arts degree, as it offers a specialisation that could be applied in the tourism, hospitality, import and export industries.

The course is based at Monash's Peninsula campus. For further information, contact the David Syme School of Business on (03) 9904 4621 or visit the web site at www.monash.edu.au/wine

The heroes and the tragedy of bushfire

By DAVID BRUCE

A famous bush painting of late last century is the inspiration for a dramatic performance prepared by Monash's Centre for Gippsland Studies for the Gippsland Art Gallery.

On its first exhibition in Melbourne in 1898, John Longstaff's painting of a Gippsland bushfire was the front-page photograph of its day. For city-bound Melburnians still clinging to their European origins, the heroic depiction of men on horseback protecting a group of women and children with a blazing mountainside before them fitted perfectly with the pre-Federation mentality of the mythical bush hero.

The painting was finished within months of the great fires of the summer of 1897-98 that swept over the newly-settled Strezlecki Ranges. Its instant popularity was seized upon by the Victorian Government, which immediately purchased the work for the National Gallery.

One hundred years later, the painting has returned to its place of origin.

While the National Gallery of Victoria undergoes its current redevelopment, *Gippsland, Sunday Night, February 20th, 1898* is being displayed at the Gippsland Art Gallery.

To mark its arrival, a unique performance set to a backdrop of the dramatic Longstaff painting will take place on 18 September at the Gallery in Sale.

The Centre for Gippsland Studies at Monash has gathered personal accounts of bushfires in Gippsland from the 1898 fires and other fires including the notoriously destructive fires of 1939.

Centre director Dr Meredith Fletcher has combined her research with the theatrical talents of director



Centre for Gippsland Studies director Dr Meredith Fletcher with 'Gippsland, Sunday Night, February 20th, 1898'. Photo by The Visual Image.

Clifton Kline, of Eye2Eye Theatre, to produce a unique portrayal of the destructive impact of a bushfire.

With the painting as the central focus, the show will feature archival slides and film of Gippsland bushfires, accompanied by readings from personal letters of the era, newspaper accounts and even excerpts from the wonderfully prosaic pen of Judge Leonard Stretton at the Royal Commission into the 1939 bushfires.

According to Dr Fletcher, the heroics of the Longstaff painting did not always reflect the personal accounts of Gippsland residents.

"We have found some very moving and sad accounts of people's tragedies," she said. "There is a letter

from a niece to her uncle that tells of her brother's death in bushfires south of Morwell in 1944. There are accounts by timber workers of their ordeals in dugouts deep in the forest. Perhaps the most tragic story is the account of the death of six children from one family as they huddled together on their property near Mt Best."

Gippsland Art Gallery director Mr Michael Young said he was keen to celebrate the painting's arrival with something of broad appeal to Gippsland residents. The 'return' of the painting to the area was an opportunity to put it in context with the real experiences of bushfires.

"Longstaff was a gentleman artist who happened to be briefly staying in Warragul when Gippsland was ablaze in early 1898. He ventured closer to the fires in a horse and cart provided by his hotel and the whole day seems to have been a leisurely experience for him," Mr Young said.

"He rarely painted landscapes. However, he clearly understood the market and quickly painted two works on his return to Melbourne, of which only this one appears to have survived to this day. It is an important work because it is almost the only major Australian painting of a bushfire - it is actually a rare thing to paint."

Environmental institute to draw on expertise

By DAVID BRUCE

The vast range of environmental activities across the whole of Monash University has recently been brought together under an umbrella body.

The Monash Environment Institute has been established to coordinate and build upon the research and teaching programs on environmental issues across the university.

Faculties involved include Science, Engineering, Medicine, Pharmacy and Information Technology, with input from several other areas of the university, particularly Arts and Law.

The institute will draw on this cross-faculty expertise to develop interdisciplinary courses both at undergraduate and postgraduate level, as well as short training courses aimed at people working in industry.

According to the dean of Engineering, Professor Mike Brisk, there is a lot going on around Monash that is related to the environment.

"But apart from the occasional collaboration, most of these activities are occurring in isolation," he said. "Monash has not had the strongest reputation for research and teaching on environmental matters because of this perceived lack of coordination. With the Monash Environment Institute we



Engineering dean Professor Mike Brisk and Science dean Professor Ron Davies.

now have the opportunity to gain some synergies between these activities."

Monash dean of Science Professor Ron Davies said the institute would coordinate a range of activities. "The institute, while not being directly involved in teaching or conducting research, will coordinate the interdisciplinary grant applications and cross-faculty teaching, and will be the university's point of contact with industry and the general public on environmental matters," Professor Davies said.

Monash has established strong teaching and research programs in areas such as water and air quality, environmental engineering, sustainable development, meteorology, clean industry and manufacturing and alternative energy.

