

MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS

Monash study examines judicial independence

By FIONA PERRY

The recent trial and imprisonment of Malaysia's former deputy prime minister, Mr Anwar Ibrahim, is an acute reminder of the importance of an independent judiciary in a democratic society, according to the Sir John Latham Professor of Law at Monash University, H. P. Lee.

"The Anwar Ibrahim case, while having no parallels in Australia, illustrates how the stature of a judiciary can be eroded, fuelling a growing cynicism and lack of confidence in a country's legal system," he said.

And while Australians maintain a high degree of confidence in their legal system, recent disturbing attacks on the judiciary threaten to undermine its

independence, warns Professor Lee, who is currently conducting ARC-funded research into the Australian judiciary with Monash Emeritus Professor Enid Campbell and Professor George Winterton from the University of New South Wales.

The research, the first comprehensive study of the judiciary undertaken in Australia, examines the structure and underpinnings of the constitutional and legal frameworks which contribute to the maintenance of judicial independence.

These include the process of judicial appointments, conduct and accountability, and the mechanisms that are appropriate for removing and disciplining judges which do not compromise the principle of judicial independence.



Sir John Latham Professor of Law at Monash, H.P. Lee.

"Subversion of judicial independence need not take the overt forms manifested by the experiences in Malaysia," said Professor Lee. "In Australia, it can take the more insidious form of a process of denigration, which can have a corrosive effect on the authority and standing of a court."

"This occurred following the High Court's Wik decision, when the court was subject to virulent attack by politicians, which could reasonably be construed as inciting contempt for the court."

Professor Lee said manipulation of judicial appointments and abolition of courts and tribunals by governments could also represent a threat to judicial independence.

"By abolishing courts or tribunals and therefore 'reorganising the system', governments can pick and choose the judicial officers they retain and simply discharge the others," he said. "And by hiving off the jurisdiction of the courts and transferring them to tribunals, governments are increasingly reducing the power of the courts."

"Members of tribunals may not be as protected as judges and therefore may not have the same degree of independence."

The introduction of privative clauses by governments, constraining the ability of courts to examine certain legal decisions, may also hinder judicial independence, said Professor Lee.

"For example, there are provisions of the Migration Act which limit the grounds on which the Federal Court can examine decisions by the Refugee Review Tribunal."

Professor Lee believes the media has an important role to play in heightening public awareness of the importance of the independence of the courts.

"The concentration of powers in the executive arm of government was allowed to develop unhindered in Malaysia due to a lack of examination of the issues by the media, which is completely under the control of the government," he said.

"In Australia, unlike in Malaysia, we at least have an independent media, which maintains a vigilance."

Boost for asthma research

By DAVID BRUCE

Two million Australians – almost one in 10 of our population – suffer from asthma, and Monash University scientists will play a part in a new \$35 million research program to reduce the burden that asthma places on our community.

A Cooperative Research Centre for Asthma has been established by the Federal Government to bring together the best doctors and scientists in Australia to tackle asthma. The researchers will undertake new studies into the causes of asthma and investigate better methods of treatment.

The government has allocated \$11.5 million towards the centre, spread over seven years, with the remainder to be funded by research institutions and pharmaceutical companies.

The Monash team is being led by Professor Robyn O'Hehir, director of the Department of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology at the Alfred Hospital and Monash.

Monash's partners in the centre are the Institute of Respiratory Medicine in Sydney, the University of Western Australia, the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and the University of Sydney.

Industry partners include NSW Health, Astra, Glaxo Wellcome, Hoechst Marion Roussel, 3M USA, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Zeneca and Boehringer Ingelheim. Asthma Australia is a key supporter of the CRC for Asthma.

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Professor Robyn O'Hehir. Photo by Greg Ford.



Going down!

Monash University's Michael Jones (airborne) and George Gatenby show just how easily injuries can happen during a fast-paced hockey game. A new Monash University Accident Research Centre report recommends possible injury prevention strategies for this popular team sport. For details, see the story on page 8. Photo by Greg Ford.

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Some of the world's most exciting teachers and creators of performance art will be in Melbourne soon for an Australian International Workshop Festival organised by Monash University.

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Ambulance and paramedic studies centre announced

BY JULIE RYAN

Health minister Mr Rob Knowles visited Monash University's Peninsula campus recently to officially announce the new Ambulance and Paramedic Studies Centre.

The \$3 million state-funded purpose-built facility is currently under construction at the Peninsula campus where the centre will be based, and is expected to be completed in time for the beginning of the 2000 academic year.

As part of the Faculty of Medicine, the Monash University Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies will provide a high level of integration with related health disciplines within the university.

The Faculty of Medicine won the right to train the state's ambulance drivers and paramedics following a review of the options for ambulance education and training which recommended:

- that education be mainstreamed to a single agency;
- that base-level ambulance and paramedic training be provided on a pre-employment model; and
- that strong preference be given to formal partnership with a faculty of medicine.

Mr Knowles said the delivery of ambulance training and education through an established education agency would provide significant benefits to the ambulance workforce and would bring it into line with the training practices of other industries.

"This shift to pre-employment training brings ambulance education into



The inaugural director of the Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies, Associate Professor Frank Archer, left, with Victoria's health minister, Mr Rob Knowles, and Monash dean of Medicine, Professor Nick Saunders. Photo by Richard Crompton.

line with contemporary education practice for nearly all other industries and will open up broader career paths," Mr Knowles said.

Faculty of Medicine dean Professor Nick Saunders said the centre would provide extended opportunities for the faculty, especially in terms of research opportunities and industry collaboration, as well as for those undertaking courses at the centre.

"Initially, the Monash centre will deliver essentially the same education program as is currently delivered by

the Ambulance Officer Training Centre," he said.

"However, as training moves to a pre-employment model, the state's ambulance officers will also be prepared to pursue careers in non-traditional services, including mining and police and fire services."

Mr Knowles also took the opportunity to congratulate the recently announced inaugural director of the centre, Associate Professor Frank Archer.

BRIEFS

Freeway to be named after Monash

Legendary World War One military chief and engineer Sir John Monash has been recognised with a new Melbourne landmark.

The Victorian Premier, Mr Jeff Kennett, has announced that the South-Eastern Freeway will be renamed after Monash University's namesake.

"Sir John was not only a very great Australian in terms of his war experience - he was a wonderful engineer and was responsible for many of the bridges constructed around Melbourne," Mr Kennett said.

Monash University, through vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson, has been a strong supporter of the name change and was active in pointing out the significance of the Monash legacy in the region covered by the freeway.

Sir John Monash was involved in the construction of the Morell Bridge, also known as the Anderson Street Bridge, over the Yarra River where the freeway begins. The freeway passes his old school, Scotch College, before continuing on through the City of Monash and close to Monash University.

Finally, it leads to Gippsland where Sir John was general manager of the State Electricity Scheme and later, chairman of the State Electricity Commission.

Leading intellectual joins IT faculty

One of Australia's leading intellectuals, Professor Barry Jones, has joined Monash University's Faculty of

Information Technology as an adjunct professor.

The former parliamentarian delivered his inaugural lecture on 'The information revolution: Its impact on the economy, society and politics' to a gathering of academics, IT business leaders and policy-makers in Melbourne recently.

New head for Monash Public Affairs

Mr Stephen Dee has been appointed executive director of Public Affairs at Monash University.

Mr Dee, executive director of Performing and Visual Arts, assumed the duties carried out by executive director of University Marketing & Development Ms Jenni Chandler after her departure last month.

The new Public Affairs division combines the performing and visual arts, marketing, publications, media relations, alumni, development and prospective student recruitment.

Pearcey Award goes to Monash lecturer

The developer of an educational software package designed at Monash to teach Java programming has been honoured by colleagues in the IT profession.

Monash lecturer Mr Michael Kölling has been awarded the inaugural state Pearcey Award for his work on *BlueJ*.

The award honours Dr Trevor Pearcey, one of the founders of the Australian IT industry who built one of the world's first computing machines (CSIRAC).

Vigilance urged on credit laws

BY CHRISTINE GILES

A Monash University senior law lecturer will address an international conference in Helsinki later this month about the need for consumer credit legislation to keep pace with advancing technology.

