## MONASHNews

Research, news and opinion from Monash Universit

Volume 6 Number 7 | September 2003



RATs are on sniffer dogs' tails



Learning to live with spam



The science of the moving Alps 8

# New VC queries federal funding

Monash University has a new vice-chancellor, Professor Richard Larkins AO.

In a speech on his first day in office, Professor Larkins told a lunchtime gathering of staff and students that Monash was the best-placed Australian university to become a great international institution.

However, he questioned how the current federal government proposals on higher education funding would allow any of Australia's universities to compete with the best international universities.

"The current proposals on higher education funding formulated by federal Education Minister Brendan Nelson provide particular challenges for universities," he said

"Current levels of public funding will not permit any of our universities to compete with the best international universities, so changes are required.

changes are required.

"The internationalisation of our universities has been of immense benefit for many reasons but should not be seen as a solution to gross under-funding from government sources.

"We should continue to advocate for enhanced government funding. It is a sound investment, as demonstrated by countries that have taken the decision to make a substantially greater government – as opposed to private – commitment to the costs of tertiary education. Ireland, Singapore,



**Professor Larkins:** Priorities are excellence in teaching and research.

the Scandinavian countries and Switzerland are a few examples of this.

"Throwing more of a (financial) load on students creates perverse incentives for them to aspire to high-earning jobs, which may have little community benefit, to allow them

to repay debt.
"An example is the difficulty of involving

medical graduates in the US in academic medicine. Instead, their preference is for highly remunerative procedural specialities to allow debt to be repaid more quickly. In New Zealand, student debt has led to a substantially increased brain drain, as more and more able graduates leave New Zealand to escape or freeze their student debt."

He said there was no question that Australian universities would need to be more self-reliant. "We must be more active and effective in raising funds from our alumni, from industry, from our state and commonwealth governments and from other benefactors."

Professor Larkins has enjoyed a distinguished career in scientific research and academic management.

Before taking up his appointment at Monash, he was dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne.

He was chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia from 1997 to 2000, president of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians from 2000 to 2002, a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council from 1977 to 2000, and a member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council from 1997 to 2000. He was appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2002.

## Support needed for bush nurses

Medicine

Bush nurses, who serve the health needs of isolated Victorian communities, are in need of a clinical coordinator or leader who can offer professional guidance and advice, a study by Monash researchers has found.

Bush nurses work alone from regional bush nursing centres, unlike rural nurses who work in hospitals or in organisations alongside other health practitioners. They are employed by the committee of management (made up of local volunteers) of their local bush nursing centre but do not have a manager with clinical knowledge or experience of bush nursing.

The study, by researchers from Monash University's School of Rural Health, was part of the Victorian Rural Nurse Project, funded by the Department of Human Services Victoria (DHS), which aims to improve funding, training, conditions and support for rural nurses.

It looked at the lifestyles and work-related issues of nurses in remote areas, explored the "advanced practice" role of bush nurses and also looked at health outcomes for natients

Mrs Mollie Burley, who worked on the study with Associate Professor Elaine Duffy, Mr Matthew McGrail and Ms Lesley Siegloff, said one of the major concerns voiced by bush nurses was a lack of support.

"Professional isolation combined with geographical isolation makes them feel very uncomfortable," Mrs Burley said. "They are expected to cope and, although they might be able to speak with colleagues, they have no leader with whom to discuss issues that might arise."

The research team recommended to DHS that a senior nurse who had worked as a bush nurse and understood the issues they faced be appointed to look after "isolated nurses", which includes bush nurses, school nurses and practice nurses (nurses who work in general practices). Such a person could be based in Melbourne but be accessible by phone to isolated nurses throughout Victoria.

The research focused on five bush nursing centres in East Gippsland – Buchan, Cann River, Dargo, Gelantipy and Swifts Creek. Fifteen bush nurses were surveyed along with their patients and other health providers – such as doctors, physiotherapists and pharmacists in nearby regional centres

- to explore the services supplied by bush nurses.

Mrs Burley, a lecturer at Monash's Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies in Rural Health, said the study found that bush nurses have advanced nursing and trauma skills as well as advanced medical and pharmaceutical knowledge. For this reason it was recommended to DHS that bush nurses go through the formal processes required to become endorsed nurse practitioners, who are able to prescribe certain medications and order simple: blood

"A rural nurse would normally do a physical assessment that would be repeated by a medical practitioner," Mrs Burley said. "But a bush nurse doesn't have that luxury and has to be able to do a full physical assessment of a patient's condition, which might include diagnosis and treatment, and also discuss that information with a doctor, if one is available."

Bush nurses also provide first responder or emergency care, so if, for example, there is an accident at Cann River, the bush nurse provides emergency care until an ambulance arrives.

"There are 80 bush nurses in Victoria and if you look at the areas they're serving, they're doing a fantastic job," Mrs Burley said. "As fewer doctors go to isolated areas, bush nurses are providing much needed care for these small communities."

- Penrry Farmin

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The quest for life on Mars



Watching this space: Two Mars Exploration Rovers (MERs) are expected to land on the planet early next year, after a seven-month journey. The landing sites were chosen by a team of more than 30 scientists, who spent many hours scrutinising irrnages of Mars' surface. Among them was Ms Marion Anderson, a lecturer in Monash's School of Geosciences, who was the only Australian on the MER group. The MERs will help answer the question – is there a chance of finding life on Mars? See page 7.

Photo: Greg Ford



Ms Rachel Snell with colleagues Photo: Herald-Sun

### Recognition for women managers

Business

Melbourne businesswomen with Monash University connections have been honoured in this year's Women Chiefs of Enterprise International awards.

Ms Rachel Snell, a Monash graduate in industrial engineering, won the award for emerging CEO for 2003.

As a manager for automotive trimware manufacturer Silcraft, Ms Snell is responsible for about 150 staff and the daily operations of various departments. She says women in her field are rare.

"Hopefully, this award will inspire other women to achieve in areas that have traditionally been dominated by men," she said.

After she graduated from Monash in 2000, Ms Snell joined Silcraft as an industrial engineer. She was later appointed manager of the company's industrial engineering section before taking up her current role as manager of the plastics production unit.

"Monash equipped me well for my career - the subjects taught and the way they taught them prepared me for my work environment," she said.

Ms Kristina Karlsson, a guest speaker in retail management studies in the Business and Economics faculty, was named emerging small business owner of the year. Her company, kikki.K, supplies quality stationery for the growing home office market.