The institute will receive total funding of \$275,000 for its first two years, half from the Science at Monash Innovation fund scheme and half from the five principal faculties.



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Humanitarian law: a way to limit human suffering

Critics of the Geneva Conventions, 50 years old last month, use brutal examples such as Bosnia and Rwanda to question the effectiveness of global efforts to prevent suffering in times of conflict. Despite such criticisms, Professor H. P. Lee argues that international humanitarian law is more important – and relevant – now than ever.

OPINION

The idea that wars should be made more civil seems incongruous, if not ludicrous. That today there is a branch of law known as international humanitarian law is testimony to the notion that even wars have limits.

In 1859, a major battle was fought near the township of Solferino between the Austrian army and the Franco-Italian army. Out of the 300,000 men assembled at that battlefield, 40,000 were either killed or wounded.

A Swiss banker, Henri Dunant, was haunted by the scale of suffering to which he had borne witness. A little book, *A Memory of Solferino*, written by him provided the impetus for the eventual development of international rules for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed conflicts without discrimination.

The purpose of international humanitarian law, therefore, is to limit human suffering in times of armed conflict and to prevent atrocities. On 12 August 1949, a diplomatic conference in Geneva adopted four conventions. These four Geneva conventions (which provide protection to the wounded and sick members of the armed forces on land and at sea, to prisoners of war and civilians caught up in the fighting), were supplemented by two Additional Protocols of 1977. These international instruments embody the rules agreed to by virtually every country in the world which govern the conduct of combatants and protect victims of armed conflict.

As the world community braces itself for the new millennium, it may be appropriate to reflect on the utility and contemporary relevance of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols. The cynic will undoubtedly decry the value of these instruments. If the aim of war is to conquer the enemy, surely the idea of humanitarian constraints would undermine such an aim.

Such a view is a surrender to despair. It is a view which is resigned to the inevitability that all wars would descend to the worst level of barbarity.

Those who champion the cause of international humanitarian law accept the harsh reality that the mosaic of mankind will continue to be scarred by wars engendered by racial hatred, religious antagonism, disputes over territories, language, culture and so on.

In this age of instantaneous communications, when scenes of human sufferings in the thick of an armed conflict are broadcast into the homes of a global audience, a comforting sight is the symbol of the Red Cross on both sides of the battle line.

International humanitarian law assumes greater importance as the ingenuity of humankind leads to the invention of weapons which cause massive destruction or agonising deaths. Global concern has been translated into action to prohibit the use of anti-

personnel landmines, blinding laser weapons, weapons of mass destruction.

It has been recorded that about 26,000 people are maimed or killed every year by landmines. In the First World War, civilian casualties amounted to about 10 per cent of all casualties. In the Second World War, this rose to 50 per cent. Today, the number of civilians killed in armed conflicts has been estimated at 90 per cent.