Ms Elizabeth Lanyon says the challenge for government is to ensure that consumers continue to receive adequate warning about credit cost and key contract details, as banking and finance markets move increasingly towards electronic service delivery.

Ms Lanyon, also a member of a technical reference group advising Australian governments on a review of the country's Consumer Credit Code, says responses to her presentation at the 7th annual International Consumer Law Conference on May 20 to 22 will help the review process.

"People need warnings, whether they are mortgaging their car or their house," she said.

"At the moment (in Australia) we have warnings in paper-based situations, but we need to rethink all of those protections and consider the on-line environment and how we're going to deal with that."

Ms Lanyon said a blurring of divisions and unprecedented growth in credit options and services had caused legislation - formulated in the 1970s in many countries - to become outdated.

"Now, you can have your pool on your home loan, your car, or a bit of money for your holiday. There has also been an emergence of hybrid credit



Monash law lecturer Ms Elizabeth Lanyon says a blurring of divisions and unprecedented growth in credit options and services has caused credit legislation to become outdated. Photo by Richard Crompton.

contracts - driven by electronics - whereby the accounting systems and everything else means that credit providers can create any kind of product," she said.

"For example, there was once only about 30 different types of mortgage products - now there's more than a thousand."

Ms Lanyon's attendance at the Helsinki conference follows her successful application to the Ian Potter Foundation for a \$1000 travel grant to cover her airfare. Her paper

is titled 'Hybrid consumer credit contracts in the electronic age: A challenge for regulators'.

With the theme 'The consumer in a globalised information society', the conference will draw together academics and leading consumer lawyers from around the world.

Ms Lanyon and Monash professor of law Tony Duggan have also co-authored a new book, *Consumer Credit Law*, which describes new consumer credit legislation introduced to Australia in 1996.

Funding boost for CRCs

BY DAVID BRUCE

Monash University has become a player in four national research centres funded jointly by the Federal Government and industry.

In the latest round of grants for Cooperative Research Centres, Monash researchers are involved with the new centre for Asthma and with the previously established centres for Vaccine Technology, the engineering-based CAST Metals Manufacturing, and the IT-based centre for Enterprise and Distributed Systems Technology.

CRCs receive partial funding by the government for seven years, whereupon they are required to resubmit a proposal to continue to be part of the scheme. Nationally, 26 CRCs received \$1866 million in funding over the seven-year period from government, industry and from the partner institutions in the CRCs.

Five existing CRCs with Monash involvement received renewed funding in the latest round. They were the

centres for Catchment Hydrology, Freshwater Ecology, Australian Telecommunications, Polymers and Clean Power From Lignite.

Monash's deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Peter Darvall, was delighted that nine of Monash's submissions for CRC funds were successful.

"This is, once again, an excellent result for Monash. The latest round of successful applications has spread the pattern of CRC involvement more evenly through the university."

"We are very disappointed, however, that four CRCs with Monash involvement were unsuccessful in obtaining renewed funding. They were the CRC for Southern Hemisphere Meteorology, the CRC for Hardwood Fibre and Paper Science, the Australian Geodynamics CRC, and the Australian Maritime Engineering CRC."

The first three of these centres are funded to the end of June 2000. Funding for the Australian Maritime Engineering CRC expires in June this year.

Asthma focus for new research centre

Continued from page 1

Projects to be undertaken by the CRC for Asthma include developing better devices for delivering asthma drugs, identifying genes associated with asthma, and developing novel vaccines for preventing asthma.

According to Professor O'Hehir, who will be working on the vaccine project, almost 80 per cent of asthmatics suffer allergic reactions to allergens in the environment.

"There is strong evidence to show that many asthmatics experience an attack as an allergic response to something in the air, such as grass pollen or house dust mites. We are working on developing a vaccine that switches off the

allergic immune response and therefore prevents the onset of an asthma attack," Professor O'Hehir said.

"The advantage of this approach is that the vaccine offers the chance of a cure for asthma, unlike most drug treatments that merely counter the allergic reaction once it has already induced the attack."

The Monash team also plans to measure the extent of the asthma problem as perceived by patients and families. The team will work closely with the Lung Health Promotion Centre at the Alfred and Asthma Victoria to disseminate the research results to medical and health professionals as well as to the public.

'Pro-social' counselling model could cut costs

By KAY ANSELL

A Monash academic has developed a model for counselling offenders that could save taxpayers millions of dollars each year and help make the community safer.

Dr Chris Trotter's model is the basis of his book, which was launched in late April and will be published internationally.

Working with Involuntary Clients, a Guide to Practice is the result of years of research that has seen Dr Trotter's model adopted in New Zealand and in Victoria. He has also trained probation officers in both England and Wales.

A senior lecturer in social work at Monash, Dr Trotter says clients on community correction orders, including those on parole, might typically see a parole officer for just 30 minutes once a fortnight. Yet for clients who were supervised using the 'pro-social model' of counselling, this was still enough to halve the rate of further imprisonment compared to those who were not supervised using this approach.

It costs about \$50,000 per year to imprison offenders, according to the Office of Corrections. Approximately 1800 offenders under correction orders breach these orders and, with prison stays averaging about six months, halving the rate of re-offending adds up to a potential saving of tens of millions of dollars per year.

Dr Trotter's model for counselling involuntary clients takes a three-pronged approach.

First, workers have to clearly explain their roles to their clients. "Clients have to understand that the parole officer is there to help with their problems as well as supervise their correction order," says Dr Trotter.

Second, counsellors have to work within their client's definition of their problem: "Working with a client's problems in terms of what it means for

them is more effective than the worker saying, 'This is the problem and you should work on it'."

Third, workers should reinforce the positive aspects of clients' behaviour, rather than demoralise them by focusing on their failings. He describes this as "the most crucial aspect of my research". Positive reinforcement could cover behaviour as simple as keeping appointments with a parole officer, to more significant issues such as reduced drug use.

The model has been most effective in helping young, drug-using, high-risk offenders, but less effective with people aged over 30. Dr Trotter says young people seem to be more easily influenced by the counselling process.

Dr Trotter received a \$100,000 Australian Research Council collaborative grant with the Department of Human Services to explore the effectiveness of the model in the area of child protection, dealing with parents who abuse their children. Data from

300 clients is already indicating positive results, he says, with the child protection workers and clients themselves approving the model.

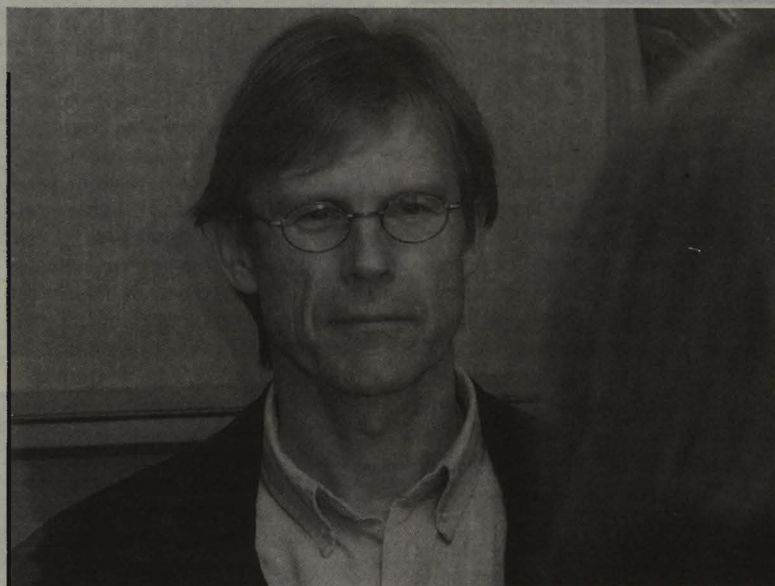
Follow-up research after approximately six months will show whether the positive outcomes are sustained, but Dr Trotter expects that levels of child abuse for that group will fall.

He speculates that the model could also be effective in counselling psychiatric patients released into the community under supervision, although no work has yet been done on this area.

