CAEs to battle for better funding deal

Victorian Colleges of Advanced Education have begun a concerted campaign to persuade the Federal government to make real funding increases to the sector in this year's budget. Geoffrey Vaughan, of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, and other VCOF members flew to Canberra on Wednesday 2 May, to put the colleges' case to the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party's Education Committee.

Dr Vaughan says VCOF decided on the campaign because of the critical state of college and institute finances. "After two triennia of no growth budgeting and in some cases, actual funding cuts, we are now at the point where any further cuts or demands on the system will mean educational standards must fall," Dr Vaughan says.

"Good financial management has meant we have been able to get by despite rapid cost increases in many areas. But the effective funding reductions have meant there is greater pressure on staff, facilities and all resources. "Class sizes have increased, leaving staff members less time to give to each student. "If this is carried any further, there will be a serious loss of educational quality."

Dr Vaughan says the position was exacerbated this year with the Federal government's move to inject hundreds more students into the system while providing only marginal funding for them - about half normal levels. Lecturer, Mr Paul Wellington, is confident improvements and modifications to the two Chisholm cars will again put the Institute in the forefront of the competition.

With the Shell Mileage Marathon less than a month away, Chisholm's Mechanical Engineering Department is gearing up for what they hope will be their best performance yet. Lecturer, Mr Paul Wellington, is confident improvements and modifications to the two Chisholm cars will again put the Institute in the forefront of the competition.

The Marathon will be held over 14 kilometres at the Amareo Park course near Sydney, on Sunday 3 June.

Last year, the cars achieved second and third places, with 867 kpl (2449 mpg) and 846 kpl (2390 mpg) respectively. They were beaten by the Ford Motor Car Company (Goolong) vehicle which registered an amazing 1044 kpl (2948 mpg), a world record.

This is the fifth year the competition has been run, and Chisholm has participated each time.

In its first year, the Department came in fourth overall, and first in the category of universities and colleges, a position it has maintained ever since.

Mr Wellington says this year Ford hopes to shatter the 1075 (3000 mpg) mark, and hopefully, Chisholm will not be far behind.

"We've got a slim chance of getting to 3000, although I think with the 50 cc engine we've got, it's not terribly likely we'll get further - certainly not without a complete rebuild."

In terms of being able to invest in an experiment, Chisholm would be ideal. "We will try to sell this to VPSEC and CTEC as an entrepreneurial idea. "It will be a controlled experiment as to how to move to the future - five or so years down the track we would be in a very strong position to advise VPSEC on the results of our research, so that ultimately all institutions can gain from the experience."

Mr Leary says the concept of such high technology education is aimed at opening up higher education 'in order to create a system which would allow those who would wish to tap into it to do so'.

He explains that it is 'modern technology which is now with us, and is now being taken up by the private sector. "Why shouldn't we use developments in technology in the knowledge game?" he asks.
A recent concert presented by members of the Australian Opera in company of a contemporary glass exhibition held in Germany has been judged a resounding success.

A packed house of students, staff and members of the outside community enjoyed a varied and entertaining program performed by some of the best opera singers in the business.

The concert raised $900 for the ‘Young Australia Glass’ exhibition in Darmstadt, West Germany, organised by Ceramics Department senior lecturer, Mr Klaus Zimmer.

Head of the Department, Mr Lindsay Anderson says the program was ‘so varied and delightfully balanced that people who went there left very happy, and perhaps with a changed mind about opera’.

A letter of support for the exhibition from Dame Joan Sutherland was a highlight of the evening.

Mr Anderson described the concert as ‘one art form supporting another, and we are very grateful for their patronage.’

...Picture are some of the members of the cast at the concert finale

Dr Richard Trembath, Senior Lecturer in Education, says this has been the case for about three years.

A founder of the original course in Drink Driver Education, Dr Trembath says the program is booked out for up to six months in advance, reflecting an obvious need in the community.

Course organizers have found that most participants had been convicted of blood alcohol readings well in excess of 0.05%, and one recent class averaged around 0.165%.

The course, which consists of four-two hour lectures every Monday evening, covers an introduction into the effects of alcohol, the view of the police, medical implications, and ways of avoiding high blood alcohol readings.

Dr Trembath says most participants appear to recognise the seriousness of the offence, and few will not offend again. But there are exceptions.

He says although most people consider themselves just ‘plain unlucky’, drivers should realize that an increasing number of motorists are being caught because of improved police detection techniques.

The course does not involve welfare workers, but students are referred to welfare agencies such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and the Peninsular Alcohol and Drug Dependency Assistance Centre (PADDAC).