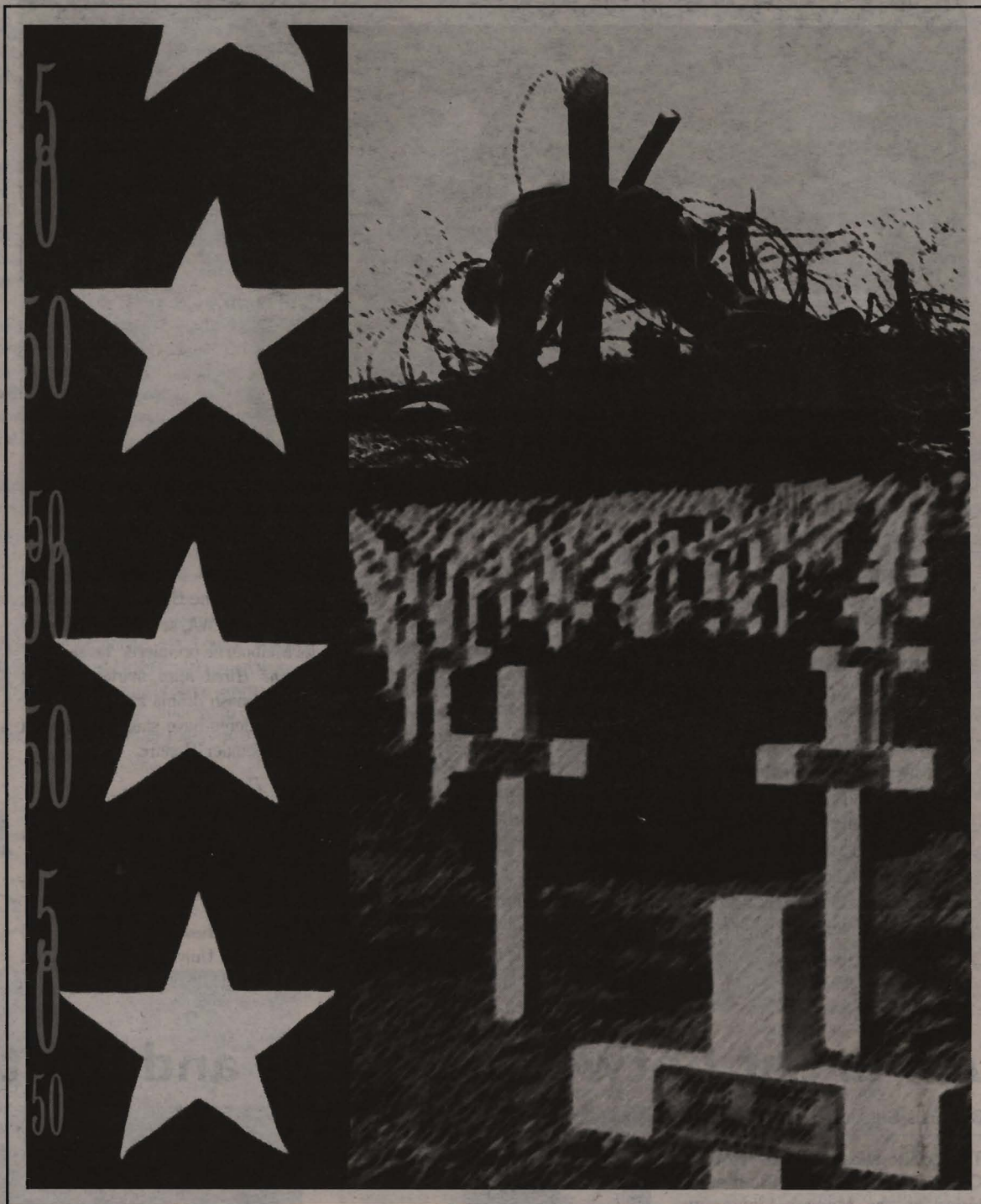
Instead of a diminishing relevance, international humanitarian law slowly but inexorably gathers momentum. Its contemporary relevance is bolstered by the proliferation of national and international organisations and associations which are dedicated to the protection of human rights.

The idea of an International Criminal Court is starting to take root. The notion that those who have committed crimes against humanity may one day no longer escape the reach of such a court is one which is worth striving for.

So today, as we reach the end of the 20th century, we can look back to the Battle of Solferino and proffer an appreciation to Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross organisation.

From his action has sprung universal acceptance of rules of law designed to minimise and alleviate the suffering produced by armed conflicts. These rules, instead of being discarded into the dustbin of irrelevance, assume increasing importance as reassuring signs that humankind has not lost its sense of humanity.

Professor H. P. Lee is the Sir John Latham Professor of Law at Monash University. He is chairman of the International Humanitarian Law Advisory Committee of the Australian Red Cross, Victoria.



Artwork by Elizabeth Dias.

Multimedia series to help sort hype from substance

By DAVID BRUCE

As the twentieth century draws to a close, so too are our old ideas of communicating.

The Internet has been switched on in one in five Australian households, more schools are connecting on a daily basis, digital television is around the corner, young technology companies are turning into multi-million dollar enterprises overnight, and the price of IT hardware is plummeting.

If we are to believe the predictions, converging communications technologies will open the doors of our homes, our schools and our workplaces to a new global community.

For the benefit of those sorting the hype from the substance, Monash University and the ABC

have produced a multimedia series called *In the Pipeline: Converging Communications*.

In this second educational series from the ABC-Monash partnership, views have been gathered from the main players in communications from across industry and academia both within Australia and internationally.

The 13-part weekly radio series begins on 10 September at 5 am and repeated at 12.30pm on Radio National, Radio Australia, ABC Online, and on the World Radio Network in North America and Europe.

The *Pipeline* web site at www.abc.net.au/pipeline will publish a fortnightly e-zine during the radio series and will include a reading room, program transcripts and audio.

A six-part television series on e-commerce will screen next year.

The associate producer and academic consultant to the series, Ms Joanne Jacobs, a lecturer in Monash's National Centre for Australian Studies, said it was now time to consider the full implications of converging communications technology.

"With digital TV set to begin on 1 January 2001, the Federal Government considering regulation of the Internet, and with 22 per cent of Australian homes connected to the Internet today and hundreds more connecting by the day, we are clearly in the middle of a period of rapid change," Ms Jacobs said.

"Communications is the biggest growth area in our universities and

industry is hungry for deeper insights, but this series will also be interesting and accessible to a wide range of audiences. Anyone who plans to use communications technology over the next few years should listen to it."