At a time when a more hard-line, US-style model of crime control is gaining political support, Dr Trotter wants to see more resources put into rehabilitation measures such as his model.

There is much at stake – not just the high cost of child protection and correction orders, he says, but the safety of children and the public in general.

Working with Involuntary Clients: A Guide to Practice is published by Allen and Unwin.



Dr Chris Trotter's model for counselling involuntary clients such as prisoners takes a three-pronged approach. Photo by Richard Crompton.

Modellers could be "guns for hire"

By KAY ANSELL

When a new tax such as the GST looms large, the public is caught between the arguments for and against. People assume that the government bases such a major policy change on the best information available from economic models.

How do members of the public know the information is sound and unbiased? They don't, says Monash's Professor Alan Powell, when the economic modelling is done by private companies that do not allow public scrutiny of their work.

Professor Powell, who holds a personal chair in Econometrics at the Centre of Policy Studies/Impact Project, is worried that economic modellers thrust into the private sector by lack of resources in public institutions are in danger of becoming guns for hire.

In his paper, 'When modellers behave like lawyers: Have we lost the plot?', Professor Powell argues that there is no incentive for private modellers to put their models up for public scrutiny.

Professor Powell answers a question with a question. Are modellers behaving like lawyers? "Can the public be assured that they're not? And the answer to that is 'no'. That's a problem because lawyers know the answers before they start – the answer is what the client wants."

"But a social scientist wanting to know the effects of a policy should go into it with an open mind, and be guided by what he knows about the problem, as summarised in a model."

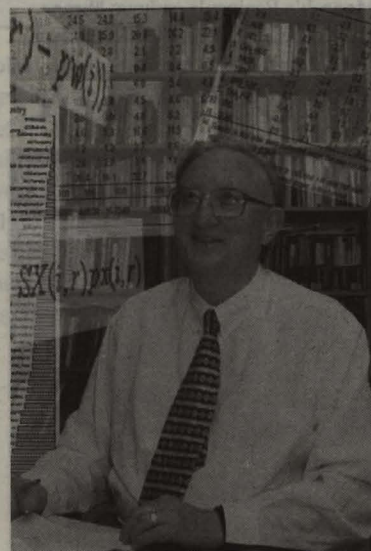
An economic model is a systematic way of organising all the data and theories that the modeller believes relevant to an issue, he says, and two modellers can use the same information to arrive at two different conclusions because they may have different assumptions about what is important in the real world.

The "privatisation" of modelling clouds the issue. "We can only be assured of the unbiased advice of modellers, if we know they are not beholden to somebody who wants a particular answer and who demands a particular answer as a condition for paying researchers to do the work."

Professor Powell is not suggesting that private modellers are necessarily biased by such considerations. But he says the public is not being given any reason to think otherwise.

The Monash model, used most recently to assess the GST, demonstrates the contribution to public policy debate of a well-established, transparent economic model. But the development of such independent models is threatened in today's climate of funding cutbacks; hence the move by talented young modellers into the private sector.

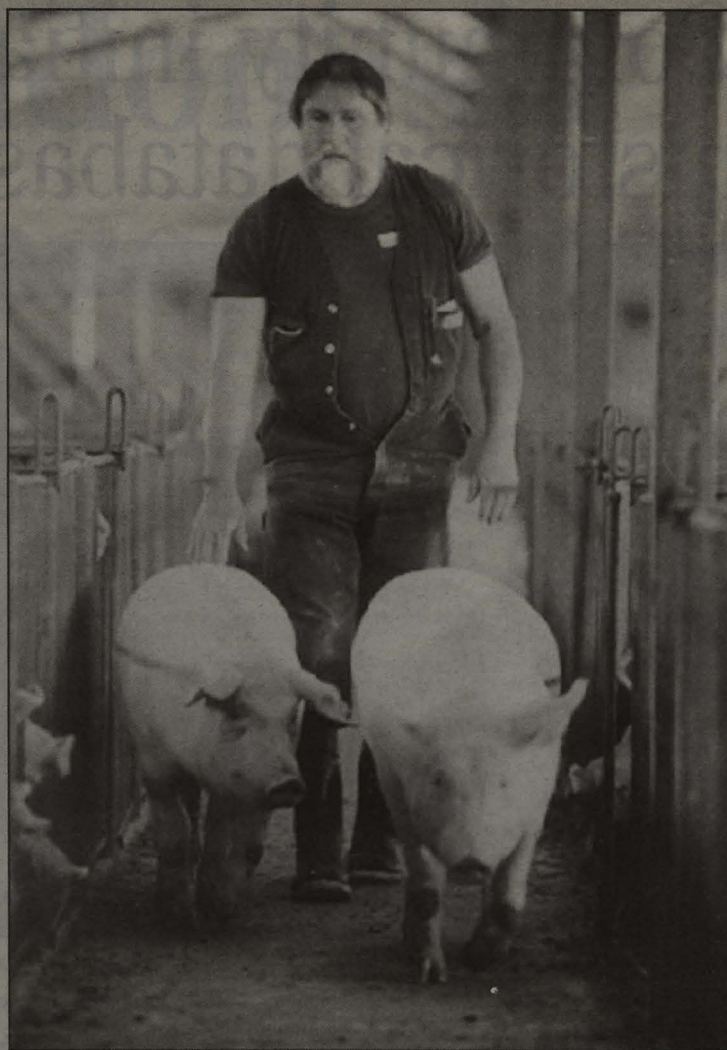
Professor Powell, who was recently awarded a Distinguished Fellowship of the Economic Society of Australia, says



Monash's Professor Alan Powell is worried that economic modellers thrust into the private sector by lack of resources in public institutions are in danger of becoming guns for hire. Photo by Richard Crompton.

if a model has not been independently authenticated, it should have no standing in public policy discussions.

This already applies in Britain, where models are scrutinised at Warwick University's Macroeconomic Modelling Bureau. For such an independent watchdog to be set up in Australia, business would have to take the lead, he says, since politicians are unlikely to support the creation of such a body.



A gentler touch by pig handlers could make all the difference to their animals' performance, according to stock-handling research by Monash University and the Victorian Institute of Animal Science.

A ProHand pig is a happy pig

By COREY NASSAU

Farmers – before your animals revolt in a manner similar to those in George Orwell's classic novel *Animal Farm*, you may want to check out a new stock-handling method that keeps everyone down on the farm happy.

The stock-handling method ProHand, which was created to ease the handling and increase the productivity of pig stock, could soon be applied to the dairy industry, according to Monash's associate dean of research in the Faculty of Science, Professor Grahame Coleman.

Developed by Professor Coleman in conjunction with Professor Paul Henshaw, from the Victorian Institute of Animal Science, the program is now being marketed as a multimedia CD-ROM and training package and is showing results which suggest potential application to larger industries.

The program targets the effect that the routine handling of pigs has on various aspects of production. Supported by the Pig Research and Development Corporation, it is already used by more than 200 pig handlers throughout Victoria and many more nationwide.

"There is a very real relationship between the characteristics of handlers and their behaviour towards their animals," Professor Coleman said. "These behaviours affect the responses of the animals, which in turn affect their reproductive performance and growth rates."

While campaigns aimed at changing the behaviour of people who smoke, drink or have phobias have been around for many years, he says, programs that approach farming from a psychological viewpoint is something very new.

"Animals are very sensitive to human behaviour, and the way they are treated has a major impact on their productivity and attitude," according to Professor Coleman. "Continuous aversive behaviour, such as hitting the pig at the back of the queue as they are walked along, creates a fear that is reflected in the pig's performance."

"Some handlers don't realise they are behaving in a way that may cause fear in their animals. By making the interaction positive wherever possible, for example placing a hand on their back or scratching behind their ears, that fearfulness is eliminated."

"Stock then become easier to handle and often show increased productivity, growth rates and sometimes fertility."

But while ProHand teaches stock-people to apply positive behaviour when working with the animals, there is a limit to the extent of contact the program endorses because it is counterproductive to treat the pigs as pets.

"ProHand focuses on animal handling in a commercial context," Professor Coleman said.

The CD-ROM's interactive software takes the user through a series of questions and scenarios to determine their behaviour patterns before following with an educational component.