Being an occasional speaker in Monash's retail management studies lets me give back some practical knowledge to students who, like me, want to run a business and see it thrive," Ms Karlsson said.

Women Chiefs of Enterprises International (WCEI) was founded in Australia in 1985 as a non-profit professional organisation for women entrepreneurs.

- Robyn Anns

Weblink: www.wcei.com.au

## Farewell to Peter Darvall

Professor Peter Darvall has been warmly farewelled by Monash staff and students after 33 years with the university - his final year as vice-chancellor.

At an evening function in mid-August, Monash chancellor Mr Jerry Ellis unveiled a portrait of Professor Darvall that will be hung in the Robert Blackwood Concert Hall on the Clayton campus.

Professor Darvall spoke of his main achievements at Monash and the people who had shaped his career.

I could talk about Monash for a long time - and often do. Suffice to say that it is special not because it is the largest Australian university but because of its energy and attitude.'

He started his academic career as a tutor in the Engineering faculty, rising through the ranks to dean, then deputy vice-chancellor, and, finally to vice-chancellor. He has accepted the



Monash chancellor Mr Jerry Ellis and Professor Peter Darvall with the portrait that will be hung in the Robert Blackwood Concert Hall. Photo: Joe Mann

Picture perfect:

title of professor emeritus to maintain his connection with Monash after his

many researchers to establish Monash as a premier research institution in fields including accident research, IVF technology, stem cell science, education, green chemistry, nanotechnology, Asian studies and population and urban research.

Mr Ellis described Professor Darvall Professor Darvall worked with as a great friend of Monash. "He is a man of wit used kindly, a man of wisdom used wisely, a man of strength ... and an engineer. Many Monash people know Peter as a friend," he said.

## Assessing the legacy of September 11

Public policy

The US is destined to fail if it sets itself a target to eradicate forms of terrorism, contemporary defence expert Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman said at a public lecture recently.

Sir Lawrence is head of the School of Social Science and Public Policy and professor of war studies at King's College London (KCL).

He delivered his lecture, 'Two years of the war on terror: a preliminary assessment', presented by association with KCL, at

the Naval and Military Club in Melbourne last month.

Sir Lawrence said that gauging the success of the war on terrorism would be difficult, as it was unrealistic to assume there would be no terrorist acts in future.

"We can look at two recent instances in the US - the sniper attacks and the blackouts. These cases could easily have been acts of terrorism," he said.

"We have to accept that these



Global focus: Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman and director of the Monash Monash University in Centre in London Professor Merran Evans. **Photo: Christopher Alexander** 

things will continue to happen and that they could be the result of

However, Sir Lawrence said the West had not fared too badly in the war on terrorism. He said a successful terrorist campaign did not necessarily kill large numbers of people in one-off incidents but instead harmed few people in regular incidents - such as the IRA's campaign in the UK.

Sir Lawrence was elected a fellow

of the British Academy in 1995 and awarded a CBE in 1996. He was appointed official historian of the Falklands campaign in 1997 and was knighted this year.

Monash and KCL established a partnership in January 2000. The partnership provides opportunities for joint research and collaborative teaching and learning endeavours.

- Diane Squires

Weblink:

www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/

Experts from Australia and around the world gathered in Melbourne recently to discuss the implications of September 11 on relations between the Muslim world and Western

Launched by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Alexander Downer, the two-day conference, 'Islam and the West: the Impact of September 11', brought together a range of views on Islamic terrorism, Muslim politics and cooperation and clashes between Islam and the West.

In his opening address, Mr Downer spoke about the similarities between today's world events and the themes in Samuel Huntington's book, Clash of Civilisations and the Remaking of the World Order. The book considers conflict between different civilisations and the dangers this may cause in global politics.

However, Mr Downer said that while there were parallels between September 11 and events in the book, he did not believe the attack marked the clash of civilisations, and he said there was nothing inevitable about relations between the Muslim world and the West.

The conference, which was organised by Dr Shahram Akbarzadeh from Monash's School of Political and Social Inquiry, in conjunction with the University of Western Australia, included a keynote speech from Professor Hassan Hanafi from Cairo University.

Professor Hanafi discussed the different models of dialogue used by Islam and the West when communicating with each other.

- Diane Squires

Weblink: www.arts.monash.edu.au/schools/psi/ Briefly

#### Prestige role for academic

A Monash professor has become the first Australian to be selected to help choose the winner of the Marcus Wallenberg Prize - described as the Nobel Prize of the forestry and forestry products industries.

As a member of the international selection committee, chemical engineering professor Bob Johnston will help choose the recipient of the honour, awarded by the King of Sweden at a grand ceremony in Stockholm each year.

"The \$400,000 cash prize aims to recognise, encourage and stimulate groundbreaking scientific achievements making a significant contribution to knowledge and technical development in forestry and forest industries," said Professor Johnston, who is director of Monash's Australian Pulp and Paper Institute.

Up to 500 organisations around the world are invited to nominate candidates for the Marcus Wallenberg Prize, which is awarded to individuals only.

#### Support from **South Africa**

A South African business and political leader has pledged support for the international humanitarian efforts of Monash student and Young Victorian of the Year Mr Hugh Evans.

Mr Max Maisela, the first South African member of the board of Monash South Africa, made the promise when he met Mr Evans during a recent visit to the university's Clayton campus.

Mr Evans is the founder of the Oaktree Foundation, an organisation made up of young Australians seeking to empower and equip children and youth in the developing world through education.

Students from the Monash South Africa campus have established a local Oaktree group to assist the foundation's efforts in that country.

#### Farewell to business interns

Business interns from India and the US left Melbourne recently, equipped with a range of stimulating new experiences to help them in their careers.

The students from Mumbai and Boston were the latest to take part in the Monash Business Student Internship Program, facilitated through Monash Abroad and the Faculty of Business and Economics and in conjunction with Melbourne City Council. They undertook internships with Melbourne-based organisations, including the National Australia Bank, IXP3 Consulting and the City of Melbourne.

Professor On Kit Tam, associate dean, International, said the program established important global links.

#### **High-profile book** launch for lecturer

Director of the Centre for Postcolonial Writing at Monash Dr Chandani Lokuge has launched her new book, *Turtle Nest*, at the Melbourne Writer's Festival.