Some of the major industry players featuring in *In the Pipeline: Converging Communications* include Robert Cringely, TV presenter of the ABC program *Nerds*; Howard Rheingold, author of *Virtual Communities*; Tara Lemmey, president of Electronic Frontiers Foundation; Simon Davies, head of Privacy International; Laura Miller, editor of the on-line *Salon* magazine; and Kim Anderson, head of marketing at PBL.

A range of experts from Monash and other universities will also be featured.

'Hired Man' triumphs over many tragedies



Warming up for *The Hired Man* are, from left, Tiffany Davis, Cameron Brown, Ben Morley and Jo Clyne. Photo by Craig Weijen.

An ambitious tale of scandal and family passion will be played out at Monash University's Alexander Theatre next month.

The Hired Man, a British musical written in the mid-1980s by Melvyn Bragg and Howard Goodall, will be performed by a 50-strong cast of first-year drama and performing arts students under the direction of Peter Fitzpatrick and Matt Balmford.

The story follows a family in the north of England through a series of personal and national tragedies and triumphs from the turn of the century to the early 1920s.

"It's been called the English *Les Miserables* because of the rousing choruses that continually wrap around the intimate action concerning the family, and because of the strong political concerns – the rights of the 'common man', the growth of unionism and attitudes to the horrors of war," said Mr Fitzpatrick.

Goodall's music, performed under the musical direction of Simon Stone, is firmly rooted in the folk tunes and heart of English musical tradition.

According to Mr Fitzpatrick, the production is one of the rare jewels of contemporary musical theatre.

"It's played successfully in both London and the US, and only once in Australia, in WA, so this is effectively its Melbourne premiere," he said.

The Hired Man marks the first time Monash drama and performing arts students have staged a show in the Alexander Theatre.

What: *The Hired Man*

When: 30 September to 9 October

Where: Alexander Theatre, Monash University, Clayton

Who: Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies.

For inquiries and bookings, call the Monash University box office on (03) 9905 1111.

ARTS BRIEFS

Lecturer's work in exhibition

Recent paintings by Monash artist Roger Byrt have gone on show in Melbourne this month.

Byrt is a lecturer in painting in Monash's Faculty of Art and Design, which has supported the exhibition. His recent works take a new approach to the traditional genre of still life, emptying each still life so that only luminous forms and contemplative spaces remain.

The show runs until 11 September at Pinacotheca, 10 Waltham Place, Richmond. For more details, call (03) 9428 3066.

Snapshots of seven lonely souls

Snapshots, a raw look at the anxiety within all of us in the quest for happiness and self-worth, is being performed at Clayton campus this month.

Written and directed by Suze Smith, the play focuses on seven people in search of self in an alienating city environment.

A mixture of raw energy, physical theatre, absurd comedy and poetry, the Monash Student Theatre production is on from 8 to 11 September. For bookings, call (03) 9905 3108.

Melbourne artists in Gippsland show

Works by seven Melbourne artists are on show until the end of the month at the Switchback Gallery in Monash University's Gippsland Centre for Art and Design.

DIY: do it yourself features the work of Brett Jones, Sarah Stubbs, Richard Holt, Andrew Seward, Maggie McCormick, Monica Adams and Shaun Wilson, all of whom run and coordinate artists' spaces.

The exhibition is curated by Malcolm Bywaters and supported by the Monash University Gallery at Clayton.

Monash building in running for award

The new Faculty of Art and Design building at Monash University's Caulfield campus has been nominated for another architectural award.

The \$9 million building is one of four shortlisted for the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) national award.

The Art and Design building won the RAIA Victorian award of merit for its architects, Denton Corker Marshall, in June.

1999 Lucato Peace Prize awarded

The 1999 Lucato Peace Prize has been awarded to young Monash artist Jodie Steinhardt.

The win by the third-year Faculty of Art and Design painting student was announced at the opening of an exhibition of entries in the new gallery at Caulfield campus last month.

The competition was judged by the curator of contemporary art (international and Australian) at the National Gallery of Victoria, Mr Jason Smith, who described the winning entry as a successful "marriage of the painterly, the poetic and the political".

"While this exhibition represents works that contain overt and sometimes confronting political subject matter and content, Jodie's work attended to some of the social and philosophical issues preoccupying many people today," he said.

The annual prize honours Mr George Lucato, whose dedication to the cause of peace led to the award's



1999 Lucato Prize winner Jodie Steinhardt. Photo by Andrew Barcham.

creation more than 20 years ago. The exhibition theme is 'that peace is always a better alternative to war'.

The award is open to all Monash Department of Fine Art students.

An artist between shadow and light

BY SUSIE SHEARS

The London years of artist Robert Owen will be revisited in an exhibition at the Monash University Gallery later this month.

Robert Owen: Between Shadow and Light will be officially opened by the recently appointed director of the National Gallery of Victoria, Dr Gerard Vaughan, on 20 September.

A highlight of the gallery's 1999 program, the exhibition concentrates on Owen's London years, from 1966 to 1974.