Mr Murray Spicer, a research scientist with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment in Bendigo, spends much of his time working on extension and training for the pig industry and has become involved as a ProHand trainer.

"I had reservations about the program early on," Mr Spicer said. "However, I've seen the responses from people in the program and I know that it produces extremely positive results."

Community initiative gets historical database online



The way we were. Coordinator of the Peninsula Databank Ms Kate Boyle catches up on some old issues. Photo by Richard Crompton.

BY JULIE RYAN

A local history database of the people of the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula region, as well as their activities and organisations, was launched last month by deputy state librarian of the State Library of Victoria Mr Derek Whitehead.

The Southdoc Heritage Index, an ongoing community initiative between Monash University's Peninsula campus library and the Frankston Library Service, is a computer database consisting of about 27,000 records.

The index, which first began in 1986, provides holdings to cemetery records, Frankston and Mornington state school records, newspapers including the *Frankston Standard* (1889-ongoing) and the *South Burke and Mornington Journal* (1880-1900), as well as donated items of local history.

Peninsula Databank coordinator based at the Peninsula campus library Ms Kate Boyle said the index had been the culmination of hundreds of hours of

voluntary work by people in the local community.

In its current form, Southdoc is a search engine providing key words and details of the locations of full records. However, future plans include adding full records.

"For instance, if a user conducted a key word search for a relative with the surname Green they would discover an article had been published in the *Mornington Standard* on 4 July 1901 pertaining to an old-age pension application 'Mat' Green had made to the Frankston Court," Ms Boyle explained.

However, to discover the outcome of the application, the person searching would have to go the paper's hard-copy archives, where they would find the full article.

"In this particular case, the court decided that Mat, 'an old man over 70 years of age', looked too active to receive the full pension rate and offered to pay him one shilling a week. He did not accept the offer, but asked them to 'keep it till it grew'," Ms Boyle said.

In launching the index, Mr Whitehead said the ongoing project had made a major contribution to understanding the heritage of the area.

"Today, personal records, memories and accounts are not handed down from generation to generation as they often were in our parents' and grandparents' era," he said. "So public documents are often the key sources linking us to our past and our memories."

Monash's deputy university librarian Mr Hans Groenewegen said the library's input and ongoing support for the project was an example of the university's commitment to engaging the local community.

"The Southdoc Heritage Index makes local historical information more accessible to the community and provides them with an opportunity to appreciate the rich and diverse background of this region," he said.

The public can access the index through Frankston Library and Monash's Peninsula campus library.

Teaching business to behave

BY DEREK BROWN

Bad manners and poor social skills don't cut it in the international world of business, says a Monash University academic.

Dr Raymond Li, senior lecturer in the School of Business Systems, hopes a new CD-ROM on business etiquette will help Australian and world executives improve the way they behave in the corporate world.

Dr Li believes knowing how to act is vital to business success.

"Many people think it doesn't matter, but sloppy manners during a meal can mean the difference between closing the deal and losing it," he said.

The CD-ROM, tentatively titled *Conquering Cocktails*, is being produced by Monash in collaboration with Melbourne food writer and management trainer Mr Stephen Downes.

Based on Mr Downes' book *Charming Up Profits* as well as his work in social communications, the CD-ROM outlines the skills that can be used over business drinks to encourage others to want to work with you.

Using multimedia such as video, sound and computer-generated graphics, the CD-ROM covers topics ranging from dress, how to enter a room and how to join and charm a group to how



The Monash crew capture food writer Mr Stephen Downes in action for the new CD-ROM on business etiquette. Photo by Greg Ford.

to tell your own stories instead of recounting the latest filthy joke.

Suteck Fu, an honours graduate in Business Systems at Monash and a former student of Dr Li, is also working on the project, programming the CD-ROM. He hopes it comes across as fun even though the information is serious.

"Raymond tells all his students to have fun and that's what I've tried to do," said Suteck.

The project will be completed in three months and is expected to be the first of many CD-ROMs on business

etiquette to be produced by the department, which is based in the university's Information Technology faculty.

Mr Downes, who wrote the script and acts in it, believes that because the multimedia project encourages a hands-on approach, it has advantages over more traditional methods of business training such as books or videos.

"*Conquering Cocktails* encourages users to interact with the information, allowing people to see, hear and repeat sections as they choose," he said.

The 'new face' of Malaysian politics

Malaysia's 'trial of the century' is over. As predicted, the sacked deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, was found guilty of abusing his power in covering up allegations of sexual misconduct and was jailed for six years. Anwar is adamant that he has been the victim of a high-level conspiracy, and even those who don't count themselves as his supporters feel that justice has also been the victim of politics, writes respected political analyst Professor Shamsul AB.

OPINION

From the day of Anwar's sacking, on 2 September 1998, until the announcement of the court verdict on 14 April this year – a period of about 30 weeks – Malaysians and the rest of the world witnessed the longest sustained attack ever on the government in the history of post-colonial Malaysia. It was an attack that has a very broad popular appeal, combining numerous interest-oriented groups and opposition political parties. It has no precedent in Malaysia. It is not over yet and continues to build momentum.

Indeed, what we witnessed was the birth of a 'new politics' movement in Malaysia, one that is not concerned simply about winning votes and general elections but more about openly articulating differences, plurality and dissent. It was a nationwide 'politics of resistance', a struggle for social justice, freedom of speech and democracy, hence an attempt to transform 'civil society' to 'democratic civility'.

In short, it is a struggle against the 'old' mainstream politics, one that has survived for more than five decades and been legitimised by institutional structures established by British colonial rule, in particular through the institution of modern electoral politics and a draconian rule of law, mainly meant to suppress the possibility of an outbreak of open ethnic conflict, such as the one witnessed in the May 1969 racial riot.

Without doubt, in that 30 weeks Malaysia's political consciousness has been awakened like never before by the 'new politics' movement, known simply as reformasi. Malaysians are now confident that

they can demand change without at the same time risking racial strife, as seemed likely in the past. They also know that enough pressure can cause the government to compromise.

There is a real possibility that the ruling coalition's traditional two-third majority will be substantially reduced in the next election. This could persuade the new generation of leaders in the 'new' and 'old' politics to push for real change, especially from within the establishment.

Anwar's shabby trial and a host of other 'mistakes' by Mahathir Mohamad, not least his failing health, have also persuaded many Malaysians that the prime minister's time is up. Many have expressed the view that the greatest service that Mahathir could now render to the nation he helped to build is to step down. Equally, many hold the view that he would certainly prefer to die in office.

Whatever the future holds, sooner or later Malaysia has to move on without Mahathir, even if Anwar is not at the helm.

But nobody could deny that the 'Anwar factor' has been critical in the making and consolidation of the new face of Malaysian politics and society, especially in building a democracy of which Malaysians can be proud.

Shamsul AB (BA, MA Malaya, PhD Monash) is professor of social anthropology and currently director of the Institute of Malay World and Civilisation, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi. He writes, researches and lectures extensively on Malay issues and is a research associate of the Monash Asia Institute.

Schools



'At Monash' series

The two final 'At Monash' seminars will be held in May. The seminars provide prospective students with information about course options as well as insights into life as a student at Monash and the career paths of graduates.

The Arts and Law seminar will be held on Wednesday 12 May in the Robert Blackwood Concert Hall at Clayton campus, from 6 pm until 7.45

pm. The Nursing and Education seminar will be held on Thursday 13 May at the George Jenkins Theatre in Peninsula campus, from 1 pm until 3 pm.

For bookings, call the Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 4164.

Teachers' seminar

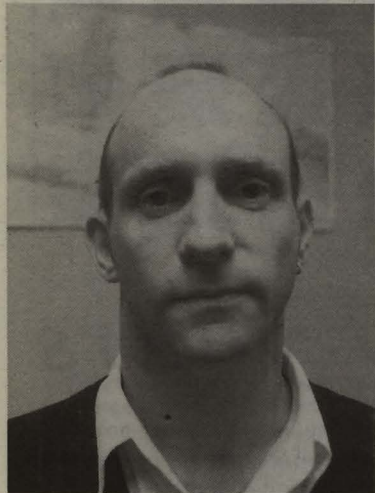
The annual Monash Teachers' Seminar will be held on Thursday June 17 at the university's Clayton campus.