What a night it was!

Dean of the David Syme Business School, Dr Ken Tucker, has been asked to lend his expertise to the formation of the Research School for Northern Studies at the new University of the Northern Territory.

Dr Tucker is one of a number of academics and scientists invited to participate in the planning of the aims, functions and structure of the School at a workshop in Darwin from 10–12 October this year.

The main focus of the School initially will be on research and teaching post-graduate level in the areas of Tropical Environmental Sciences, Tourism Studies, Northern Territory History and Aboriginal Studies.

Dr Tucker says it was his close involvement with tourism research which led to the invitation.

He is involved with the ASEAN-Australia Joint Research Project, and as a result a paper on services in ASEAN-Australian Trade has recently been published.

Planning role for DSBS Dean

Dr Tucker

Other research work in the area was done for the Bureau of Industry Economics on the economic importance of Australia to domestic and international tourism dollar.

And in March last year, Dr Tucker was commissioned by the Economic and Social Commission of Asian Pacific (a United Nations agency in Bangkok) to study the economic impact of tourism in South East Asian countries.

The School of Northern Studies will be the second research school to be established at the new University.

The first, the Menzies School of Health Research began its activities this year.

Dr Tucker

From page 1

...Their view cannot be allowed to prevail in framing the budget.

“If it does, tertiary education as a whole and particularly the college sector, will suffer a major setback.

“There will be the appearance of tertiary education but the quality will be lacking.”

And that, says Dr Vaughan, would be a tragedy, not only for the individual students, but for Australia as a whole.

Failure by the government to significantly increase funding for tertiary education in general and the advanced education sector in particular could amount to a denial by Australia of its young people.

It would undermine a number of important Federal and State programs and condemn Australia to mediocrity and economic dependence in the next decade.

We have 2,500 young people in Victoria alone who qualified for entry to tertiary education in the past two years, but could not get into courses because the colleges and universities did not get the resources to take them.

That figure will be up to 5,000 by the beginning of the next academic year unless there is a major injection of funds.

By a major injection, I mean $25 million in Victoria alone in recurrent funds, plus special capital works funds,” Dr Vaughan says.

That is why the government and tertiary education institutions to meet the demand from students for entry.

Even if they are needed if colleges of advanced education are to meet government demands to provide access to the Labor government in the future.

“By definition, disadvantaged students require more support than others and this extra support costs money,” Dr Vaughan says.

“This means funding for disadvantaged students must be at full...cost-plus, not the marginal funding we received for this year.”

Dr Vaughan says expansion of the advanced education sector, particularly the business and technology areas, is critical if a number of Federal and State government proposals are ever to become reality.

“The Cain government in Victoria has introduced its 10 year plan aimed at getting industry out of the wilderness.”

At the national level, we have the Science and Technology Minister, Mr Barrie Jones, calling for radical changes with the same aim.

“The government should only be allowing people on Australia having the right people with the right training to do their jobs.”

Those people must come predominantly from the Colleges of Advanced Education which are already working in those areas.

“Unless expansion begins now, Victoria and Australia will not have the people to do the job and the initiatives which are supposed to secure the economic future will fail.”

That would be a crying shame, given that we have the potential students knocking at the door, only too ready to take up the challenge, Dr Vaughan concludes.

Bomb hoax

Buildings at the Caulfield and Frankston campuses were evacuated yesterday when a bomb threat was received at the Caulfield switchboard.

An apparently young female caller told the operator a bomb would be exploded in the Institute in about an hour, then laughed and hung up.

The Director, Mr Patrick Leary, ordered buildings at both campuses evacuated and police were called.

Police and staff searched the buildings but found nothing.

The all clear was sounded an hour and half after the first alarm.
All clear at last for student facilities?

Architects are drawing up a concept for a major new building at the intersection of Railway and Princes Avenues on the western edge of the Caulfield campus.

The Director, Mr Patrick Leary, met with local residents on Tuesday last week to warn them that a proposal to develop a concept for the area it will cover,' Mr Leary

'At this stage, we do not know how high the building will be nor the building in an income producing proposition.

'Just what the architects will come up with is something we do not know yet.'

In general terms, though, the proposal would involve pulling down at least three Institute-owned houses and a field plan for the building to be as large as possible.

It had been intended to site student facilities within the Caulfield Plaza area when that purchase was first mooted, but this was ruled out in 1982. The second phase of the project for the Victorian Brown Coal Council (VBCC). Designed during 1981-82, the concept for the Victorian Brown Coal Council (VBCC).

Dr Gabric recently completed the first phase of a consultancy project for the Victorian Brown Coal Council (VBCC).