Reflected in the extraordinary sculptures and drawings from this period is Owen's fascination with colour effects, geometry, refraction grating and the contemporaneity of materials.

The show includes the artist's large aluminium constructions with their brilliant metallic colour squares, which have been described as "windows onto an intergalactic sunset", and a group of precisely rendered drawings.

A masterful exponent of constructivist and kinetic ideas, Sydney-born Owen has exhibited widely. He will give a free lunchtime talk at the Monash University Gallery on 22 September at 1.30 pm.

What: *Robert Owen: Between Shadow and Light*

When: 21 September to 30 October

Where: Monash University Gallery, Clayton

Who: For more information, contact Stephanie Goetze-Thies at the gallery on (03) 9905 4217.



Robert Owen pictured in his London studio in 1968. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Pianist lends helping hand



Maestro at work: Monash music student Michelle Scott had a one-on-one session with renowned Russian pianist Yuri Rozum during his visit. Photo by Greg Ford.

Russian pianist Yuri Rozum was back in Melbourne recently for some hands-on sessions with Monash University music students.

Appointed an adjunct professor of the Monash Music department last year, the internationally acclaimed performer was making his sixth visit to Australia.

He also gave a recital at Monash's Music Auditorium as part of the university's Making Music Series.

Born in Moscow, Rozum displayed outstanding abilities at a young age, becoming laureate of numerous international competitions and festivals. He has been awarded the medal of the Supreme Soviet and the title of Merited Artist of Russia.

Men need to tackle a few hard issues



According to author Dr Anthony McMahon, not enough has been written about men's issues. Photo by Elizabeth Dias.

By DEREK BROWN

A man who cooks, cleans and is emotionally sensitive? The image of the post-feminist male is largely hype, according to a new book by a Monash University academic.

In his book, *Taking Care of Men: Sexual Politics in the Public Mind*, Dr Anthony McMahon, an honorary research associate in the Sociology department, asks why, despite celebrated changes to the role of men and women in society, the domestic sphere has remained relatively untouched.

"The evidence shows that men have clear advantages when it comes to the division of domestic labour. People want to believe that everything is going well and that we have dealt with these issues, but the reality is quite different," Dr McMahon said.

"When a woman has a full-time job that is just as demanding in terms of time and responsibility as her male partner's job, the male partner will do the same amount of domestic work as if she were working part-time."

It's not that men don't do housework; rather, they do it on their own terms, Dr McMahon pointed out.

"Men have a vested interest in not changing," he said. "It's nice to have someone looking after you. Men have clearly been taking advantage of the situation and now it is time for men to ask themselves if they have been acting ethically."

Dr McMahon said it was logical for men to write about themselves even though confronting the facts could be uncomfortable.

"At parties, when I talk about my field of interest, men's eyes glaze over and they often try to change the subject; they are clearly not comfortable with talking about these kinds of ethical concerns," he said.

"There has been a lot of research done on gender research and feminist criticism by women for women, but not a great deal written about men. I think it is up to us to make sure we analyse ourselves."

Dr McMahon, who helped develop one of the first Australian university sociology courses on men, has published articles and contributed to both edited collections and conferences on the topic of gender politics.

Taking Care of Men: Sexual Politics in the Public Mind is published by Cambridge University Press.

Pictures from the past



Bp. Ponjopangrawit, the gamelan maker, photographed in the Conservatorium at Kokar in the 1950s. The gamelan and historic photographs have been on display as part of the exhibition 'The gamelan Digul and the prison camp musician who made it: an Australian link with the Indonesian revolution', at the Monash University Gallery at Clayton until 11 September.

What's on

A round-up of events and activities around Monash campuses

September

9 Lunchtime concert series - 'Works by Julian Yu'. Ensemblelinx perform works by this contemporary composer as well as Mozart and Crusell. Religious Centre, Clayton campus, 1.10 pm to 2 pm.

9 Centre of East Asian Studies - 'Watching Taiwan in mainland China', by Dr Chen Jie, Monash Asia Institute. Seminar room S807, eighth floor, south wing, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, 4 pm to 5.30 pm.

9 CEET seminar - 'Returns to investment in firm-based training', by Mr Mike Long, Centre for the Economics of Education and Training and ACER. Seventh floor, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne, 12.30 pm to 1.45 pm.

10 Music seminar - 'Two studies on double emigration and creativity: Manfred Gurlitt in Tokyo (1939-1972)', by Adjunct Professor Andrew D. McCredie. Room G38, Performing Arts Centre, Clayton campus, 4.30 pm.

13 Lunchtime concert series - 'Musical theatre', popular works from the musical theatre repertoire presented by students from the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies. Hexagon Theatre, Gippsland, 1.10 pm to 2 pm.