The morning session will provide participants with essential information about developments and initiatives at all campuses of Monash University. After lunch, teachers will be able to participate in two discipline-based workshops to extend their knowledge in particular areas of interest.

A program and booking form will be sent to schools during May.

Democracy in Indonesia is facing 'bleak prospects'

As the recent bloodshed in East Timor and Aceh has demonstrated, the turmoil dogging Indonesia is far from over. Crucial general elections are scheduled for next month, but Dr Damien Kingsbury believes the polls, if they proceed, will not resolve the country's political, economic and social problems.



OPINION

Elections are planned in Indonesia for 7 June, and it is hoped these will usher in a new and optimistic phase of democratisation for a country which, from 1957 until 1998, was ruled by presidential fiat.

But despite the announced elections, the chance of Indonesia achieving democracy in any conventional sense in the foreseeable future seems unlikely.

There are two main issues in the process towards Indonesia's democratisation. They are the electoral process itself and, if the elections go ahead, the degree of recognition accorded to their results.

In the first instance, there is a growing belief that the elections will be 'postponed'. This is based on the logistics of conducting the polls in what has always been acknowledged as a short timeframe. Indonesian officials say, off the record, that they doubt it can be done, simply in organisational terms.

Funding for the electoral process, too, is scarce. The Indonesian government remains strapped for cash. The continued use of the government party, Golkar, to administer the electoral process will no doubt cut some costs, but it also raises obvious doubts about the acceptability of the outcome.

More important is the political and ethnic violence that has been tearing at the fabric of Indonesian society since early 1998. There is little doubt that much of the violence has been orchestrated by members of the political elite running competing agendas ahead of the elections.

Such agendas include the assertion of Islamic nationalist identities of various types, redressing economic imbalances, the settling of ethnic rivalries, claims to separatism, the relative positions of various political parties and, not least, factionalism within the armed forces. There is also an agenda proposing that the elections not go ahead to retain the political status quo.

One view in Jakarta is that the postponement of the elections will be announced just before the polling date although, like all things in Indonesia these days, this is uncertain.

If the elections do go ahead, there are serious doubts about the disinter-



estedness of Golkar as the officiating body, of the approval process for the nearly 50 political parties that have registered to take part, and of the role that intimidation and vote-buying will play. Any of these issues could be, or be used as, a trigger to invite the appointment of a caretaker president and cabinet.

Assuming that the elections do go ahead and that they produce results generally accepted as valid, some of the larger of the myriad parties will have to form a coalition to be able to govern. Such a coalition has been mooted among the 'Ciganjur Four': the PDI's Megawati Sukarnoputri, Islamic organisation Nadlatul Ulama's Abdurahman Wahid, PAN leader Amien Rais, and Jogjakarta's Sultan Hamengkubuwono.

All four owe their current status to non-democratic processes, and the democratic credentials of all, in terms of policy development, are deeply flawed. But even if this group could be considered democratic in temper, they share major antipathies towards each other.

Megawati is widely understood to be a figurehead leader who relied for support on the fickle Abdurahman. However, in mid-April, Abdurahman announced that a woman would not be acceptable as president. Abdurahman,

blind as a result of a stroke last year, and Amien Rais are opposed to each other. In any case, Amien's power base all but disappeared in the middle of last year due to his inability to get down to the hard work of building a coalition of Islamic interests. Hamengkubuwono is adored by many Javanese because he is a traditional sultan, not because he is

Even if a coalition could be engineered, there is little likelihood of it lasting long, given the diversity of interests.

a democrat. But he is not well appreciated outside central Java.

Other political leaders would rally around one of these candidates, but none would have enough support to form a coalition without the assistance of another of the four figures. Even if a coalition could be engineered, there is little likelihood of it lasting long, given the diversity of interests and a demonstrated inability to compromise. As such, it is probable that all parties would search for a strong compromise candidate outside their group, or that

such a 'strong' figure would impose his will over the competing interests.

There is also some belief that President Habibie might try to maintain his position, either through the electoral process or in the event of its postponement. However, armed forces chief General Wiranto seems set on opposing that idea. Habibie has enjoyed his brief tenure as president essentially because he has been able to rely on Wiranto's support, which was only ever conditional and temporary.

Habibie's announcement in January that East Timor could vote on independence was made without consulting Wiranto. Apart from wishing to be consulted about all major policy issues, Wiranto sees East Timor as a military and not a political issue and therefore his responsibility.

Wiranto was reportedly furious with Habibie and effectively withdrew his support, which in part explains the army's support for the East Timor militias. Incidentally, no-one else among the Indonesian political elite supports independence for East Timor, and the likelihood of this outcome is far more remote than even Indonesia's unlikely democratisation.

The coming political exercise faces several obstacles. At each point, should failure occur, the default position is occupied by the armed forces, in par-

ticular by Wiranto. Wiranto's agenda is stability and the preservation of the state. It is not democratisation.

Wiranto is already being touted by a couple of small parties as the best compromise president and he could appeal to numerous groups, being Javanese, a good Muslim, a traditional army man and a 'strong' figure. Appointing a president by 'acclamation', as with Soeharto, would follow an established political model of presidential appointment.

Perhaps, given Indonesia's continuing economic catastrophe, its political instability and centrifugal tendencies which threaten to tear the state apart, the appointment of a new 'stable' military leader is what the country needs. In this there is a tendency to fall into the trap of Indonesian observers of the mid-1960s, when Soeharto was seen as the saviour from the catastrophe that was Sukarno.

But no political leader can be a saviour, or anything like it, if they are not both representative and accountable. It is these two fundamental criteria for what we consider democracy that are most at risk in Indonesia in the coming months.

Dr Damien Kingsbury is executive officer of the Monash Asia Institute and author of *The Politics of Indonesia* (Oxford, 1998).

All the world's a stage

BY DEREK BROWN

The theatrical passion of Russia, the grace of Japan and the energy of England will be showcased at the Australian International Workshop Festival, on in Melbourne during June and July.

In a 16-day program produced by Monash University, some of the world's most exciting teachers and creators of performance art will hold masterclasses offering a rich blend of styles and influences.

Ms Jan Clancy, special projects officer at Monash's Performing Arts Precinct, said the festival, from 26 June to 11 July, would be the first of its kind to be held in Melbourne, and would give Australian artists an opportunity to invigorate their skills.

"The workshops are designed for professionals in the area of performance art who want to expand their skills, but the festival also includes a number of forums by the workshop leaders which could be of interest to others," she said.

Workshops will include visual spectacles from Trinidad, traditional dance from Egypt, percussion and theatre from Russia, voice from the UK and France and the remarkable art of butoh from Japan.

Monash's executive director of Public Affairs, Mr Stephen Dee, said the festival gave the university the opportunity to give something back to the performing arts scene in this country.

"The Australian International Workshop Festival gives Monash the opportunity to make an invaluable contribution to professional performing arts in Australia," he said.

Mr Dee engaged artistic directors Mr Nigel Jamieson and Mr Malcolm Blaylock to produce the festival.

Mr Blaylock has directed and produced several large-scale outdoor events, including the Moomba River Spectacular (1996-1998) and the opening event of the 1998 Melbourne Festival.

Mr Jamieson founded the London International Workshop Festival in 1988 and directed the stunning *Flamma Flamma* opening of the 1998



Festival workshop leader, Johnny Hutch (bottom row, centre), with the Seven Royal Hindustans, a group of Arab acrobats.

Adelaide festival, an outdoor fire spectacle involving the State Opera, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and more than 2000 local artists.

Ms Clancy said the artistic directors had worked in conjunction with Monash since October to assemble a wide diversity of performance artists from around the world.

"A great deal of interest has been shown in all of our workshop leaders. Julian Crouch from the UK and Gennadi Bogdanov from Russia have proved particularly popular," she said.