So far he has spent some 50 consultancy hours (about two months) improving and modifying the Council's energy supply computer model, a product of its Resources Development Study carried out in 1982.

Dr Gabric says the model is used 'to determine the least-cost strategy for supplying energy to the Victorian market over the next 50 years or so'.

He says the students' involvement with the Conference has 'brought additional relevance to the lecture topics, and issues such as budgeting, public relations, group decision making and organisational structures have taken on a new meaning as the students grapple with the very real problems of ensuring the Conference is a success'.

Mr Townsend says the project is self-funding as a result of the $4000 accumulated over the past several years in prize money and other sources.

The project is self-funding as a result of the $4000 accumulated over the past several years.

Dr Gabric says the model can be used, and deriving the least-cost strategy which will supply the demand side of the model, and also an investigation into possible air quality constraints for the Melbourne area.

Dr Gabric secured the consultancy through his previous employments, Control Data Australia, which has links with the VBCC.

He says the first phase of the contract is worth about $2000 to Chisholm.

WSC forges Asian links

Chisholm's Water Studies Centre could lead a course in Water Quality Management for Tropical Systems at Thailands' Chiang Mai University next year.

WSC head, Dr Barry Hart, was involved in a series of meetings with the University's Faculty of Science and a representative of the Office of the National Environment Board during a recent trip to South East Asia.

He says the proposal for the course has been put to ASEAN's environment group and will be discussed at its major committee meeting in October. If it gets support there, it will be funded for sure', he says.

Dr Hart envisages that the three week course, run in conjunction with the University, would be held either during the mid-semester break or in November, 1985.

Links with the National University of Singapore were also established during Dr Hart's recent visit, which could lead to the WSC's involvement with a unit of the University's undergraduate Degree in Environmental Science.
Employer visits

Final year Chisholm students will have the chance to discuss career opportunities and possible job vacancies with a range of employers during the May 1984 Employer Visits Program. The program, from 14 - 18 May will be attended by 30 employers from the private and public sectors. Each will conduct interviews for up to half hour for individual students, with an emphasis in all cases on providing information, and in some cases, preliminary recruiting.

But Chisholm's Career and Employment Service stresses that students should treat the on-campus visits by employers as 'primarily an opportunity to gain information about the various employers and where possible, improve and build up confidence in the interview situation.'

'Campus interviews are a preliminary boot and a chance to learn.'

Staff club opens for business

The Chisholm Staff Club's new premises at 888 Dandenong Road opened for business on Friday 4 May. The club's monthly luncheon highlighted the event, with guest speaker Jocelyn Terry from the ABC outlining her career in the media. Over 160 people attended the opening of the premises, which will open daily from 10am to 6pm.

Safety Officer, Mr Alex Glennie, through Public Office, says the Staff Club opens for business. Mr Glennie, wearing a black suit, stands in front of a building.

WSC shift

A number of changes in room and extension numbers have resulted from a recent shift by members of the Chemistry & Biology Department and the Web Studies Centre.

The following alterations have taken place:

New New Room No.

Dr Barry T. Hart H.O.D. F4.14 2326
Mrs Stella Harris, Secretary F4.22 2158
Dr Ron Becket F4.24 2324
Dr Ian Campbell F4.25 2327
Mr Ron McAlpine F4.14(A) 2106
Dr David Hewitt F3.20 2107
Dr Sydney Bone F3.25 2237
Mr Bob Burbidge F3.26 2159
Mr K. Chynoweth F4.25 2159
Mr Tom Davies F4.13 2168
Mr Con Daywytyn F3.18 2238
Ms Tricia Gerraghty F3.18 2238
Mr Peter Finch F4.26 2347
Ms Melting F4.03 2306
Mr Peter Moulder, Laboratory Manager F3.23 2158
Mr David Packham F3.11 2118
Mr David Packham F3.11 2118

All other staff rooms and phones remain unchanged - as in the current Chisholm directory.

Letter

From L. Baragwanath

At the moment I am sitting in the beautiful sunshine on the plaza outside the coffee shop at Chisholm being driven absolutely demented by the monotonous music blaring on the loudspeaker relentlessly. Is there no escape from it? What about noise pollution?

I thought Chisholm was a place of learning but you can't collect your thoughts or concentrate. Your ears are assaulted wherever you go.

The worst place is, of course, the dining area, followed by the coffee shop. But one is not even safe in the library - the so-called quiet area has everybody talking loudly, and if there is a full in the conversation, the infernal rock music can be heard from below.

There is a place for everything, and loud music does just as much with studying.

Lucie Baragwanath