The novel tells of a young woman's return to Sri Lanka, the place of her birth, in search of her mother's story. It began as a short story that was published in Sri Lanka and in the Penguin Anthology of Summer Stories.

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## Centre boosts brain research Legal

Medicine

Monash University's growing research into clinical neuroscience now has been centralised with the establishment of the Monash University Centre for Brain and Behaviour.

Monash neuroscientists have been brought together by the new centre, which will boost basic and clinical neuroscience research into projects such as how the brain can detect one particular sound among a cacophony, causes of neurological diseases, how the brain controls muscles and the use of stem cells to repair brain damage.

Dr Marcello Rosa, interim director of the centre, said it had

already attracted more than 150 senior scientists, honours and PhD researchers from 21 of the university's departments and research centres.

There are a lot of people at Monash who are working on brain research, and this centre will bring them together, fostering collaboration and leading to more comprehensive and successful research programs," Dr Rosa said.

As well as coordinating Monash neuroscience research, the centre and its members will also work with groups from other institutes such as Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Monash Medical Centre and The Alfred hospital.

"For example, we have scientists who are investigating the biochemistry

of individual brain molecules. This centre could bring them together with people who are demonstrating how failure to synthesise the molecule might affect a patient," Dr Rosa said. "Ultimately, such collaborations could hasten the development of treatments for these patients.

Although the medical faculty has initiated the Centre for Brain and Behaviour, the centre is not solely focused on medical aspects of brain research. It has also been attracting researchers who work in engineering, robotics and computer vision, and Dr Rosa is keen for others to join.

He expects the centre will be the first port of call for industry and government agencies looking for scientists able to tackle questions relating to brain research.

"If there is a brain-related problem that needs addressing, they only need contact the centre and we will put them in touch

with the right people," Dr Rosa said.

A free symposium and public lecture were held to mark the official opening of the centre. The lecture was given by Baroness Susan Greenfield, best-selling author and director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, on the subject 'Tomorrow's people: how 21st-century technology is changing the way we think and feel'.

- Penny Fannin

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## Sniffer dogs could give way to RATs

Engineering

A Monash professor has created an odour-sensing robot that may one day replace sniffer dogs in detecting drugs,

explosives and gas leaks.

Associate Professor Andy Russell of Monash's Intelligent Robotics Research Centre has designed the RAT (reactive autonomous testbed) robot that is able to sniff its way through a maze of tunnels to track down a chemical odour.

Dr Russell's compact 'sniffer-bot' could replace dogs for drug searches at airports, detecting explosives in buildings and subways, locating landmines and identifying dangerous gas leaks.

In laboratory demonstrations, the 100 mm diameter robot uses four types of sensors - chemical, ultrasonic, airflow and 'whisker' - to navigate through a series of interconnected passageways to find the target chemical, camphor.

Dr Russell believes the robot will eventually have many advantages over sniffer dogs. "One of the drawbacks of sniffer dogs is that it is difficult or impossible to find out exactly which



RAT cunning: Professor Andy Russell and his 'sniffer-bot'.

Photo: Melissa Di Ciero

chemical is triggering their responses, whereas robots can be constructed to detect specific chemicals," he said.

Sniffing is a natural action for dogs, so even if their sense of smell is impaired, this is hard for a handler to determine.

"Dogs require extensive training, they must be cared for by an expert handler, they have to be fed and housed, their attention span is short, and they get tired and lose interest.

"But chemical-sensing robots can

be switched off and placed in a box when their work is done. And if they get damaged or wear out, you just build a new one.

Due to the limited capabilities of currently available odour sensors, dogs are still better at detecting smells.

"The commercial odour sensors I am using are only capable of detecting odours at concentrations of one part per million. Our own noses are about a million times more sensitive than

that, while those of dogs are about 100 million times more sensitive."

Dr Russell keenly awaits the development of odour sensors with increased sensitivity, so that he can further improve his 'sniffer-bot'.

- Michele Martin

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Weblink:

www.ecse.monash.edu.au/staff/rar/

## Australia at the Biennale – an intriguing history

Art and Design

A Monash lecturer's PhD on the history of Australia's representation at one of the world's premier visual arts events, the Venice Biennale, is set to provine valuable: resource material for

Mr Stephen Naylor, who becures on the meory of art and design at the Gippsland campus and who attended the 30th Venice Biennale in June this year, recently had an article published in Art and Australia based on his PhD research.

He said Australia was first invited to be represented at the Biennale in 1924, but declined the offerdue to the limited time available to adequately prepare a body of work for the show.

"In 1958, Australia finally presented an official, fully conceived face at the Biennale, with landscape paintings by Arthur Streeton, and Arthur Boyd,"

Mr Naylor said. "However, it generated much criticism here, with art critic for the

Melbourne Herald Allan McCulloch stating 'we are to appear, it seems, like a geographical magazine, as propagandists of our native scenery'."

Mit Naylor said that at the 1980 Biennade, there was controversy over an initallation by artist Tony Cideing; exploring Australia's propensity to slices of bread shaped like a map of Australia spreacl with Vegernite.

"Coleing also raised the issue of Australia's uranium exports in a work titled 'Who Wans to be a Milliona ire', including the selling of 'yellowcake' in small boxes to the public," he said.

Our representation this year, an installation of strange and lovable, but potentially routant life forms in a horne of the fiture, titled 'We Are Family', by Patricia Piccinini, also stimulated lots of interest.

"As I waiked through the various Biennale venues, I was constantly hearing comments tilce: 'Did you see the Australian Pavilion ... it was amazing, and so freaky'."

Mr Naylor said that on the whole,

Australia's representation at the Venice Biennale had featured highly regarded

contemporary artists.

"The difficulty choosing artists has been a shallenge; and criticism has been made of the n process but th work presented in Venice has been a fairly good baron uter of the state of Australian contemporary

Mr Naylor hopes his PhD research will assist in the staging and selection of future: Australian respresentation at the Biennale and provide art

historians with a significant base to explore the impact of contemporary Australiam art in an international context.

- Michele Martin

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Amazing: Australia's representation at the 2003 Venice Biennale, an installation titled 'We Are Family' by Patricia Piccinini, featured a family of hybrid meerkats and humans inhabiting a white leather settee.

## team goes global

For the past two years, legal trainers from Monash University have provided advocacy training for prosecutors of the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, located in The

Now Professor The Honourable George Hampel QC and Adjunct Professor Felicity Hampel SC have been invited to teach lawyers in Sarajevo and in Tanzania later this year.