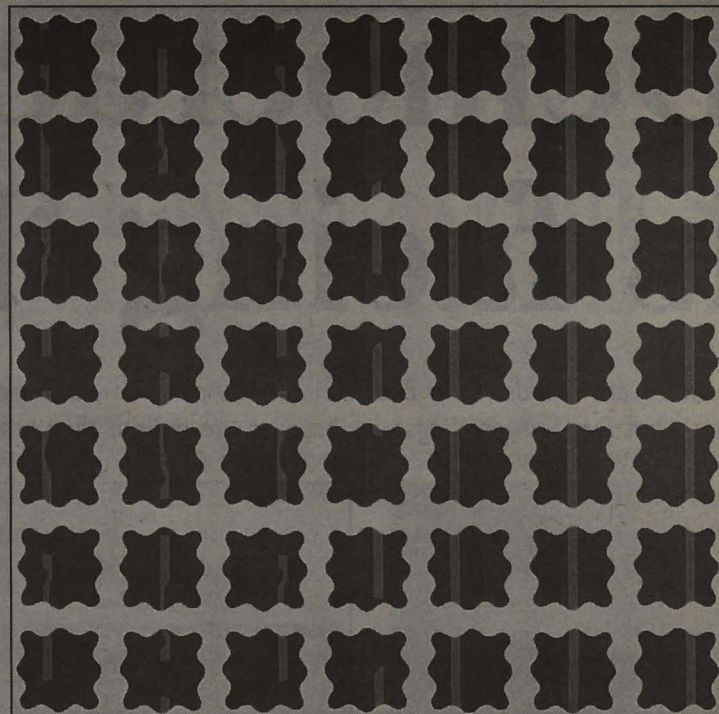
Julian Crouch is the co-director and designer of the Theatre Improbable, one of the most talked-about theatre companies in Britain today. He is renowned as a designer, musician and director who allows performers to be dynamically involved in the performance and to adapt and individualise each of their performances.

Gennadi Bogdanov teaches at the Russian Academy of Theatre Arts in Moscow, where he works with Meyerhold's Theatre Mechanics' (Biomechanics). He is in demand all over Europe, with his recent workshop at the London International Workshop Festival becoming the festival's talking point.

Other workshop leaders include Johnny Hutch (UK), Waguri Yukio (Japan), Germaine Acogny (Senegal), Peter Minshall (Trinidad), Suraya Hillal (Egypt), Ibrahim Minyawi (Egypt) and Lindy Davies (Australia).

Presented by Monash University and funded by the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian International Workshop Festival will be held at the dance and drama studios at the Victorian College of the Arts.

For more information, contact Ms Jan Clancy on (03) 9905 1677.



'Variations Slippery Seal' (1967) by Robert Rooney.

Artfully yours

BY FIONA PERRY

Monash visitors, staff and students don't need to visit the university's gallery to see major works of contemporary Australian art.

Most of the university's 1100 works are sprinkled liberally around the buildings and grounds of the university's campuses, including works by Fred Williams, Clifton Pugh, Inge King, Leonard French and John Perceval.

Established during the university's foundation period in 1961, the collection comprises paintings, indoor and outdoor sculpture, installation work, a stained glass window, prints and drawings by Australian artists from the post-1960s period.

One of the Clayton campus's best-known landmarks is also part of the gallery collection.

Donated by Sir Lindsay Clark in 1970, Leonard French's stained glass window, 'Alpha and Omega 1969-79', is best viewed from the interior of the Robert Blackwood Concert Hall.

The giant mandala design of the window symbolises the formation of aspects of the universe: planets, elements, seasons, man and woman, animals, birds and plants.

Lyn Moore's five ironbark totems, titled 'May 1987', greet visitors at the entrance to the University Gallery building.

The hewn wooden poles are grouped in a communal relationship, reflecting the character of the university site.

Moore's material and forms evoke ancient monuments, modernist sculpture and the evolution of experiences over time, as indicated by the changing surface effects of the weather.

Robert Rooney's painting, 'Variations Slippery Seal' (1967), recently exhibited in the gallery's *Persistence of POP* exhibition, is one of four paintings by the artist illustrating the systematic processing of an idea.

The process is closely related to the composition of music, so that the work proceeds as a time piece.

Rooney's painting can normally be seen on the first floor of administration building 3a on the Clayton campus.

Gallery administrator Ms Stephanie Goetze-Thies said the gallery acquired new works on a regular basis, through university funding and private patronage, with gifts and donations providing important additions.

"Some of the most recent acquisitions include new work by Lauren Berkowitz, Christopher Langton, Nicola Loder and important earlier work by Peter Tyndall and Ian Burn," she said.

Exploring the dark side of the migrant experience

BY FIONA PERRY

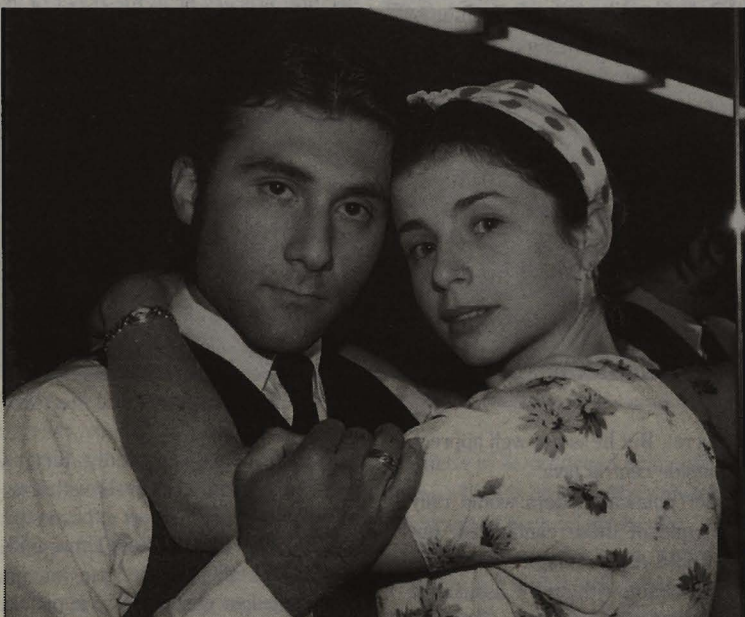
A young Jewish woman in 1950s Australia struggles with issues of abuse, self-identity and racism in the latest offering from Monash Student Theatre.

Trousers, written by third-year performing arts student Julia Reichstein, is a compelling drama about Paula, a 12-year old migrant girl struggling to find her voice in a new country.

Sexually abused by her school principal but unable to tell her family of her ordeal, Paula seeks strength and protection by donning her father's trousers.

This only brings ridicule from her father, who is desperately trying to fit into his new community and silence his own dark memories of war-torn Europe.

Trousers, Julia Reichstein's first full-length play, is directed by fellow performing arts student Elise Even-Chaim.



Monash Student Theatre actors Joseph Depasquale and Katherine Perkins rehearse for the upcoming production of 'Trousers'.

The play will be performed from 12 to 15 May and 19 to 22 May at 8 pm in the Student Theatre Space in the Union building at the Clayton campus.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 concession. For bookings and further information, contact Monash Student Theatre on (03) 9905 3108.

ARTS BRIEFS

Seductive games

Two lovers and a series of rituals and games based on seduction are at the heart of *Lucrezia & Cesare*, coming to Monash University later this month.

Presented by Ranters Theatre, the play tells the story of one of history's classier brother and sister acts, the illegitimate children of Pope Alexander IV, Lucrezia and Cesare Borgia. Bored with the real world, the pair confine themselves to a room where they play out acts of brutality and kindness, affection and abuse.

Lucrezia & Cesare stars Zoe Burton and David Tredinnick and is on at the Drama Theatre in the Performing Arts

Centre, Clayton, on 20 May. For bookings, call (03) 9905 1111.

Jacques Brel lives!

Due to popular demand, the Monash University production of *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* has been revived for a short season at Theatreworks in St Kilda.

The popular cabaret celebrating the 70th anniversary of singer-songwriter Jacques Brel was performed at Monash in March by a cast of eight students and recent graduates of the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies.

Jacques Brel is on at Theatreworks from 26 to 29 May. For bookings, call (03) 9534 3388.