16 Centre of Southeast Asian Studies - 'Students, NGOs and land disputes in Indonesia', by PhD candidate Ms Damairia Pakpahan from the Politics department. Room SG03, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, 11.15 am.

16 Lunchtime concert series - 'Hume versus Dowland', Renaissance England's leading songwriters performed by Miriam Morris, one of

Australia's leading period instrument performers, accompanied by renowned bass Stephen Grant. Religious Centre, Clayton campus, 1.10 pm to 2 pm.

17 Accounting and Finance - 'How to get published', by Professor Robert Faff, RMIT. Room A1.37, Caulfield campus, 11 am to 1 pm.

17 Psychology seminar - 'The Singing Detective's disease: Psychological factors in the course of psoriasis', Dr Wendy Crouch, Department of Psychology. Third floor, building 17, Clayton campus, 1.05 pm to 2 pm.

20 Art exhibition - Robert Owen: London works, an overview of Owen's sculptural practice from the 1960s and 1970s. Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus, until 30 October.

23 Lunchtime concert series - 'European high baroque works', a selection of works by Durufle, de Grigny, Handel and Bach, performed by John O'Donnell. Robert Blackwood Concert Hall, Clayton, 1.10 pm to 2 pm.

23 World of Science lecture - 'The accelerating universe?', by Dr Brian Schmidt, from the Mt Stromlo and Siding Springs Observatories, ANU. Science lecture theatre S5, Clayton, 5 pm.

23 Centre of Southeast Asian Studies - 'Community capitalism or corporate capitalism: Revisiting the poor communities of Jakarta in 1999', Ms Lea Jellinek, freelance consultant working on poverty and impacts of globalisation. Room SG03, Menzies building, Clayton campus, 11.15 am.

24 Accounting and Finance - 'The impact of regulatory reform on the

portfolio performance of Australian credit unions', by Associate Professor Deborah Ralston, University of Southern Queensland. Room A1.37, Caulfield campus, 11 am to 1 pm.

24 Music seminar - Seminar and recital by Lawrence Whiffin, composer-of-honour, Monash Australian Composer Series VII. Music Auditorium and Room G38, Performing Arts Centre, Clayton campus, 4.30 pm.

30 Centre of Southeast Asian Studies - Sixth annual workshop of Southeast Asian women. Mantion Rooms, building 11, Clayton campus, from 9 am.

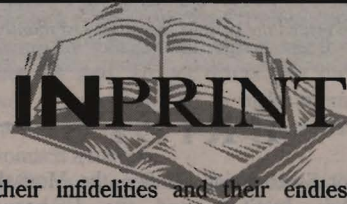
30 Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies - *The Hired Man*, a tale of British triumph and tragedy, presented by first-year students. Alexander Theatre, Clayton campus, 8 pm. Until 9 October.

October

8-9 Making Music series - Viva Voce and Monash Women's Choir, conducted by Nina Gilbert (USA). Music Auditorium, Clayton campus, 8 pm.

8 Psychology seminar - 'Effects of restricting field of view on simulated driving performance', Accident Research Centre. Third floor, building 17, Clayton campus, 1.05 pm to 2 pm.

14 Centre of East Asian Studies - 'Recent development of the East Asian financial crisis', Department of Accounting and Finance. Seminar room S807, eighth floor, south wing, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, 4 pm to 5.30 pm.



Pot Luck

Emile Zola

A new translation by
Brian Nelson

Oxford University Press (RRP \$16.95)

French society in the second half of the 19th century was a world of etiquette, elegant ladies and polite speech. But, as Emile Zola showed in the classic novel *Pot Luck* (*Pot-Bouille*), beneath the veneer of respectability was a deep pool of immorality and corruption.

Pot Luck, first published in 1882, explores this contradiction through the lives of bourgeois tenants of a Parisian apartment block, exposing

their infidelities and their endless hunger for wealth and power.

In the first English translation of *Pot Luck* this century, Professor Brian Nelson restores the text to its original form. Sections that were removed from some prior translations for fear of appearing crude have been included and the colloquial quality of the dialogue has been restored using modern equivalents.

Professor Nelson, head of French Studies at Monash University, has written extensively on Zola's work and has translated and edited *The Ladies' Paradise*, another of Zola's novels, a translation which was runner-up in the SBS/ Dinny O'Hearn prize for literary translation.