"În effect, a new legal system is being developed in Sarajevo because it was basically destroyed during the Bosnian war 10 years ago," Professor Hampel said.

"The Monash team's assistance will involve developing the country's legal system so that it can better deal with expert evidence."

In October, the Hampels are booked to train prosecutors in the city of Arusha, Tanzania, where the Rwandan War Crimes trials are being held.

The Monash Law faculty, through its International Institute of Forensic Studies and with the Australian Advocacy Institute, is leading the world in providing expert witness training and advocacy skills.

Professor Hampel is founder and president of the International Institute for Forensic Studies (IIFS) and chairman of the Australian

Advocacy Institute (AAI). The AAI's advocacy skills training is recognised worldwide. First introduced to the Australian profession by Professor Hampel, it now forms the basis of the Readers courses for the Australian Bars. It was also introduced to the English and Scottish Bars in 1995 and has extended to workshops in the US, England, Singapore, Malaysia and other countries with an adversarial justice system.

"In our training workshops we focus on preparation and analysis skills, the skills and disciplines involved in examination and cross-examination of witnesses, presentation of legal argument and handling of expert evidence," Professor Hampel said.

"There is a strong emphasis on courtroom communication skills, which enhance persuasion and therefore the art of advocacy.'

Professor Hampel said the: mand for advocacy training constantly growing.

"The strength of our teaching is that it comes from experienced professionals who also have an academic perspective. We combine rich practical experience and knowledge with effective skills teaching methods.

"The work by the Australian Advocacy Institute together with the Monash Law school raises the reputation and profile of both institutions, as well as the. Australian profession as a whole."

- Robyn Anns

Weblink:

www.law.monash.edu.au/iifs/ or www.advocacy.com.au



Learning about uni life: It was all smiles at Monash University's Caulfield campus when this group of students paid a visit during Open Day in August. About 46,000 students, parents and community members eager to learn about Monash courses, extra-curricular activities and study-abroad opportunities visited the university's Clayton, Caulfield, Berwick, Gippsland, Peninsula and Parkville campuses. Throughout the two-day event, Monash staff and students were on hand to provide information on specific courses and areas of study. For more information about studying at Monash, visit www.monash.edu.au/pso.

Photo: Greg Ford

## New centre serves community

#### Psychology

The Monash University Clinical Psychology Centre (CPC), which provides high-quality psychology services to the Victorian community, officially opened last month.

The centre, in Clayton Road, Clayton, offers psychological assessment, treatment and consultation in three specialised areas of clinical psychology – child and family, health and medical, and forensic psychology.

It also provides advanced professional training

for postgraduate psychology students. The first interns, from the Monash University doctor of psychology degree, started work at the centre in February.

Centre director Associate Professor Sandra

Lancaster said there was a great need for more psychological services in the southern metropolitan region of Melbourne and the centre was committed to establishing links with local community agencies.

"The CPC provides psychological services to all ages for a wide range of psychological problems including depression, anxiety, coping with grief and loss, trauma, adjustment to medical conditions, parenting and relationship difficulties," Dr Lancaster said. "Assessment and treatment is also provided for children and adolescents with learning, emotional, social and behaviour problems."

She said that to maintain best-practice standards, the CPC would also undertake research that led to a better understanding of psychological problems and how they could be treated. The university's School of Psychology,

Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine operates

Referrals to the centre are increasing with local community agencies, GPs and schools keen to take advantage of the high-quality services provided. Feedback from referrers has been extremely positive.

Ms Christine Hanly, a team leader at Anglicare Parentzone – a service that provides information and advice on raising children – said several of their clients had been referred to the CPC as they could receive professional psychological care almost immediately.

"It's good to know there is a service that is readily accessible and able to look after the psychological needs of children," Ms Hanly said.

— Penny Fannin

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### Award for work on health safety

#### Pharmacy

The Victorian Government has awarded a Victoria Fellowship to Monash University PhD researcher Ms Tam Vuong in recognition of her work in raising medication safety standards for Austrālians.

In Australia about 140,000 hospital admissions each year are associated with the misuse of medicines, with around half these cases considered to be preventable.

Patients who take the wrong medicines and inappropriate prescribing by practitioners cost Australia's public health system about \$380 million a year. But Ms Vuong says this figure could be halved if good research findings are translated into practice and health care policy.

"Many innovative ideas have been developed by Australian practitioners and researchers to reduce this significant figure, but their ideas are not being picked up," she said.

not being picked up," she said.

Governor of Victoria Mr John Landy presented Ms Vuong, from Monash's Department of Pharmacy Practice at the Victorian College of Pharmacy, with her fellowship at a ceremony at Government House last month.

The Victoria Fellowships recognise emerging innovators in science, technology and engineering and are awarded annually to six people in the form of travel grants of up to \$15,000 each.

Ms Vuong plans to use her fellowship to travel to Canada and the US to find out how they are tackling hospital admissions due to medication error. She will visit several leading institutions in medication policy research, including the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the Harvard School of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health.

"I hope the information I come back with will make a difference to how Victorian health care makes better use of medications by reducing the associated risks. It will certainly go a long way to improving patient safety in Australia," she said.

- Penny Fannin

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#### Schools

### Enhancement studies program

Monash's Enhancement Studies Program offers students the chance to study a first-year university unit while still in Year 12. The enhancement subject is counted as the sixth VCE subject in the calculation of the student's ENTER.

A pass grade in the enhancement subject can earn the student credits at university level. Credits awarded will depend on the university and program of study in which the student subsequently enrols.

A wide variety of enhancement subjects are available and are offered through the faculties of Arts, Business and Economics, Information Technology, and Science. Most subjects are available off-campus or at selected secondary schools across Victoria, which act as host centres for Enhancement classes.

Subjects to be offered in 2004 are Accounting, Australian History and Politics, Business Systems, Chemistry, Economics, English Literature, Programming and Computer Technology, Geography, Media and Communication Studies, History of World War Two, Japanese, Jewish Civilisation, Mathematics, Music Performance and Philosophy.

An Enhancement Studies Program information evening will be held on Wednesday 15 October from 7.30 pm to 9 pm in South One lecture theatre, building 64, Clayton campus.

For more information about the information evening or the program, consult the 2004 Enhancement Studies Guide, which has been sent to VCE and careers coordinators, or call Ms Philippa Young on +61.3 9905 5859 or Ms Rebecca Hillman on +61.03 9905 4241.