Letters from abroad



Writer Henry Handel Richardson: christened Ethel.

By DEREK BROWN

Letters written in elegant script from the early decades of this century are helping Monash academics unveil the private life of Henry Handel Richardson, one of Australia's most renowned writers.

Associate Professor Bruce Steele from the English department and Professor Clive Probyn, head of the School of Literary, Visual and Cultural Studies, are sorting and editing more than 1200 letters written by Henry Handel Richardson in an attempt to reveal the woman behind the pseudonym.

"The letters provide an insight into the personal life of the writer, which we might otherwise never have had the chance to see," said Dr Steele.

A very private person, Henry Handel Richardson, born Ethel Florence Lindesay Richardson in Melbourne in 1870, took on a male pen name to disprove the idea that a woman's writing could always be distinguished from that of a man.

"When her first novel *Maurice Guest* was published, critics said the principal character could only have been written by a man. She continued to fool them for more than 20 years," Dr Steele said.

But although in her public life she hid behind the male persona, Richardson's letters reveal the private life of a woman, one who continued to see herself as an Australian

even though she left to live in Europe at the age of 18.

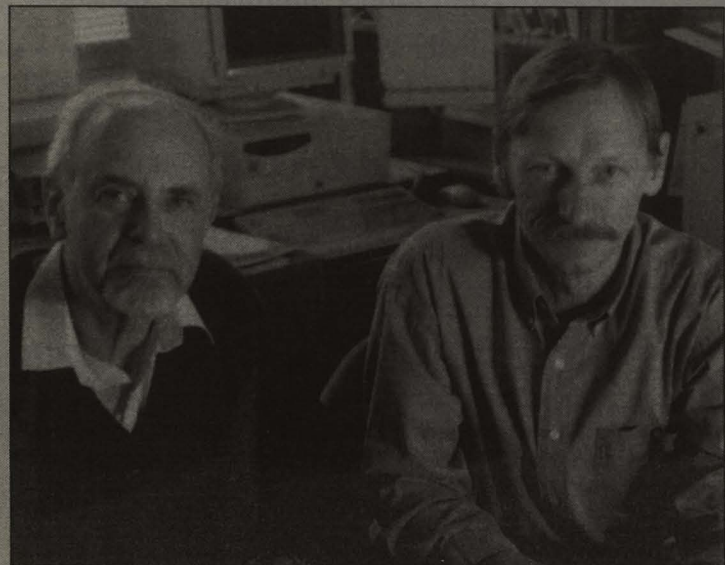
"Some of the most significant letters are those written to her old Australian school friend Mrs Mary Kernot, a correspondence which continued until Richardson's death in 1946," Dr Steele said. "Mrs Kernot kept Richardson in touch with what was happening here at the time."

"She was very interested in Australia and, in particular, the Australian literary scene. She kept in touch with many Australian writers such as the Palmers and Norman Lindsay."

The first two volumes of correspondence will be published late in 2000 by Melbourne University Press, with a third to be released the following year. The project will form part of one of the largest research projects to be mounted in the Monash English department.

Under the direction of Professor Probyn and Dr Steele, the project aims to produce scholarly critical editions of the letters and works of Henry Handel Richardson, some of which can only be found in inferior or inaccurate forms elsewhere.

The research program has attracted funding from the Australian Research Council as well as a generous grant from Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, and will include the correspondence collection, edited novels, music scores and a bibliography of Richardson's writings.



Associate Professor Bruce Steele, left, and Professor Clive Probyn.

What's on

A round-up of events and activities around Monash campuses

May

10 Lunchtime concert - 'Russian ambience', the works of Prokofiev, Rachmaninov and Scriabin, presented by Deniz Braun (piano). Hexagon Theatre, Gippsland, 1.10 pm (George Jenkins Theatre, Peninsula, on 11 May).

12 Lunchtime concert - 'Dome contemporary gamelan', an exploration of a unique blend of Javanese music with Western and non-Western traditions. Clayfield room, Caulfield, 1.10 pm.

13 Lunchtime concert - 'Music of Andrew Previn', presented by Vivienne Hamilton (soprano), Alan Hardy (flute), Roseanne Hunt (cello), and Len Vorster (piano). Music Auditorium, Clayton, 1.10 pm.

13 Southeast Asian Studies seminar - 'Change and conflict in Thai higher education: From civil service-dominated to autonomous university model', by Brian Corbitt, Head of College, International House, University of Melbourne. Room SG03, building 11, Clayton, 11.15 am.

14 Music seminar - 'Mon Traditional Music' (from the Burma-Thailand border), presented by Mr Linh Le. Room G38, Performing Arts Centre, Clayton, 4.30 pm.

14 Asian Studies seminar - 'Impact of interaction-oriented Japanese course on learners', by Kyoko Ogawa. Lecture theatre H10, building 11, Clayton, 3 pm.

14 Psychology seminar - 'Perceptual countermeasures to reduce speed in driving', by Stuart Godley, Department of Psychology. Colloquium Room, third floor, building 17, Clayton, 1.05 pm.

17 Lunchtime concert - 'Leap in the dark'. New short works of contemporary theatre, ranging from sketch

comedy to music theatre. Directed by Peter Snow. Hexagon Theatre, Gippsland, 1.10 pm (George Jenkins Theatre, Peninsula, on 18 May. Clayfield Room, Caulfield, on 19 May).

20 Southeast Asian Studies seminar - 'Current issues in Vietnamese socioeconomic development, in the wake of the regional crisis', by Adam Forde, visiting fellow, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU. Room SG03, building 11, Clayton, 11.15 am.

20 Biological Sciences seminar - 'Sex ratio conflict and colony genetic structure in Formica Ants', by Dr Michel Chapuisat, Department of Genetics, La Trobe University. Lecture theatre S8, Clayton, 1 pm.

21 Psychology seminar - 'Drugs and driving', by Dr Michael Lenne, Turning Point, Fitzroy. Colloquium Room, third floor, building 17, Clayton, 1.05 pm.

24 Lunchtime concert - 'Tchaikovsky masterpieces', performed by Russian artists Maxim Fedotov (violin) and Galina Petrova (piano). Hexagon Theatre, Gippsland, 1.10 pm (George Jenkins Theatre, Peninsula, on 25 May).

26 Cabaret performance - 'Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris', a short return season of their successful production, presented by Monash University drama and theatre students and graduates at Theatreworks in St Kilda. For bookings, call (03) 9534 3388. Until 29 May.

27 Southeast Asian Studies seminar - 'Health and nutrition developments among Asians', by Mark Wahlqvist, professor of medicine and director of the Asia Pacific Health and Nutrition Centre. Room SG03, building 11, Clayton, 11.15 am.

27 Biological Sciences seminar - 'Microtubules, cellulose microfibrils and the higher shape of higher plants', by Dr Tobias Baskin, Department of Biochemistry, University of Missouri. Lecture theatre S8, Clayton, 1 pm.

27 Music seminar - 'Curriculum developments in music in Victoria, 1988-1996', by Mr Harry Burke, Monash University. Room G38, Performing Arts Centre, Clayton, 9.30 am.

28 Psychology seminar - 'Lateralisation of selective attention in children with ADHD and Tourette's syndrome', by Dianne Sheppard, Department of Psychology. Colloquium Room, third floor, building 17, Clayton, 1.05 pm.

28 Accounting and finance seminar - 'The impact of IT on management accounting roles: Some implications for accounting education', by Dr Ian Beaman and Mr Bill Richardson. Room A1.34 (street level, A block), Caulfield, 11 am.

31 Accident Research Centre seminar - 'In-depth studies of road accident fatalities in Sweden: Methodology and preliminary findings', by Mr Anders Lie, Swedish National Road Administration. RACV conference room 101, first floor, building 70, Clayton, 1 pm.

June

3 Lunchtime concert - 'Mozart and Prokofiev sonatas', performed by Lazar Shuster and Tamara Smolyar. Music Auditorium, Clayton, 1.10 pm.

3 East Asian Studies seminar - 'Trade liberalisation in Taiwan', by Mr Liu Meng-chun, PhD candidate, Monash Asia Institute. Room S807, building 11, Clayton, 4 pm.