Mawson:

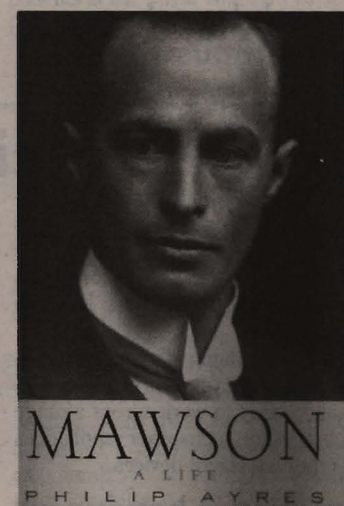
A Life

Philip Ayres

Melbourne University Press (RRP \$39.95)

Sir Douglas Mawson, Antarctic explorer, folk hero, and father of two daughters, appears on the \$100 note but remains a mystery to most Australians. A new biography by Dr Philip Ayres reveals the extraordinary life of the man behind the legend.

Drawing on various sources, from recollections of those who knew Sir Douglas to a vast collection of letters and papers, Dr Ayres has been able to create a candid biography which



probes Sir Douglas's most intimate thoughts, tracking his life through personal and public events.

Mawson: A Life describes both an influential man who used his political connections to push for costly Antarctic expeditions and a deeply attentive father who encouraged his daughters to explore the world around them and to become scientists in their own right.

Dr Ayres is an associate professor of English literature at Monash University. His main fields of interest include 18th-century England and Australian biography, and he is the author of several books including *Malcolm Fraser: A Biography*.

All 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

Intelligent life goes on show

BY DEREK BROWN

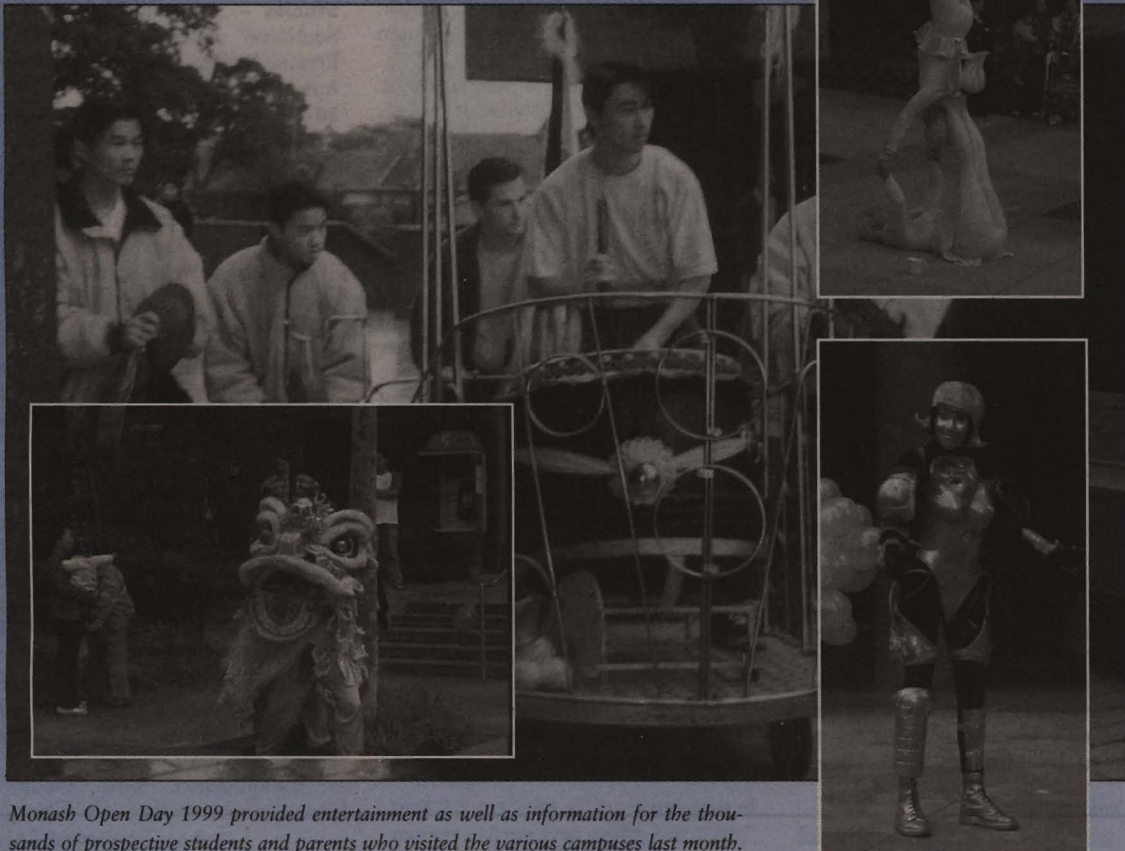
Walking robots, lion dances and science exhibitions were just some of the highlights of one of the most successful Monash open days to date.

Attendance for Monash Open Day 1999 was up on last year's figures, with more than 38,000 prospective students and parents visiting the various Monash campuses last month.

Monash's six Australian campuses took part in the weekend event, opening their doors to visitors and providing them with information about courses, social activities and facilities on offer.