## Learning to live with spam

"Spam, spam, spam, wonderful spam!" So sang the Monty Python comedy crew back in the 1970s, long before email, as we know it today, existed. Now, for most PC users, spam - or unsolicited commercial email - is far from wonderful, but according to Mr Chris Avram, associate dean, Graduate Studies, in Monash's IT faculty, we are going to have to learn to live with it.

Regardless of what new technology comes along or which laws governments introduce, spam won't go away. It will continue to impact on everyone who uses a computer.

For individuals, spam means clogged mailboxes, a slowed operating system and a route for viruses and unwanted software to spread into the computer. For companies and organisations, spam means high costs involved in employing full-time detection teams and installing extra software such as firewalls. IT policies and practices may also need to be changed and implemented.

For society as a whole, spam reduces the efficiency of communications and exposes vital infrastructures to malicious interference.

Increasingly spam is forcing companies and individuals to make a trade-off - security over convenience. The major players such as Microsoft are leaning more towards security in their research and development, which means that in the long term people will be compelled to organise themselves in more secure but less convenient ways.

At the moment, equipment suppliers do not make it easy for PC users to combat spam. Often there are filters built into a system but actually turning them on is not straightforward. People should have access to a simple, user-friendly set-up that can intercept most of the spam.

Organisations have other options to consider. They can establish an infrastructure to check email in and out and check inside emails for viruses and unwanted software. They also need to introduce IT user policies to ensure their own staff do not abuse the system. Those who do should face

But above all, government needs to step in and impose regulatory

constraints, while victims should have the statutory right to recover their costs.

Where a spammer is out to make money, the best way to find that person or organisation is by following the money trail, starting with the victims who are duped into paying for a product or a service. Find where the money

is going and you find the spammer. Any other form of pursuit is likely to prove fruitless because the spammer will simply jump from web address to web address, never staying in one place long enough to be caught out.

Once found, those who have made money by using infrastructure without permission in an unreasonable way should be made to pay for that use and the costs incurred in preventing the unreasonable and unauthorised use by

Mr Chris Avram: "Increasingly spam is forcing companies and individuals to make a trade-off

- security over convenience." Photo: Greg Ford

them and others. It is by making spam unprofitable that those who spam for profit will be stopped.

But there are other spammers, motivated by the desire for kudos or simply wanting to have fun at the expense of others, who are almost impossible to track down. A spammer operating within his small antisocial community can gain status by creating and successfully spreading a virus. The tougher the technical and regulatory

primary example of this phenomenon was the 'I love you' virus that spread so rapidly because recipients could not stop themselves from opening the infected email. spammers are social

environment, the greater the kudos from

the spammer's peers. Lone operators

get their kicks from the amount of

have in common and that is their ability

to prey on human weakness. They can

influence, con and control people. A

engineers. They use their knowledge

of human behaviour to get people to

There is one thing that all spammers

misery and inconvenience they create.

act in less than sensible ways. They know, for example, that while a security-conscious individual might not open a suspect email, if they get a dire warning of some malevolent email spreading over the internet, they may well forward the warning to any number of colleagues to warn them of the danger. This is a natural human response but in the case of these oftenspurious warning emails, it creates yet

Unless it is an individual's job within an organisation to intercept spam and warn others of security threats, they should not forward such threats and warnings to their friends and colleagues - they should forward them only to the person who is responsible for dealing with such matters.

No amount of legislation or technology can prevent a socially

"It is by making spam unprofitable that those who spam for profit will be stopped."

engineered attack by a spammer, although its impact can be reduced and viruses can be intercepted. We can all help reduce the impact of spam by not sending emails to any more people than necessary. My employer, Monash University, has set a limit of 10 recipients per email without approval - more than that and you could be considered a spammer. I suspect we have all been spammers.

The key to tackling spam lies in generational change. It is my dream that in 10 to 20 years, almost everyone will have a computer permanently linked to the net and at a reasonable speed. Computers won't work unless they are online and they won't run

unless they are virus-protected and have the latest operating system security updates.

Security measures will be updated automatically, a service that will be mandated by legislation. New software will allow penetration tests on individual PCs. Computers found to have inadequate virus and security protection will be blocked from getting on the net.

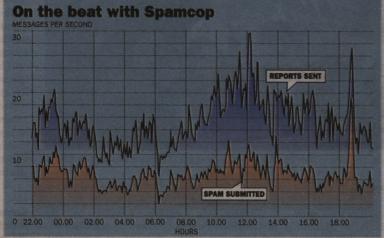
But while this is my vision, the fact is that spam won't go away - we have to learn to live with it and adapt.

Creating our own web pages and using them as repositories is one example of how people can reduce the amount of email they generate. At the same time, they would be restricting the pathways for incoming spam.

Access to such web pages could be password-protected and access limited to one or two people or a group, depending on individual preferences. The more PC users change their individual behaviour, the less success the spammers will have.

But in keeping with the Monash motto 'I am still learning', we are all still learning to live with spam as we wait for the first true internet generation to reach adulthood around

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The international company Spamcop.net has been monitoring spam since 1998. Its customers around the world send in spam reports, which in turn are relayed to internet service providers. The graph reflects the rate of reporting over one 24-hour period in August and shows that at 12 noon that day, customer reports peaked at 30 per second, while the actual number of spam emails being reported peaked at 11 per second between **Graph courtesy Spamcop.net** 



Artist in residence: Australian printmaker Neil Emmerson with his work: '(after the party)' 2001 – a suite of 13 Japanese woodblock prints.

Photo: Melissa Di Ciero

# Projecting ideas into print

Noted Australian printmaker Neil Emmerson is the latest participant in the 2003 Artist/Designer in Residence Program conducted by Monash University's Faculty of Art and Design.

Mr Emmerson took up his appointment last month and will be in residence until early October. He is the first printmaker to be involved in the program.

"My field of practice is interdisciplinary – it involves print media, either explicitly or implicitly, but also merges an installation format with a variety of other media and materials. This can be encouraging for students developing a number of discipline areas simultaneously," he said.

During his stay at Monash, he will be teaching a class of mixed-level students as well as working on his own projects. "Students will have the opportunity to observe me at work and attend structured classes where I can project my ideas about developing a practice and demonstrate techniques I use in my work."

According to Ms Caroline Durre, coordinator of the printmaking studio at the Department of Fine Arts at Monash's Caulfield campus, the participation of Mr Emmerson is timely.