The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights: A Documentary History

Edited by Dr Bain Attwood and Associate Professor Andrew Markus
Allen & Unwin (RRP \$29.95)

From the beginnings of Aboriginal political activity on Flinders Island in the 1830s to the fight for native title today, *The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights* describes the

history of the political struggle for Aboriginal rights.

Editors Dr Bain Attwood and Associate Professor Andrew Markus use a selection of historical documents created by Aboriginal campaigners themselves, some of which have never been published, to present Aboriginal perspectives on issues ranging from dispossession to the lost generation.

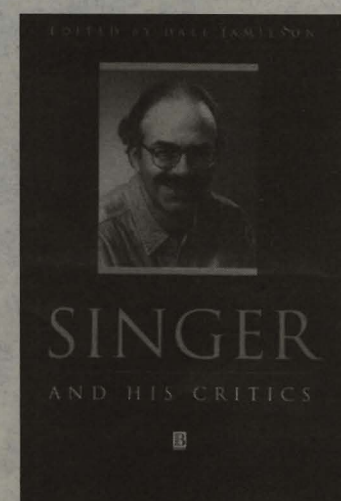
The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights aims to help all Australians better understand both the continuities and the changes in Aboriginal politics over the last 150 years.

Dr Attwood and Dr Markus are lecturers in the History department at Monash University and have been researching Aboriginal history for a combined 40 years.

Singer and His Critics

Edited by Dale Jamieson
Blackwell Publishers (RRP \$45)

Professor Peter Singer, from the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash, has been one of the most influential philosophers of the 20th century. In *Singer and His Critics*, a lifetime of his work is scrutinised by contemporary critics.



Each of Professor Singer's major arguments is analysed - including his normative theory, his position on the moral status of animals, and his thoughts on the sanctity of human life.

Professor Singer's comments to his critics add to the work he has already published and make this text essential reading for anyone who wants to understand his views.

Edited by Dale Jamieson from Carleton College, *Singer and His Critics* also contains new essays by leading philosophers from around the world.

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

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Hockey hits hard

BY COREY NASSAU

Hockey has the second biggest participation rate of any team sport world-wide, second only to soccer. It is played in 132 countries, and in Australia alone there are more than 48,000 players registered with the Australian Hockey Association.

However, the game's fast-paced, ball-seeking, stick-slapping action – the very characteristics that attract people to the game – are the same ones that contribute to its high injury rate.

Ms Shauna Sherker of Monash University's Accident Research Centre (MUARC) says it is estimated that 15 per cent of hockey players are injured during a season, with most injuries a result of being struck by the stick or the ball.

As part of an ongoing series of sporting safety reports, Ms Sherker and fellow MUARC researcher Ms Erin Cassell have authored a new report reviewing field hockey injuries and recommending preventive measures.

Ms Sherker says the report, which has been funded by Sports and Recreation Victoria, has been commissioned to encourage participation by making the sport safer, not to discourage people from playing.

The Monash Hockey Association at Clayton is one of the bigger sporting

clubs on campus, with approximately 180 members spread across 13 teams. Association president Scott Doyle has been playing hockey most of his life and has seen and experienced a fair share of hockey-related injuries.

"I've been very lucky – I've just had a billion bruises and lost a lot of skin off my elbows and knuckles," Doyle said. "People get hit a lot on the fingers, and rolled ankles are fairly common as a result of accidentally standing on a stick or ball."

According to Victorian hospital surveillance data collected between 1996 and 1997, there were 292 hospital emergency presentations as a result of hockey injuries. And these statistics do not take into account players who go to their GPs or seek other avenues of treatment.

The MUARC report recommends a number of possible strategies for reducing player injuries. Key suggestions focus on the enforcement of rules aimed at decreasing aggressive play, and the uniform introduction of modified rules for children. Of equal importance, the report says, is attention to the use of protective equipment and commitment to the early development of good game technique through expert coaching and pre-game stretching and warm-ups.

"These are important factors for helping to reduce injury in hockey, but it is also vital to have game officials who

can help maintain players' safety through consistent interpretation of the rules," Ms Sherker said.

Doyle said that while the potential for injury was quite high, he did not believe it was due to players being rough, having inadequate protection or lacking proper coaching, but rather that the game involved players running around at speed swinging a hard stick at an equally hard ball.

"It's a very skilled sport, but the very nature of the game means people do get injured no matter how careful they are," Doyle said. "Wearing protective gear like mouthguards and shin pads helps, as does proper skill development and good refereeing, but incidents will always occur because it is a 'contact-inevitable' sport."

Ms Sherker said the aim of the MUARC report was simple: "We want people to keep playing hockey, but in a manner that helps prevent injury so that they can enjoy the sport for more of the year than they do now."

According to Doyle, while hockey helps develop hand-eye coordination in a similar way to cricket, unlike in cricket everyone 'bats' at the same time and in such a situation "there is bound to be the occasional problem".

To obtain a copy of the report, contact the Monash University Accident Research Centre on (03) 9905 4371.

SpOrTs SpOt



Netballers conquer New Zealand

Monash University's netball team, which was victorious at the Australian University Games last year, competed at the New Zealand University Games held in Christchurch over the Easter break.

Not only did the team win all qualifying games comfortably, they also beat their opponents by some 27 goals in the grand final. Captain Annette Collins was voted the most valuable player of the tournament.

Monash student for national squad

Richard Coates, a student at Clayton campus, competed in the National Canoe Polo Championships over Easter in Tasmania, and as a result was selected to represent Australia in the under-21 team in the European championships.

He has also been selected in the national squad for the World Cup in Brazil in 2000.

Volleyball, tennis teams qualify

Monash's men's and women's teams in volleyball and tennis have qualified for the 1999 Australian University Games in Perth in September.

The men's and women's volleyball teams and the men's tennis team finished third in the AUSS championships and the women's tennis team finished fourth. Monash hopes to send 300 students to the Perth games.

...

Honours for women's hockey side

The Monash Hockey Club women's first side recently took out the grand final of a state league pre-season competition in Melbourne.

Monash defeated Dandenong 2-0, placing the team in a good position for the winter season.

...

Campus director named AUS chief

The campus director of Monash's Caulfield and Peninsula campuses, Mr John White, has been elected president of the peak university sporting body, Australian University Sport.

Mr White said he aimed to highlight the importance of sport, not only to students, but right through vice-chancellors and senior staff of all universities.

Age knows no boundaries



Get with the strength. Monash staff member, Val Worrell, proves that being fit – and strong – aren't qualities necessarily restricted to the young. And she has the gold medals to prove it. Photo by Greg Ford.

BY FIONA PERRY

World champion hammer-thrower Val Worrell, 64, recently gave a much younger Monash gym user the shock of his life.

"He had finished using the leg press machine, which I was waiting to use, and asked me how many weights I would like removed. You should have seen the look on his face when I asked him to add another 50 kg!" laughs Worrell, who works at the Sports and Recreation Centre at Clayton campus.

Worrell, who currently holds the World Masters 20-pound and the Australian Masters 16-pound hammerthrowing records, is a regular

fixture at the gym, training three mornings a week for 90 minutes at a time.

Her most recent success was at the Australian Masters Track and Field Championships in Canberra this year, where she won gold medals in the hammer, discus, heavy hammer and pentathlon (hammer, shotput, discus, javelin and heavy hammer) events.

At last year's World Masters Championships in Oregon, US, she outclassed competitors less than half her age to take out the 16-pound hammer and discus world titles.

And Worrell has no intention of slowing down, gearing up to compete in the next World Masters

Championships to be held in Brisbane in 2001, and the Australian Masters Track and Field Championships in 2002.

Her message to older people who may feel intimidated by the gym is to put their reservations aside and come down and try it.

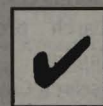
"Exercise is very important at any age, and you don't have to be doing heavy weights to use the gym," she said. "The staff here are fantastic and I'm also very willing to help any older person considering an exercise program at the gym."

For more information on the Monash Sports and Recreation Centre gym, contact (03) 9905 4111.



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