Monash Open Day director Associate Professor Naomi White said she was extremely happy with the event's success and with the efforts made by student guides and academic and general staff on each campus.

"The general feedback about the day has been very positive in terms of the needs of prospective students and other visitors being met on the day as well as the atmosphere for staff and current students who participated," she said.



Monash Open Day 1999 provided entertainment as well as information for the thousands of prospective students and parents who visited the various campuses last month.

BRIEFS

Monash launches Java campus

Australasia's first authorised Java teaching campus has been established at Monash University's Peninsula campus.

Set up in collaboration with IT company Sun Microsystems, the campus was officially launched recently by the Victorian Minister for Information Technology and Multimedia, Mr Alan Stockdale.

Java is becoming increasingly popular for its strong networking capabilities and ability to work across a range of computers, consumer appliances and other intelligent devices.

Cambridge honour for Monash graduates

Two Monash graduates have been awarded prestigious Cambridge Trust scholarships.

Ms Nerissa Hannink and Ms Kaele Stokes were among 13 outstanding Australian graduates to receive Cambridge University's equivalent of the Oxford Rhodes scholarship.

Ms Hannink, an honours graduate from the Microbiology department, will undertake doctoral research on bioremediation, the use of microbes to remove contaminant explosives from the environment.

Ms Stokes, who is completing a masters at Cambridge, will continue towards a PhD in Nordic studies.

Virtual forum set up for security talks

An online forum has been set up to promote discussions on security in South Asia.

The virtual forum was established by the Monash-based National Centre

for South Asian Studies, the Monash Asia Institute and the US-based Nautilus Institute to further international dialogue on security issues in the strategically important region. It is also sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The forum is the latest in a series of 'second-track' diplomatic efforts, led by Monash University, which culminated earlier this year in a second high-level communique on ways to minimise the risks of nuclear, conventional and other forms of conflict in the area. The first communique was recently reproduced as an attachment to an Australian Government report on the 1998 Indian and Pakistan nuclear tests.

The forum is at www.monash.edu.au/mai/savirtualforum

Workshop on Asian women planned

A workshop on Southeast Asian women will be held at Monash University's Clayton campus on 30 September.

The sixth annual workshop will bring together researchers and others interested in studying issues relating to Southeast Asian women, such as politics, geography, literature, the arts and health.

A particular area of interest suggested for this year's gathering is women's representation in media and cultural forms.

For more details, contact Dr Susan Blackburn (sue.blackburn@arts.monash.edu.au) or Dr Barbara Hatley (barbara.hatley@arts.monash.edu.au)

Country teachers named winners

Two teachers from regional schools have been named Victoria's top teachers for 1999.

The title of Primary School Teacher of the Year has gone to Ms Jill McLean, of Alexandra Primary School. Secondary Teacher of the Year is Mr Phil White, of Golden Square Secondary College in Bendigo.

Now in their sixth year, the Teacher of the Year awards are sponsored jointly by Monash University and *The Herald Sun* newspaper.

Vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson, who presented the awards, said the event gave Monash an opportunity to recognise and reward outstanding teachers for their skill, creativity and commitment.

Monash to host two major conferences

Monash University is involved with hosting two major conferences in Melbourne this month.

From 16 to 18 September, the Australian APEC Study Centre at Monash will co-host the Conference on International Trade, Education and Research, which will focus on the forthcoming millennium round of negotiations in the World Trade Organisation.

The event, at the old Treasury Building, will be opened by Australia's new Trade Minister, Mr Mark Vaile.

From 29 September to 1 October, Monash will host the fourth annual conference of the Global Alliance for Transnational Education (GATE) at the Grand Hyatt.

Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson will provide welcoming remarks at the conference, whose theme is 'Access or exclusion? Trade in transnational education services'.

Life according to Jacques

BY FIONA PERRY

Anyone who thought philosophy lacked popular appeal would be forced to think again after the recent visit to Monash by the world's most influential living philosopher, Professor Jacques Derrida.

The attention accorded the 69-year-old French deconstructionist in his first visit to Australia only served to reinforce Professor Derrida's status as an international celebrity.

Despite his reputation as a 'difficult thinker', the philosopher was enthusiastically approached by students for autographs, with demand for seats at his 'Forgiving the unforgivable' lecture at the Alexander Theatre far exceeding supply.

During his hectic two-day visit to Monash, Professor Derrida, a guest of Professor Kevin Hart of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, also hosted a round-table conference for academics on 'The future of the university'.



Rock star of the mind: Professor Jacques Derrida takes a break during a hectic visit to Monash recently. Photo by Shannon Mattinson.

As well, he met Monash staff and students informally to discuss his work.

Professor Derrida's most recent work has focused on the notion of forgiveness and responsibility. He told journalists at his only Australian media conference at Monash that his next research would examine ethical questions surrounding the death penalty.



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