"Neil's involvement comes at a very exciting time for printmaking at Caulfield. We have recently moved into our all-new, purpose-built studios as part of the new Fine Arts complex at Caulfield," she said.

Monash is also reintroducing printmaking as a three-year Bachelor of Fine Arts major next year, following a resurgence in interest in the practice of printmaking in contemporary art. "Neil's work is highly regarded, and the students will benefit enormously from his stay at Caulfield," Ms Durre said. "He has exhibited widely and his works are held in major collections in Australia.

"The Monash University Museum of Art holds 'Gui Nan Feng 1994 (Phantom South Wind)', a sculptural installation involving lithographic prints by Neil, which featured in the opening exhibition at Monash's Prato Centre

Mr Emmerson studied printmaking in Newcastle and Sydney, and in 2001 completed his master of visual arts at the University of Sydney.

He has participated in artist-in-residence programs around the world, including in Japan in 1999 where he learned the techniques of traditional Japanese woodblock printing.

The Artist/Designer in Residence Program at Monash is designed to complement international study programs developed by the Faculty of Art and Design.

Participants stay on campus at the faculty apartments in Caulfield and spend their time teaching, researching and lecturing. Since its inception in 2000, the program has attracted respected artists and designers from around the world

- Karen Stichtenoth

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## Shanghai site for sculptor's art

An abstract artwork created by Monash senior lecturer Dr Dan Wollmering will be displayed in a prominent new outdoor art park in Shanghai, China's city of 17 million people.

Dr Wollmering spent July in the southern China city of Guilin building his large steel, bronze and stone work, 'Surge One', which represents humanity's desire to harness the forces of nature.

"'Surge One' is based on the theme of water – waves, tides, ripples, raindrops and the repetition of such circular forces," he said.

It will be installed in the Shanghai sculpture park, Yueyuanyuan, which will feature a lake, a landscaped environment and an international contemporary art museum.

Dr Wollmering was the only Australian, out of a handful of international artists, invited to create a piece for the Ninth Guilin Yuzi Paradise International Sculpture Symposium.

Yuzi Paradise is an international organisation of art creation and cultural exchange, focusing on modern sculpture and land art projects. It has art workshops, studios, exhibition spaces and facilities for visiting artists within its 1650-acre Guilin city site.

Sculptures created at previous symposiums are permanently displayed there, within a 116-acre outdoor sculpture park.

"It was an ideal environment for building a large outdoor sculpture," Dr Wollmering said.
"The significance Yuzi Paradise has attributed to sculpture as an artistic form was so encouraging. It was a marvellous, extraordinary experience to be building 'Surge One' there."

— Michele Martin

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Harnessing the forces of nature: Dr Dan Wollmering's 'Surge One' on display in Guilin, China.

## **Standing up** to Hitler

What would today's university students do if confronted by the atrocities of Hitler and the Nazi movement? More than 60 Monash University drama students found themselves exploring this question while rehearsing their latest production, The White Rose.

The musical production, which has been written for and in collaboration with students in the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies, will be on stage in the Drama Theatre at the Monash Performing Arts Centre in September. It then heads to Singapore, where the students will perform four shows in the city's major performance venue.

The musical is based on the true story of a group of Munich University students, known as the White Rose, who formed an underground movement in the 1940s challenging the policies and beliefs of Hitler and the Nazis.

The students distributed leaflets throughout southern Germany opposing Hitler's policies and criticising Germans for doing nothing to stop



Confronting questions: Students rehearsing their challenging new production. Photo: Melissa Di Ciero

the Third Reich. They were executed in 1943 for their actions.

Director of the production, and of the Centre for Theatre and Drama Studies at Monash, Professor Peter Fitzpatrick said the students performing in The White Rose identified with the German students. "These aren't distant martyrs—they were the same age as our students, getting up to the same crazy stuff that our students do. They were obviously very bright and brave, but they were only in their early twenties.

"The play has made our student company

confront the question of what they would do in the same situation."

Despite the serious content of the performance, Professor Fitzpatrick said there was an uplifting element to the story, as it deals with individual freedom and the courage of young people to stand up for their beliefs.

people to stand up for their beliefs.

"In the show, we look at individual choices made and the notion of community—the irrational power of a lot of people joining together in song against the voices of individuals expressing their views," he said.

"This gives the audience a sense of the complexity of that society. It is too simple to see the entire society as possessed by evil; what is interesting is how far they allowed themselves to be deceived. And there were people—like those in the White Rose—who knew what was happening and who attempted to stand up against it."

The story was written by Harry Allen, a lecturer in theatre studies at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore, and prominent Melbourne writer Craig Christie, with music by composer Andrew Patterson.

Students worked with the writers in a series of exploratory workshops, gaining a unique insight into the process of developing a new script and putting together a show.

- Diane Squires

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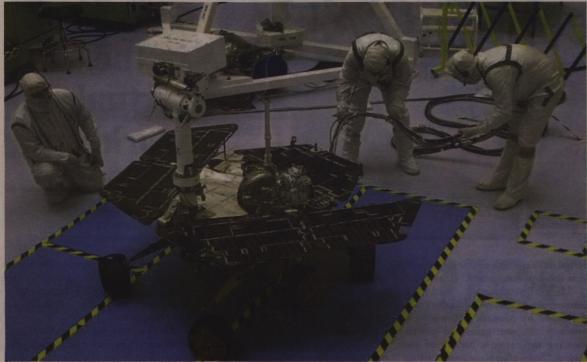
#### Show Notes:

What: The White Rose

When: 10 to 13 September

Where: Drama Theatre, Performing Arts Centre, Clayton campus

Clayton campus Who: For bookings, contact +61 3 9905 2970.



Destination Mars: Technicians prepare one of the two Mars Exploration Rovers at the Kennedy Space Centre, Florida. The two are now on their seven-month journey to Mars, where they will land, explore and take samples **Photo: AAP** 

## Landing on Mars

For two days in early June, rain soaked the air force station at Cape Canaveral in Florida, delaying the launch of NASA's latest hope for finding water on Mars. But on 10 June, the skies cleared and 'Spirit', one of two Mars Exploration Rovers (MERs), was launched on its sevenmonth journey to Mars

The second rover, 'Opportunity', was launched from Cape Canaveral on 8 July. The MERs, which together cost around \$US800 million, are expected to land on opposite sides of Mars in January 2004.

The landing sites were meticulously chosen by a group of more than 30 scientists who spent many hours scrutinising images of Mars' surface for suitable sites for the rovers to land.

Among them was Ms Marion Anderson, a lecturer in Monash's School of Geosciences, who was the only Australian on the MER landing site selection group.

Over two years, the group members studied images of Mars' surface and data that had been gathered from previous Mars missions as they attempted to find landing sites that would help answer the question that has entranced the public for decades - is there a chance of finding life on Mars?

Given previous failures with Mars landings, it was important the group make the right choice.

"Of all the probes sent to Mars, fewer than half have made it and of 12 attempts to land, only three craft have lasted for more than a few days," Ms Anderson said.

The first missions to examine the Martian surface were NASA's Viking landers in 1976. They collected soil samples to test for evidence of life. Of the three main experiments performed, two showed no evidence of life and the third was inconclusive.

But that inconclusive result is still causing almighty speculation that there once was, or might still be, life

The MER rovers, working as robotic field geologists, will examine the chosen sites for clues to the past history of water on Mars.

"On Earth we need water to have life, so one of the goals of Mars exploration is trying to find evidence of water," Ms Anderson said.

The MERs' geological studies, scheduled to last three months, are designed to find physical evidence of water activity on Mars from billions of years ago, when the planet was thought to have been wetter and warmer - and possibly inhabited by microbes.

The rovers are expected to last until April 2004. They each weigh 173 kilograms, are 1.5 metres tall, 2.3 metres wide and 1.6 metres long.

"Martian dust will slowly build up on the rovers' solar collectors and will eventually block the energy needed to recharge the batteries that they need to move around," Ms Anderson said.

For this reason, dust levels and wind strength were two of the factors considered by the group deciding on landing sites for the MERs.

"On earth we need water to have life, so one of the goals of Mars exploration is trying to find evidence of water."

In 2001, the group culled the 28 possible landing site contenders down to four primary sites and two back-up sites, with the aim of selecting two final sites.

"We were looking for places that would be safe for the rovers to land, but would still have enough rocks to provide evidence of water activity if it was to be found," Ms Anderson said.

The group finally considered the merits of four possible landing sites Elysium Planitia, Isidis Planitia, Mericiani Planum and the Gusev Crater.

In selecting the final two sites, there were many considerations, including evidence of water activity, site diversity, rock abundance, the steepness of the slopes (for safety), horizontal winds and dust concentration, Ms Anderson said. It was also important the sites be



Mars watcher: Ms Marion Anderson.

Photo: Greg Ford

considered visually appealing so the general public would take an interest in the mission.

Elysium Planitia was discarded as it had a lot of craters and would make landing the rovers difficult. Isidis Planitia was also rejected on the basis of its craters as well as its volcanic history, which made it unlikely for water to be found there.

"Gusev Crater was an attractive option as it appeared to have lots of ancient shorelines that could indicate the

presence of water," Ms Anderson said.
"The fourth possible site, Meridiani Planum, is called the hematite site as it has one area that's high in hematite. On Earth, specular hematite (an iron oxide) forms only in the presence of standing bodies of water. Its presence on Mars is significant as it implies that there were long periods in the early history of Mars when seas or lakes covered parts of its surface. Given this, we thought it would be worth investigating Meridiani Planum further."

After considering the features of the different landing sites, the group's first selection was the hematite site and the second the Gusev Crater.

It is now less than five months before the rovers land on Mars and begin their examination of the planet's geology. 'Opportunity' will land at the hematite site and 'Spirit' at Gusev Crater. Ms Anderson is hopeful they might find the firm evidence of past or present water that has so far proved

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#### Australia's Ambivalence Towards Asia

By J.V. D'Cruz and William Steele Published by Monash Asia Institute RRP: \$49.95

This confronting work analyses the difficulties Australia has had in establishing a meaningful relationship with Asia. It considers contemporary and historical examples from Australian culture, literature, politics, media and society, contrasting Asian traditions and the experience of non-Anglo migrants in



In his foreword, Professor Ashis Nandy, from the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in Delhi, says future generations of Australians will be grateful to the authors for opening up the future of Australia for Australians of all hues to redefine creatively.

Another leading commentator, Professor Makarand Paranjape from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, describes the book as a definitive account of Australia's relationship with Asia and with people of colour.

The book dispels the premise that Australia is travelling well in Asia and has an assured long-term future in the region.

J.V. D'Cruz is adjunct professor in Australia-Asia relations at the Monash Asia Institute, and William Steele is an honorary research associate



#### **Biology and Pathology** of the Oocyte

Its Role in Fertility and Reproductive Medicine

Edited by Alan O. Trounson and Roger G.

Gosden
Published by Cambridge University Press

The human oocyte, or egg, is the rarest and most rapidly ageing cell in the body, and yet one that

is essential for fertility. This book is about the development, biology and pathology of the oocyte and the new technologies that exist to manipulate, enhance and control fertility.

These technologies are paving the way for overcoming infertility, avoiding inherited diseases and creating genetically engineered animals from embryo stem cells and cloning. This progress would have been impossible without the myriad scientific and technical developments covered in this book, including the ability to manipulate and fertilise oocytes in vitro.

World-renowned experts have contributed to the first book for many years on basic and applied science of the egg, its clinical manipulation and its pivotal role in reproductive medicine and biology.

Alan Trounson is a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Department of Paediatrics at Monash University. Roger Gosden is scientific director of the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine in the Eastern Virginia Medical School in the US.

#### The Legal Protection of Databases

By Mark J. Davison Published by Cambridge University Press

As its economic potential has expanded rapidly, intellectual property has become a subject of front-rank legal importance, and this book is one of a series examining major current issues. The author examines several legal models designed to protect databases, considering in particular the European Union directive, the history of its adoption and its transposition into national laws.

He compares the directive with various American legislative proposals, as

well as the principles of misappropriation that underpin them.

Mark Davison is associate professor in the Faculty of Law at Monash
University. He has published articles on intellectual property and restrictive trade practices in England, Germany, Indonesia, Thailand, China and Australia.

#### **POST**SCript

"Memory is the bridge shared by both psychoanalysis and history, for the

Decesses of remembering and forgetting are central to both."
This quote from a new book, History on the Couch, Essays in History and Psychoanalysis, sums up its central theme.

The book of collected essays contains contributions from Monash academics Professor John Rickard and Dr Christina Twomey from the School of Historical Studies, and Dr Rose Lucas from the School of Literary, Visual and Performance Studies.

It explores how psychoanalytic thought might enhance our exploration of the past by drawing on the work of Freud and later theorists.

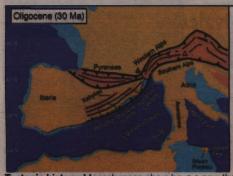
If you are a member of the Monash community and have a forthcoming book, contact media@adm.monash.edu.au.

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## The science of the moving Alps







Tectonic history: Monash researchers have a new theory on the formation of Western Europe's mountains

#### Geoscience

A new theory to explain the formation of the mountains of Western Europe has been developed by Monash University scientists. Until now, geoscientists have worked on the basis that mountain ranges such as the Alps were formed when the tectonic plates carrying Europe and Africa came into collision.

But PhD researcher Mr Gideon Rosenbaum and Professor Gordon Lister from the School of Geosciences have found that the mountains were formed when smaller, faster-moving fragments of continents collided about 30 million years ago.

Mr Rosenbaum, who has studied the western Mediterranean mountain belts over the past three years, said the fragments were about the size of Tasmania or Corsica. "We've reconstructed the movements of the tectonic plates in the Western Mediterranean, and the results have

forced us to re-think all our theories on how this area was formed," he said.

Mr Rosenbaum reconstruction tool called PLATYPLUS, developed by Monash University to produce computer-generated movies showing the tectonic history of the region. "Soon after we started putting data together, we realised that over the last 30 million years, fragments of Italy, North Africa and Spain moved independently relative to the large tectonic plates of Africa and Europe.

"The southern part of Italy, for instance, was originally located adjacent to the southern coast of France, 800 kilometres from its present position. It's been a big surprise to the geoscience community. We were thrilled to see the complexity of tectonic movements that occurred as mountain ranges were built during a relatively short period of time." - Penny Fannin

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### Support needed for Vietnamese gamblers

Gambling among Vietnamese women was having a devastating effect on Vietnamese families in Victoria and counselling services were not adequately equipped to help, a Monash study has found.

Monash masters student Ms MyDung Nguyen interviewed women who were problem gamblers or wives of problem gamblers and reviewed reports and current research for her study. "I found there are not enough services to help Vietnamese women, and the services that do exist are not culturally or linguistically appropriate," she said.

Ms Nguyen said the introduction of poker machines and gambling venues had made gambling more attractive to Vietnamese women, who have taken to gambling because of boredom, financial problems and isolation.

However, she challenged the stereotype of Vietnamese women as problem gamblers. "We do have them in the Vietnamese community, but the problem is not as widespread as the perception created by the media,"

Ms Nguyen is hoping to continue her research at the PhD level.

- Diane Squires

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## Tracing missionary life in Victoria

Archaeology

The social and cultural aspects of daily life for Indigenous inhabitants living on Victoria's first Aboriginal mission will be uncovered as part of a new project by a Monash University academic.

Archaeologist Dr Jane Lydon, from the Monash Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies, has received a \$180,000 ARC Discovery Grant to undertake the project at the Ebenezer Mission near Dimboola, north-west Victoria, over three years.

Ebenezer was established in 1860 by the German Protestant sect, the Moravians, to 'civilise and Christianise' the local Indigenous community.

The mission, consisting of a church, Aboriginal cottages, a kitchen, dormitories and a homestead, was built on a traditional corroboree ground and Indigenous meeting place nearby. It was closed in 1904, and the National Trust of Victoria and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) have both undertaken extensive conservation works at the site.

Working with the Goolum Goolum and Wotjobaluk Indigenous communities and the National Trust and AAV, Dr Lydon will undertake three digs to identify items that may reveal something about the previous inhabitants at the site. The items will then be analysed and catalogued.



Digging up the past: Dr Jane Lydon at at Ebenezer Mission.

The archaeological digs will be supplemented by oral histories of descendents and other members of the local community to reveal aspects of daily life at the mission.

Dr Lydon said she hoped to find out more about the everyday experiences of different social groups, including Aboriginal families and Moravian missionaries. She also hoped to find out more about gender roles and how Aboriginal cultural identity was shaped by mission life.

"The project will provide an Indigenous perspective on the period following white settlement, at a key historical site," she said.

"It aims to provide a comprehensive ethnographic picture of everyday life around the mission settlement through the material environment and practices of

residents. Excavations will recover a diverse range of perspectives shaped by age, gender, class and cultural orientation. A key issue will be the residents' quality of life.'

Dr Lydon said the site was socially, historically, archaeologically and architecturally significant at both the state and national levels.

"A substantial and well-preserved archaeological record will provide evidence for Aboriginal life from before colonisation up to the present day," she said.

"The findings may reflect Aboriginal responses to the mission and potentially explain the processes of cultural transformation, continuity and exchange."

- Diane Squires

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### **Farming** in the virtual world

Social sciences

Victorian dairy farmers have revealed their enthusiasm for computer software that allows them to plan in a 'virtual' world.

The Gippsland farmers are at the centre of a groundbreaking Monash University research project, monitoring the impact of new technologies on their businesses.

Dr Vaughan Higgins from the School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences in the Faculty of Arts said that while there was plenty of data available on farming software and the scale of its use, little was known about how farmers actually apply it and cope with any problems.

"The project will provide an insight into how farmers experience new technologies and the key issues that influence their adoption," Dr Higgins said. "The information will be valuable in developing and improving future software packages.

Farmers already interviewed said the use of computer technology had challenged their previous understanding of good planning and management and enabled them to gain a better idea of the areas that need changing to ensure a profit.

There is particular enthusiasm for the function that allows them to test a production strategy in the 'virtual' world before applying it to their farms. They can input data on resources, production, feed and energy needs from the previous year to formulate 'what if?' scenarios for the following year.

"The software is challenging the farmers and it seems to align closely with their goals, particularly when it comes to keeping production costs low and achieving a better lifestyle," Dr Higgins said. "At a time when Victoria is still in the grip of drought, the option for farmers to plan effectively for the worst case would appear to be invaluable."

Ten dairy management teams from East Gippsland are taking part in the research, which is based around interviews and observations. The outcomes are expected to form the basis of a much larger collaborative study involving researchers from Monash and the University of Cardiff in Wales.

- Richard Ewart

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## **MONASH** News

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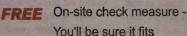


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